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Arapahoe County Fair welcomes Open Class entries

From preserves to pale ales, citizen contest showcases 'best of the best'

Aurora, Colo. – Calling all competitive spirits! Hobbyists of all ages and from all counties are invited to enter their best handiwork in the Open Class Competition at the 2012 [Arapahoe County Fair](#).

The Open Class Competition is a longstanding tradition at the Fair that showcases a wide array of citizens' handmade and homegrown treasures, ranging from baked goods and quilts to photography and herbs. Experienced local judges will review the entries, which are displayed in the main exhibit hall throughout the Fair (July 25-29). Winning entries will earn ribbons, cash premiums and bragging rights that last all year.

The main divisions of the Fair Open Class Contest include:

- **Fiber Arts:** Quilting, knitting, felting, crocheting and various needle arts
- **Visual Arts:** Photography, drawing, painting and other fine arts
- **Culinary Arts:** Varied breads, cakes, cookies, jellies, jams, preserves, and canned, pickled or dried foods, plus a new class for gluten-free baked goods.
- **Horticulture:** Vegetables, fruits and herbs
- **Floriculture:** Flowers, ornamental grasses and arrangements

Special Contests

This year, contestants can crank up the heat in special contests that bring out the edge in live competition. Pastry lovers can enter their best **baked fruit pie** for tasting and judging by a live panel at the Fair at 4 p.m. on Thursday, July 26, and chocoholics can vie for the prize by bringing their best **chocolate cake** at 5 p.m. Saturday, July 28.

The 2nd Annual **Battle of the Homebrews** returns to the Fair at 9 a.m., Sunday, July 29. Sanctioned by the American Homebrewers Association, this competition welcomes anyone over age 21 who make beer, ale, mead or cider as a hobby. Qualified judges, certified with the Beer Judge Certification Program, will conduct the judging and present medals and best-of-show ribbons. Pre-entry is required.

Contest guidelines, categories and entry forms can be found in the Open Class Fair Book, available at www.arapahoecountyfair.com or by calling CSU Extension at 303-730-1920.

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To download photos click on the following link:
<ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CM/FAIR/2012>

FairOCPhoto.jpg: Animal color photography is a popular class in the Open Class Contest at the Arapahoe County Fair.

FairOCQuilts.jpg: Enter your quilts and needle arts in the Open Class Contest of the Arapahoe County Fair.