

DEPARTMENT 2119

FOODS DEPARTMENT

GENERAL INFORMATION

Chairperson: Priscilla Gerrard & Lori Burke

Contact Information:

Priscilla- pmgerrard@hotmail.com

Lori- lori.topsfieldfair@gmail.com

KING ARTHUR BAKING COMPANY IS THE OFFICIAL FLOUR OF THE FOODS DEPARTMENT.

IMPORTANT DATES

Entry Form Due:

Thursday, October 1st, 2026 - Weekend Contest

Sunday, October 4th, 2026 - Topsfield Fair Fall Harvest Baked Sweet Treat Contest

Tuesday, October 6th, 2026 - King Arthur Baking Company Contest

Wednesday, October 7th, 2026 - Topsfield Fair Apple Pie Contest

Thursday, October 8th, 2026 - Parent & Child Cookie Celebration Contest

Entry Receiving:

Saturday, October 3rd, 2026 - Weekend Contest (10:00-11:30am)

Sunday, October 4th, 2026 - Weekend Contest (10:00-11:30am)

Tuesday, October 6th, 2026 - Topsfield Fair Fall Harvest Baked Sweet Treat Contest (4:00-6:00pm)

Thursday, October 8th, 2026 - King Arthur Baking Company Contest (4:00-6:00pm)

Friday, October 9th, 2026 - Topsfield Fair Apple Pie Contest (3:30-5:30pm)

Saturday, October 10th, 2026 - Parent & Child Cookie Celebration Contest (10:00-11:30am)

Winners Announced:

Saturday, October 3rd, 2026 - Weekend Contest (2:00pm)

Sunday, October 4th, 2026 - Weekend Contest (2:00pm)

Tuesday, October 6th, 2026 - Topsfield Fair Fall Harvest Baked Sweet Treat Contest (8:00pm)

Thursday, October 8th, 2026 - King Arthur Baking Company Contest (8:00pm)

Friday, October 9th, 2026 - Topsfield Fair Apple Pie Contest (8:00pm)

Saturday, October 10th, 2026 - Parent & Child Cookie Celebration Contest (2:00pm)

Entry Fee: *(online only)* \$3.00 per exhibitor

RULES AND REGULATIONS

*****Please read carefully as some items have changed.**

1. ALL ENTRIES MUST BE PRE-REGISTERED. ALL ENTRY FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1ST, 2026 FOR WEEKEND CONTESTS ONLY.
2. ****ALL FOOD ENTRIES (WEEKEND CONTESTS ONLY) SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO COOLIDGE HALL BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 10:00 A.M. AND 11:30 A.M. ON THE DAY OF JUDGING.** NO ITEMS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 11:30 A.M. Once judging has started absolutely NO exceptions will be made. Please allow for traffic. *NOTE DELIVERY TIMES VARY FOR EVENING CONTESTS.***
3. The contest is intended for amateur bakers only. Professional bakers or those who earn a significant portion of their livelihood from baking may not enter.
4. All food items become the property of the Topsfield Fair. **TWO recipes, each printed on 1 side of an 8 ½" x 11" sheet of paper, must accompany all exhibits. Please include name, address, and telephone number on the back of each sheet. Every ingredient must be listed in exact measurements and the type of ingredient must be specified. The recipes become the property of the Topsfield Fair, including publication rights. DO NOT SEND WITH ENTRY FORMS. ALL EVENING CONTESTS SUBMIT 2 COPIES OF RECIPE.**
5. ****All exhibits must be brought to the fair in a DISPOSABLE container, carefully covered with plastic wrap or aluminum foil. *The fair is NOT RESPONSIBLE for the return of plates, pans, etc.***
6. NO package mixes will be accepted. Also, no premade or store bought crust.
7. The food will be judged in Coolidge Hall as soon as the display is set and judges are ready.
8. **ONLY THE EXHIBITOR WILL BE ADMITTED FREE ENTRY ONLY AT THE MAIN GATE ENTRANCE.** (Paid parking is available opposite the Main Gate on Route 1.)
9. Only one entry per class, per category will be accepted from each exhibitor (i.e. cookies, muffins, etc.)
10. Junior class, ages 5-17. **Specify Junior Division and age. Juniors under age 17 are not allowed in evening contests unless specified in contest rules.**
11. The decision of contest officials is final.
12. All first place winners in 2025 Weekend Contests are not eligible to enter the same contest in 2026. *Only first place winners may not enter same recipe again this year.

