

HELVETIA FARM FAIR

2026 Competition Guide

We're back with more competitions than ever!

The Helvetia Farm Fair is all about celebrating the traditions, skills, and creativity that have been passed down through generations. Whether you have a garden full of prize-worthy produce, a family recipe for the perfect pie, or just happened to grow the funniest-looking zucchini around, we want you to join in the fun!

All competitions are open to the public.

COMPETITION INFORMATION

Competition Date: Saturday, August 29, 2026

Entry Fee: \$5 per entry

Entry Limit: One entry per person, per category

Entry Deadline: Entries must be delivered to the judging area by **1:30 PM**

Judging Begins: 2:00 PM

Awards: Following judging at the Main Stage

Awards for Every Competition

1st Place: Ribbon + \$50 Cash Prize

2nd Place: Ribbon

3rd Place: Ribbon

BEST FRUIT PIE

Bring your favorite homemade fruit pie and let our judges decide whose recipe takes the top spot!

Rules

- One entry per person.
- Pie must be homemade.
- Fruit pies only.
- Fresh, frozen, or canned fruit may be used.
- Crust may be homemade or store-bought.
- Cream, custard, and savory pies are not permitted.
- Please bring your pie in a disposable pan whenever possible.

Judging

- Appearance
- Crust
- Filling
- Overall Taste

NEW IN 2026: WINNERS' PIE AUCTION

Following judging, the **1st, 2nd, and 3rd place pies** will be auctioned.

By entering the Best Fruit Pie competition, winners agree to have their winning pie auctioned.

Auction proceeds will be split:

- **50% to the baker**
- **50% to support the Helvetia Farm Fair**

BEST BOUQUET

Celebrate the beauty of your summer garden with a bouquet made from flowers and greenery you've grown yourself.

Rules

- One entry per person.
- Flowers and greenery must be grown by the entrant.
- Fresh flowers only.
- Any container may be used.
- Artificial flowers are not permitted.

Judging

- Color & Variety
- Creativity
- Arrangement
- Overall Presentation

BEST JAR OF PICKLES

Show off your favorite family recipe and your best batch of homemade pickles!

Rules

- One entry per person.
- Must be homemade.
- Any pickle variety is welcome.
- Entry must be presented in a sealed glass jar.
- Commercial products are not permitted.

Judging

- Appearance
- Texture
- Flavor
- Overall Quality

UGLIEST VEGETABLE

Sometimes Mother Nature has a sense of humor!

Bring us your strangest, funniest, or most unusual vegetable and let the judges decide which one takes the prize.

Rules

- One entry per person.
- Vegetable must be grown by the entrant.
- No decorations or alterations.
- Any vegetable variety is welcome.

Judging

- Uniqueness
- Shape
- Humor
- Overall Impact

LARGEST ZUCCHINI

Think you've grown a monster? Bring it!

Rules

- One entry per person.
- Zucchini must be grown by the entrant.
- Zucchini will be officially measured and weighed by fair officials.
- No carving, trimming, or alterations.

Judging

The winner will be determined by **official weight**.

If two entries weigh the same, overall appearance will determine the winner.

BEST HOME GARDEN BASKET

Show us the best of your garden harvest!

Put together a basket featuring the fruits, vegetables, herbs, edible flowers, and tree nuts you've grown yourself.

Rules

- One basket per person.
- All contents must be grown by the entrant.
- Fruits, vegetables, herbs, edible flowers, and tree nuts are welcome.
- Store-bought items are not permitted.

Judging

- Variety
- Quality
- Presentation
- Overall Appeal

BEST JAM OR JELLY

Share your favorite homemade preserve and show us what you've been making in your kitchen!

Rules

- One entry per person.
- Must be homemade.
- Any fruit or berry jam or jelly is welcome.
- Entry must be presented in a sealed glass jar.
- Commercial products are not permitted.

Judging

- Appearance
- Consistency
- Flavor

- Overall Quality

BEST SOURDOUGH LOAF

Nothing says country baking quite like a fresh loaf of sourdough!

Rules

- One entry per person.
- Must be homemade.
- Traditional, naturally leavened sourdough only.
- Bread should be presented as one whole loaf.

Judging

- Appearance
- Crust
- Crumb & Texture
- Flavor

GENERAL COMPETITION RULES

- Entry fee is **\$5 per entry**.
- One entry per person, per category.
- All entries must be delivered to the judging area by **1:30 PM on Saturday, August 29**.
- Judging begins at **2:00 PM**.
- Judging will be anonymous using entry numbers.
- Judges' decisions are final.
- Entries may be photographed and displayed during the fair.
- By entering, participants grant the Helvetia Farm Fair permission to photograph their entries and use photographs for future promotional purposes.

WHY ENTER?

The Helvetia Farm Fair is about more than ribbons and prizes. It's a chance to share the recipes, gardens, talents, and traditions that make our community special.

These competitions celebrate the agricultural heritage of Helvetia and Washington County and give us a chance to keep those traditions alive for the next generation.

So bring your best pie, your biggest zucchini, your garden's finest harvest—or the ugliest vegetable you've ever grown—and come be part of the fun!

We can't wait to see what you bring!

HELVETIA FARM FAIR

Celebrating our community, our traditions, and the agricultural heritage of Helvetia.