



Rules & Regulations

Team entry requirements

All team entries must be submitted by September 1st, 2026. The Rib Cook-off will be held Saturday, September 26th 2026, at Thirsty Farmer, 531 Hwy 144, Calhoun, LA 71225.

Rib Cook-off entry fee- \$175.00 if received by September 1st. \$200 if received after Sept. 1st following approval. Entry fee covers all 3 contests- Blind Judging Rib Cook-off, People's Choice Rib Cook-off, & Best Sides Cook-off.

Team must supply at least 4 slabs of Ribs for People's Choice. Team -must also supply 8 separate ribs for blind judging rib cook-off.

T-shirt sizes: The team captain's shirt is free with registration; each additional shirt is \$20 and can be purchased online or day of the event.

Team must acknowledge they have read the rules, regulations, and hold/harmless agreement when submitting contestant application online @www.thirstyfarmerwines.com.

All team captains are to pick up team packages at Thirsty farmer LLC located at 531 LA Hwy-144 Calhoun LA on Friday, September 25th, 2026 between 4-7PM.

Rules

These rules are nearly identical to the rules of the Kansas City BBQ Association. The primary difference is that they only allow wood and charcoal cookers. We allow any and all kinds of cookers for this event to encourage anyone to come and cook.

Each team will consist of a chief cook and as many assistants as the chief cook deems necessary. Contestants will provide all pits to be used. If power is required by the contestant, it must be an inverter generator. Electricity is not supplied by Thirsty Farmer, LLC. The use of a single pit/cooking device by more than one team is permitted. All cooking of products shall be done within the confines of the team's assigned cooking space, which will be 10x20 area at Thirsty Farmer, LLC. Cooking spaces are pre-determined. Equipment can be dropped off between 4:00-7:00 PM Friday prior to the event. The team number must be displayed somewhere in your cooking area.



It is the responsibility of the contestant to see that the team's assigned cooking space is kept clean and policed following the contest. All fires must be put out and all equipment removed from the site. It is imperative that cleanup be thorough. Any team's assigned cooking space left in disarray or with trash, other than at trash containers, may disqualify said team from future participation.

Contestants must provide all needed equipment, supplies, and electricity. If generator is present, it must have an inverter. Contestants must adhere to all electrical, fire, and other codes whether city, parish, state, or federal. Pits, cookers, props, trailers, tents, or any other equipment, including generators, must be provided by the teams and may not exceed the boundaries of the team's assigned cooking space. Fires must be of wood, pellets, charcoal, or gas. Electric or Gas grills ARE permitted. Electric accessories such as spits, augers, or forced draft are permitted. Digging is NOT allowed. Fires may not be built on the ground. Ashes must be disposed of offsite and ONLY in approved ash disposal containers.

Teams may enter multiple entries, provided they pay a separate entry fee and use a different team name.

Each team must cook a minimum of four slabs of spare ribs for People's Choice. Each team must also cook 8 ribs for the blind judging rib cook-off. All ribs are supplied by contestant. The contestant may choose to cook more than minimum requirement for patrons of the event for people's choice. Ribs must be cooked on-site, but can be seasoned or marinated before the event.

All meat must start out raw. Meat must be held at a food-safe temperature, lower than 40°F, and not show any signs of spoilage. Any meat not meeting this requirement will be disqualified.

Submission Process

Each contestant must submit at least 8 separated spare ribs in a container. Accepted entries must be pork ribs served on the bone. Beef ribs and country-style ribs will not be accepted. Turning in whole spare ribs or St. Louis cut is at the discretion of the teams themselves. Baby Back ribs are not allowed. The Thirsty Farmer Wine and Swine's Rib Cook-Off allows for blind judging only for the rib and side entry contests. Entries will be



submitted in an approved numbered container provided by the contest organizer, and then will be randomly selected for judging, without the judges knowing the team's name or number. Entries will be judged by a judging team (a minimum of 6 judges who are at least 21 years of age.)

Marking or sculpting of any kind on the meat will not be tolerated. This will include, but is not limited to, painting, sculpting, or decorating. No aluminum foil, stuffing, toothpicks, skewers, or any other foreign material is permitted and will not be tolerated. To simplify the judging process, no side sauce containers will be permitted in the meat judging containers. Meats may be presented with or without sauce on them as the contestant wishes. Sauce may not be pooled or puddled in the container.

Scoring Procedures Rib Cook-off Blind Judging

Each team will enter 8 separated pieces of meat in their contest container, supplied by Thirsty Farmer, LLC, with their team's number on it. There is a \$5 replacement fee for lost containers.

At 1:45 PM, the air horn will sound, and you will have 15 minutes to turn in your ribs. At 2:00, the air horn will sound again. If your ribs have not been turned in before the second air horn, they will not be judged.

The judges' voting sheet will consist of the following scoring opportunities on a scale of 1 (bad) to 10 (excellent):

- Appearance*
- Tenderness
- Taste

*Appearance does not include presentation

People's Choice Ribs Judging (Included in entry fee)

People's Choice is for Rib's only. For this category, you must supply and cook at least 4 slabs of ribs. (you still must turn in 8 ribs for blind judging). The public may vote on your ribs from 12:00-3:00pm. Please collect their rib tickets at your tent to obtain a rib. They will place their votes at the designated People's Choice/Entry Tent with the number written on the ticket of their favorite ribs. Winner announced at 4:00pm on stage.



Sides Judging (Included in entry fee)

Submit sides of your choice for 6 judges. Contestants can submit this in any form of container of their liking. Container is not supplied by Thirsty Farmer, LLC. Winner announced at 4:00pm on stage. You may provide your side sample to the public. Please take a ticket from the patrons to receive your side sample at your tent.

Causes for Disqualification

- Failure to comply with the rules and regulations established in this document.
- Use of controlled substances by a team, its members, and or guests.
- Foul, abusive, or unacceptable language via the team, its members, and or guests.

There will be no refund of entry fees for any reason, except at the discretion of the event organizer.

Awards

Winners will be announced at 4:00 PM on the band stage. Blind-Judging

Rib Cook-Off

1st Place Rib Cook-off-Plaque & \$500 cash

2nd Place- Plaque & \$300 cash

3rd Place-Plaque & \$150 cash

People's Choice Ribs- Plaque & \$350 cash

Best in Sides-Plaque & \$150 cash

The decisions and interpretations of the rules and regulations are at the discretion of Thirsty Farmer, LLC. Their decisions and interpretations are final.



Hold Harmless Agreement

It is agreed by the applicant/participant that he/she shall assume full responsibility for, and hold Thirsty Farmer, LLC and any event co-sponsors harmless and whole from any and all liabilities arising from the applicants, applicant's agents and representatives conduct, and actions (including but not limited to: transit to and from event, event set up period, the event, and the event take down period.) Applicant/participant understands that he/ she is solely liable for any and all claims and losses related to his/her actions and products exhibited, created, or brought to the event.

Applicant/participant also understands that there will be no refunds of applicants' participation fees due to bad weather, ejection, disqualification, or other occurrences beyond the control of Thirsty Farmer, LLC and any other sponsoring parties.

I also understand that I must agree that I have read and agree to this hold harmless agreement when I complete the Contestant application online @ thirstyfarmerwines.com.