

Where can I enter the My Mom's Best Recipe (using eggs) Contest?

Local fairs all over Virginia are holding preliminary contests. The top three winners from each contest are eligible to compete at the finals, to be held at the State Fair of Virginia on Saturday, Oct. 2, 2021. If you can't compete at your local fair, contact a nearby fair to see if they have residency requirements (many don't). **If you place 1st, 2nd, or 3rd at any fair, you may not compete in another contest held at another fair.**

What kind of recipe is the Virginia Egg Council looking for?

We're really interested in something that's delicious, that uses eggs in some way and was your mother's or grandmother's recipe and used a *minimum* of four eggs. It can be: Custard pies, meringue desserts, cakes, tortes, kuchen and kugels, flans, bread or bread puddings, breakfast casseroles, deviled eggs or salads are possibilities. Mom made it so it must be wonderful!

Why Mom's recipe?

During the pandemic, many of us were separated from our families, mothers included, and it pained them deeply - this is a way to celebrate them. Some of our mothers are gone, but as we cook what they cooked, we remember them. This contest is honoring our mothers who worked tirelessly in the kitchen to please us...let us all give them the "Atta-girl" they deserve!

Is it just a written recipe contest, or must I bring a finished product, for tasting?

It's both. As we said, it must taste delicious, plus you'll want it to look great for judging, as well. Get presentation ideas from magazine food photos, with ideas for garnishes, etc. Some fairs may require disposable containers. We suggest you hit the dollar store for a serving piece you won't mind leaving. It may be Mom's recipe, but you can put *your* spin on it. She'd like that.

Will the written recipe be judged?

That is definitely part of the judging criteria at the state finals. Listing ingredients in order of use; using correct abbreviations; including cooking times; temperatures; servings; and clear preparation instructions are all important, so the recipe can be easily recreated. Typewritten recipes are easier to read, but not essential at the local level. Old recipes may be hard to follow or use techniques not used today. Adapt your mother's recipe to reflect today's cooking methods and write it up using correct method.

Must it be an original recipe?

We are interested in a recipe of your mother's (or grandmother's) that the family raved about and you loved. We do not care where it came from, but if it is straight out of a cookbook, do give credit on the bottom. Look through her old recipe box or folder for the one you remember and love the best.

What if the finished product I bring for judging is best served hot? Or cold?

Many fairs will have access to a microwave - check with your local fair ahead of time. Or bring it hot if you know exactly what time it will be judged. Deliver cold entries in a cooler and allow judges to remove it from the cooler for judging.

Prizes?

Local winners are sent prizes from the Virginia Egg Council. At the State Finals, all contestants go home with gifts. We also have non-finalist prizes along with the 1st place (\$350) 2nd place (\$250) and 3rd place (\$150).

What does the Virginia Egg Council do with the recipes?

We love using the recipes in our promotional efforts. Several booklets have been printed, using some of the top winning recipes (available on virginiaeggcouncil.org) and placed in Virginia Welcome Centers for the public. We also use them in TV and radio segments we appear in and send them to newspapers around Virginia. We pre-test all recipes, to make sure they work.

Where can I get further information? Check out <https://virginiaeggcouncil.org/events.cfm> and you'll find everything from a sample judges' form to all the information the local fairs are privy to. Once you win at your local fair, we'll send you tips on how to win at the state level.

