

LAUREL COUNTY

CULTURAL *Arts* CONTEST

CELEBRATING CREATIVITY,
TRADITION & TALENT
IN OUR COMMUNITY

JULY 23RD TO JULY 26TH

FEATURING

VISUAL ARTS ★ PHOTOGRAPHY ★ FIBER ARTS & SEWING ★ CRAFTS

FOOD PRESERVATION ★ BASKET WEAVING ★ AND MORE!

**Cooperative
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Lexington, KY 40506



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2026 LAUREL COUNTY CULTURAL ARTS CONTEST

WELCOME TO THE LAUREL COUNTY CULTURAL ARTS CONTEST!

WE ARE PROUD TO SHOWCASE THE CREATIVITY AND TALENTS OF OUR COMMUNITY. FROM HANDMADE CRAFTS TO PRESERVED FOODS, THIS CONTEST CELEBRATES TRADITION, SKILL, AND CREATIVITY.

WHETHER YOU ARE ENTERING OR SIMPLY ENJOYING THE EXHIBITS, WE HOPE YOU ARE INSPIRED BY THE WONDERFUL WORK ON DISPLAY AT THE 2026 LAUREL COUNTY FAIR.

JULY 23RD TO JULY 26TH

LOCATED AT:
LAUREL COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS

GENERAL RULES

- Entries must be submitted during designated entry times
- All items must be the original work of the exhibitor
- Limit of 2 entries per category per person
- Entries must be clean, complete, and ready for display
- All items must be labeled with name and category
- Judges' decisions are final
- Items must be picked up during scheduled pickup times that will be disclosed at drop off.

HOW TO ENTER

Entry Drop-Off:

- Bring entries to the Laurel County Extension Office during entry times:
 - July 13th to July 17th from 8am-4:30pm
 - July 14th from 5pm to 7:30pm

Entry Forms: A completed entry form must accompany each item.

Contact Information:

Lora Davidson or Robin Davis
Laurel County Extension Office
200 County Extension Road, London
606-864-4167

JUDGING CRITERIA

- Creativity
- Skill & Technique
- Originality
- Presentation

Category specific rules listed with each category description.



CONTEST DIVISIONS

Visual Arts

Photography

Fiber Arts & Sewing

Crafts

Food Preservation

Basket Weaving

Categories and rules listed on following pages.

Visual Arts (1).

Categories:

- **Drawing -**
 - **Pastels (1A)**
 - **Pen & Ink (1B)**
 - **Pencil Color & Charcoal (1C)**
- **Painting Representational/Realism (1D)** - Accuracy to Reality. Original works in any medium on any material with obvious subject matter.
- **Painting Non-Representational/Non-Objective (1E)** - No recognizable subjects.
- **Mixed Media (1F)** - (including collage), Low Relief assemblages, shadow-boxed framing where appropriate.
- **Stained Glass (1G)**

Rules:

- Must be original work of the exhibitor
- Must be completed within the last 2 years
- Must be dry and ready for display
- Framed/Mounted or matted with acid-free mats.
- Maximum size: 20" x 20"
- No kits or pre-printed paint-by-number entries

Photography (2)

Categories:

- Color Photography
 - **People (2A)** - Photo to include a person which is to be the central focus of the image. Can be portrait or human interest.
 - **Wildlife (2B)** - Living wild animals, birds, insects, fish, etc. in their natural habitat. Pets will not be allowed.
 - **Scenic (2C)** - Any kind of landscape, cityscape, or waterscape.
 - **Agricultural (2D)** - Photo to include agricultural reference as central focus of the image. Can include livestock, agricultural equipment, farm landscape.
- Monochrome (Black & White) Photography
 - **People (2E)** - Photo to include a person which is to be the central focus of the image. Can be portrait or human interest.
 - **Wildlife (2F)** - Living wild animals, birds, insects, fish, etc. in their natural habitat. Pets will not be allowed.
 - **Scenic (2G)** - Any kind of landscape, cityscape, or waterscape.
 - **Agricultural (2H)** - Photo to include agricultural reference as central focus of the image. Can include livestock, agricultural equipment, farm landscape.

Rules:

- All submissions must be solely created (or captured) by the exhibitor
- Must be mounted or matted (no loose prints)
- Minimum size: 5"x7"
- Light editing allowed, but no heavy digital manipulation
- No copyrighted, stock, or AI images

Fiber Arts & Sewing (3)

Categories:

- Quilting
 - **Hand or machine pieced (3A)** - hand or machine quilted. May include applique and/or embroidery. Minimum perimeter of at least 72" but no more than 300". Entry to have sleeve large enough to accommodate a 4" rod.
 - **Quilt Block (3B)** - Hand or machine pieced. Size to be 12 1/2" x 12 1/2". Hanging sleeves not required. Back will be judged also.
- **Clothing (3C)** - hand or machine sewn wearable garment
- Crochet
 - **Wearable Garment (3D)**
 - **Afghan (3E)** - Maximum perimeter of 270"
 - **Toy, Doll, or Amigurumi (3F)**
- Knit
 - **Wearable Garment (3G)**
 - **Afghan (3H)** - Maximum perimeter of 270"
 - **Toy (3I)**
- **Embroidery (3K)** - Framed or unframed piece done in a variety of decorative stitches/techniques. Stitched area size not to exceed 24"

Rules:

- Must be handmade by exhibitor(s). Quilts may be entered under team submission for piecing and quilting steps.
- Items must be clean and finished
- No safety hazards (loose pins, etc.)
- Patterns may be used, but work must be completed by exhibitor
- Must not have been previously entered in this fair

Crafts (4)

Categories:

- **Woodwork (4A)** - Any woodcrafted article
- **Door or wall decoration (4B)** - Can be made with any material
- **Free-Standing Decoration (4C)** - Can be made with any material
- Holiday Crafts
 - **Winter (4D)**
 - **Spring (4E)**
 - **Fall (4F)**
 - **Summer (4G)**
- **Repurposed & Upcycled- Must include a "before" photo**
 - **Clothing (end product) (4H)**
 - **Household (end product) (4I)**
 - **Other (4J)**

Rules:

- Must be handmade (no store-bought items)
- No kit entries
- Must be sturdy and able to be displayed safely
- No hazardous materials
- Flowers shall not be the main element in any entry in this division. Entry required to have clearly marked hangers. If an item is made of wood or other solid material, the item shall have screw eyes and wire on them, as pegboard hooks will not fit on items with sawtooth hanger.
- Items should be no larger than 48" x 48" x 48".
- Please identify the top of any wreaths with a hanger.

Food Preservation (5)

Categories:

- **Canned Fruits (5A)**
- **Canned Vegetables (5B)**
- **Jams & Jellies (5C)**
- **Salsa (5D)**

Rules:

- Must follow current USDA safe canning guidelines.
- Must be preserved within the last year
- Must be in standard, clear canning jars
- Jars must be sealed (no paraffin wax)
- Jar must be labeled with:
 - Product Name
 - Date Processed
- No opened jars accepted
- Entries may be discarded after judging for safety

Basket Weaving (6)

Categories:

- **General Entry (6A)** - Any size reed basket

Rules:

- Must be handmade by exhibitor
- Baskets should be constructed of natural weaving fibers.
- Must be structurally sound
- Clean and free of damage
- No store-bought baskets