WEEKEND CONTEST –
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3RD, 2026

Awards:

FIRST \$10.00
SECOND \$7.50
THIRD \$5.00

CLASS A

LOT

1. Favorite Cookie (Not Bars, 6 per plate)
2. Favorite Dessert- Adult
3. Favorite Dessert Bar (6 per plate)
4. Brownies (6 per plate)
5. Frosted Cupcakes (6 per plate)
6. Favorite Gluten Free Dessert
7. Sourdough Bread

WEEKEND CONTEST –
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4TH, 2026

Awards:

FIRST \$10.00
SECOND \$7.50
THIRD \$5.00

CLASS B

LOT

1. Muffins (6 per plate)
2. Whoopie Pies, any flavor and filling (6 per plate)
3. Quick Bread (1 loaf)
4. Two Crust Pie (whole pie must be submitted)
5. Favorite One Crust Pie (whole pie must be submitted)
6. Yeast Bread (1 loaf)
7. Sweet Yeast Breakfast Rolls or Danish (6 per plate)

Note: NO cake mixes are allowed in any of the above classes. Heart Smart, Diabetic, sugar free/fat free recipes in each class are also accepted. All Class items may be reheated if oven is available. Prior arrangement is necessary.

There are NO Professional Classes in this year's contest.

TOPSFIELD FAIR FALL HARVEST BAKED SWEET
TREAT CONTEST

Awards:

FIRST Gift Certificate from Mann's Orchard, Methuen
SECOND Gift Certificate from Mann's Orchard, Methuen
THIRD Gift Certificate from Mann's Orchard, Methuen

Contest Date: Tuesday, October 6th, 2026

Judging: 7:00-8:00pm at Coolidge Hall

Announcement: 8:00pm at Coolidge Hall

Supported by Mann's Orchard, Methuen

Adult Category- Ages 18 years and Up

*The colors and flavors of fall in New England are here!
Please join us in celebrating.*

Rules:

1. Class open to **ages 18 yrs. and older.**
2. Create a baked sweet treat including a fruit or vegetable from your local farm stand that is harvested in the fall. (ex. apples, pumpkins, squash, etc.)
3. Pre-entry form is required and is due as follows: Received by October 4th, 2026.
4. **TWO recipes, each printed on 1 side of an 8 ½" x 11" sheet of paper, must accompany all exhibits. Please include name, address, and telephone number on the back of each sheet. Every ingredient must be listed in exact measurements and the type of ingredient must be specified. The recipes become the property of the Topsfield Fair, including publication rights.**
5. All recipes must include a fall fruit or vegetable.
6. Judging is based on texture (25%), flavor (50%), and overall appearance (25%).
7. All recipes & entries become property of Topsfield Fair.
8. Entries should be submitted on disposable plates. The Fair is not responsible for return of plates.
9. No pre-made or store-bought packaged mixes allowed. Also no packaged or pre-made pie crusts.
10. Entire baked entry must be submitted for judging.
11. First place winner in 2025 is not eligible to enter the contest in 2026.

CLASS C

LOT

1. Topsfield Fair Fall Harvest Baked Sweet Treat Contest

KING ARTHUR BAKING COMPANY CONTEST

Category: Favorite Scones

Awards:

- FIRST \$75 Gift Card
- SECOND \$50 Gift Card
- THIRD \$25 Gift Card



Contest Date: Thursday, October 8th, 2026

Judging: 7:00-8:00pm at Coolidge Hall

Announcement: 8:00pm at Coolidge Hall

Supported by King Arthur Baking Company

Adult Category- Ages 18 years and Up

Rules:

Failure to follow the rules may result in disqualification.

1. Class open to **ages 18 yrs. and older.**
2. One entry per person. Please submit your favorite scones – 6 must be submitted.
3. Pre-entry form is required and is due as follows: Received by October 6th, 2026.
4. ***ENTRANTS USE RECIPE OF THEIR OWN CHOICE. TWO recipes, each printed on 1 side of an 8 ½” x 11” sheet of paper, must accompany all exhibits. Please include name, address, and telephone number on the back of each sheet. Every ingredient must be listed in exact measurements and the type of ingredient must be specified. The recipes become the property of the Topsfield Fair, including publication rights.**
5. Exhibitor must bring the opened bag of King Arthur Flour or submit a UPC label from the flour bag when he/she submits the entry.
6. Entries should be submitted on disposable plates. The Fair is not responsible for return of plates.
7. Favorite Scones – 6 must be submitted.
8. Judging will be based on the following criteria:

a. Flavor	50 points
b. Overall Appearance	25 points
c. Texture	25 points
Total	100 points
9. All recipes & entries become property of Topsfield Fair.
10. First place winner in 2025 is not eligible to enter the contest in 2026.

