

Benton County Fair – Eastern Iowa Wine Club Amateur Wine Maker Competition Rules

1. No Entry Fee.
2. Contest is open to any amateur home winemaker. No wine exhibited may have been made by a professional commercial winemaker or by any commercial winery. All entrants must be at least 21 years of age.
3. Entries must be made in the Department between 2:00 and 8:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 22, 2009.
4. One bottle is required per entry. Still wines must be submitted in standard 750ml wine bottles. Ice and fortified wines may be submitted in 375ml bottles. Sparkling wines must be in champagne (high pressure) bottles secured with proper closure and cage. All bottles must be free of wax, decorative labels, and capsules. The bottles will be identified with the Fair Identification Number (ID) and Class at the time of entry.
5. Exhibitors may enter multiple wines into the competition. Each wine may be entered into only one category. Judges may reclassify an entry if they feel that the wine was entered into the wrong category.
6. Wine kits and concentrate-based wines will compete side by side with fresh fruit and juice-based wines in all listed categories.
7. All wines will be judged according to their relative merits within the category. Ribbons will be awarded for **1st, 2nd, 3rd place** in each category.
8. Wines judged as extraordinary will be awarded a **Double Gold Medal**. All wines receiving a Double Gold Medal will be eligible for Best of Show recognition.
9. Following judging a **People's Choice Award** will be given, allowing audience participation in judging their favorite entry.
10. No exhibit will be released to exhibitors by the Superintendent or his designee until 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the Fair, and all exhibits must be removed by 6:00 p.m. After 6:00 p.m., neither Department Superintendent nor the Benton County Fair management shall be responsible for any exhibit that has not been picked up and all prizes and awards earned shall be forfeited unless arrangements have been made with the Superintendent or his designee at the time of entry.
11. All decisions by competition organizers and judges are final.

Class 1 – Grape Wine	Class 2 – Non-Grape Wines	Class 3 – Meads and Ciders
1. Dry Red (<i>Vinifera</i>)	1. Dry Fruit	1. Dry Mead
2. Dry White (<i>Vinifera</i>)	2. Sweet Fruit	2. Sweet Mead
3. Sweet Red (<i>Vinifera</i>)	3. Dry Berry	3. Cider
4. Sweet White (<i>Vinifera</i>)	4. Sweet Berry	
5. Sparkling (grape)	5. Rhubarb	
6. Native/Hybrid Dry	6. Dry Vegetable or Flower	
7. Native/Hybrid Sweet	7. Sweet Vegetable or Flower	
8. Marechal Foch	8. Sparkling (non-grape)	

1st Place = Blue Ribbon 2nd Place = Red Ribbon 3rd Place = White Ribbon

The Benton County Fair Board will give a Rosette ribbon to the exhibitor whose entry is judged **“Best of Show”** and for the **“People’s Choice Award”**.