



## 2011 Canning Contest

**Do you can fresh produce at home or at the Union County Canning Plant?**  
The Green Bean Festival and County Extension Office are hosting a Canning Contest. It's easy to enter – just bring your entries (jars) to the Union County Extension Office (located in the Union County Civic Center) between 9:00 a.m. Monday, July 25<sup>th</sup> and 4:00 p.m. Thursday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011 and leave them with your completed Entry Form.

**Eligibility** – Contestants must reside at least part of the year in Union County, Towns County, Fannin County, White County, Lumpkin County, Cherokee County, NC, or Clay County, NC.

### Categories

1. Green Beans – White Half Runners
2. Green Beans – Other Varieties
3. Green Bean Pickles, Relishes, and Other (Green Bean Salsa, Green Bean Ketchup)
4. Tomatoes
5. Other Vegetables
6. Soups, Mixed Vegetables, and Vegetable Juices (**No meats**)
7. Peaches
8. Apples and Applesauce
9. Other Fruits and Fruit Juices
10. Sauces & Salsas
11. Cucumber Pickles
12. Other Vegetable Pickles, Fruit Pickles, and Mixed Pickles
13. Relishes, and Chow Chows
14. Jelly, Jams, Marmalades, Syrups, Preserves, Fruit Butters, and Pie Fillings (do not use paraffin)

At the discretion of the judges, the number of categories may be increased or decreased depending on number of entries received.

### Guidelines

All entries must be received by 4:00 p.m. Thursday, July 28, 2011. All entries must have been canned between July 29, 2010 and July 28, 2011. Product must be in **standard canning jars** (quarts, pints, and half-pints). All jars should be in good condition, clean, free from dust, free of rust, dents, and other defects. **Only USDA approved methods of food preservation are accepted** (pressure canning or hot water bath and standard sealing methods only). Each jar must be submitted by an individual, not by a couple or a team. Contestants may submit only one jar per category. No submission fee is required. Each jar must be appropriately labeled including name of product and date or year canned. Contestants will receive a number and stickers (or tags) for each jar (for ID purposes during contest and awards). Each contestant must turn in completed Entry Form.

All entries will be displayed at the Union County Civic Center Saturday, July 30, 2011 – Sunday, July 31, 2011 during the Green Bean Festival. Contestants must pick up (or make arrangements to pick up) any jars or dishes used during the contest by 4:00 Sunday, July 31, 2011. We cannot be responsible for jars left at the facility.

## **Selection of Winners**

Judging will take place on July 28, 2011 after 4:00 p.m.

Canned foods are not opened and tasted. Jars will be judged on the following criteria: quality of product, quality of pack, quality of liquid, and quality of jar.

### *Quality of Product (Judged by Appearance) – 45 points*

- a. Uniform in size and shape
- b. Good condition, natural shape retained
- c. Fresh, natural color

### *Quality of Pack – 15 points*

- a. Full jar with good proportion of product to juice
- b. Proper head space

### *Quality of Liquid – 30 points*

- a. Clear and free of sediment
- b. Clear Natural Color

### *Quality of Jar – 10 points*

- a. Clean, standard canning jar
- b. Label of appropriate size/color, neatly placed and clearly marked
- c. Shiny, new lids and bands

From 0-100 points will be awarded to each jar, by each judge. The jar in each category with the highest total points will win 1<sup>st</sup> Place. No ribbons will be awarded to entries that are not properly sealed.

## **Notification of Winners**

Winners will be posted on Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup>. Ribbons will be displayed with canned goods at the Union County Civic Center during the festival. Both jars and ribbons must be picked up by 4:00 p.m. on July 31, 2011.

## **Prizes**

1st place in each category will receive a Green Bean Festival 1<sup>st</sup> Place Ribbon. All events at the Green Bean Festival will receive media coverage so be prepared to have your picture taken. See you at the Festival!

For more information about the Green Bean Festival Canning Contest, call the Union County Extension Office at (706) 439-6030 or visit [www.greenbeanfestival.com](http://www.greenbeanfestival.com) .