CLASS C

LOT

2. King Arthur Baking Company Contest

TOPSFIELD FAIR APPLE PIE CONTEST

Awards:

- FIRST \$75 plus Gift Basket and 1/2 Bushel of Apples from Cider Hill Farm, Amesbury
- SECOND \$50 plus 1/2 Bushel of Apples from Cider Hill Farm, Amesbury
- THIRD \$25 plus Bag of Apples from Cider Hill Farm, Amesbury

Contest Date: Friday, October 9th, 2026

Judging: 6:30-9:00pm at Coolidge Hall

Announcement: 8:00pm

Supported by Cider Hill Farm, Amesbury

Adult Category- Ages 18 years and Up

Rules:

1. Class open to **ages 18 yrs. and older.**
2. Pre-entry form is required and is due as follows: Received by October 7th, 2026.
3. Recipe may be your own personal favorite or original favorite with complementary ingredients added.
4. ***Please list types of apples used.**
5. **TWO recipes, each printed on 1 side of an 8 ½” x 11” sheet of paper, must accompany all exhibits. Please include name, address, and telephone number on the back of each sheet. Every ingredient must be listed in exact measurements and the type of ingredient must be specified. The recipes become the property of the Topsfield Fair, including publication rights.**
6. Judging based on crust texture, flavor, overall appearance.
7. All recipes & entries become property of Topsfield Fair.
8. **PIES MAY BE BAKED IN A DISPOSABLE PLATE OF YOUR CHOICE – EITHER GLASS OR FOIL.**
9. **NO PREMADE, STORE BOUGHT, OR CRUST MIX ALLOWED.**
10. Recipes will be judged on texture (30%), overall appearance (40%), and overall flavor (30%).
11. First place winner in 2025 is not eligible to enter the contest in 2026.

CLASS C

LOT

3. Topsfield Fair Apple Pie Contest

PARENT & CHILD COOKIE CELEBRATION CONTEST

Category: America's 250th Birthday Cookie

Awards:

FIRST \$40, Blue Ribbon
SECOND \$15, Red Ribbon
THIRD \$10, White Ribbon

Contest Date: Saturday, October 10th, 2026

Judging: 12-1:00pm at Coolidge Hall

Announcement: 1:00pm

Supported by the Topsfield Fair

JUDGING CRITERIA

Flavor	30 points
Texture	10 points
Appearance	30 points
Originality/Creativity	30 points
Total	100 points

Rules:

1. Bake your own decorated cookies.
2. Pre-entry form is required and is due as follows:
Received by October 8th, 2026.
3. All "Parent" contestants must be at least 18 years of age at the time of the contest. The child must be between the ages of 6 and 17.
4. The contest is intended for amateur bakers only. Professional bakers or those who earn a significant portion of their livelihood from baking may not enter the PARENT & CHILD COOKIE CELEBRATION CONTEST.
5. A parent may enter different cookie recipes with two different children, but not two different recipes with the same child. Contestants who submit recipes under someone else's name will be disqualified.
6. Recipes in which the finished entry contains raw/uncooked eggs (whites and/or yolks) MAY NOT be entered. Egg must reach 160 degrees F. to be considered cooked.
7. 6 COOKIES PER PLATE.
8. All recipes & entries become property of Topsfield Fair.
9. Plate decorations are allowed. The Fair is not responsible for return of plates.
10. **TWO recipes, each printed on 1 side of an 8 ½" x 11" sheet of paper, must accompany all exhibits. Please include name, address, and telephone number on the back of each sheet. Every**

ingredient must be listed in exact measurements and the type of ingredient must be specified. The recipes become the property of the Topsfield Fair, including publication rights.

11. The Fair's general rules and contest policies will apply when there is a question about a rule. However, in the event of a tie, only one First Place winner can be chosen.
12. First place winner in 2025 is not eligible to enter the contest in 2026.

CLASS C

LOT

4. Parent & Child Cookie Celebration Contest

OFFICIAL RULES

Topsfield Fair General Rules & Information