



EL DORADO COUNTY FAIR

"SQUEALS & WHEELS"

JUNE 14-17, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BAKED GOODS JUDGING A LOVE A-FAIR FOR JUDGE

There's no secret to winning a ribbon for baked goods at the El Dorado County Fair.

Fruit pie should taste like the fruit it is made from. Bread should have a good texture with no large holes, smell good and be easily sliced. Pie crust should be flaky and the bottom crust must be thoroughly baked.

Now, are you tempted to enter the baked goods contest at the El Dorado County Fair?

Doug Noble, a baked goods judge for 15 years, hopes so.

"I have so many people coming up to me and saying, 'I have the best recipe for ...' and I ask them, then why don't you enter the contest?"

Perhaps you feel that these contests are better suited to grandmothers whose 50-plus years of baking would surely translate into a blue ribbon. Not so, stated Noble.

"I once had a young boy come with his grandmother and each entered a pie. His was not the prettiest pie, but the crust was absolutely the best, earning a blue ribbon."

So take a chance and enter those cookies that you're certain would be money in the bank someday. Prove to your wife that you really do bake the best bread. Or, win over your future in-laws with winning cinnamon rolls.

But you need not be as creative with your entry, and in fact, entries are not limited to sweet confections.

"Each day of the fair has a daily special," noted Noble. "Friday could be chicken pot pie. Saturday could be a cherry theme, with entries required to use cherries." The 2007 Entry Guide will list the Daily Specials categories in the Baked Goods / Confections section.

Noble stresses that while he never tells anyone what they did wrong, he firmly believes in communicating why someone did better to win a ribbon. Judging is open, which means you can watch the judging take place and ask questions of the judges later.

Whether you start baking and perfecting your entries a few days before judging, or just bake that day and bring it in, you will have a great opportunity to win, and/or to learn from the experience.



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“Sometimes I feel that these contests are becoming a lost art,” said Noble. “We don’t get as many entries as we should because people are not confident in their recipe or experience.”

No matter your level of baking expertise, every entry yields more experience. And maybe a blue ribbon to show off.

Go to www.eldoradocountyfair.org for entry details or call 621-5860 for an Entry Guide.

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