



## Official Cook-Off Rules

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### Eligibility & Team Registration

- The Cook-Off is open to registered Fall Fuels Fest exhibitors and sponsors. Participation is free — no additional entry fee.
- Teams must indicate their intent to compete on the event registration form by September 30, 2026. No walk-up team entries accepted on event day.
- Each team may include up to three (3) members at no additional charge. Additional team members beyond three may be added for \$10 per person.
- Each team must designate one Head Cook who is responsible for the entry, conduct, and cleanup of the team's cooking area.
- The Head Cook must be present for the duration of the cook-off.

### Jambalaya Requirements

- All jambalaya must be cooked on-site on event day. No pre-cooked jambalaya is permitted.
- Protein must be shrimp, chicken, pork, sausage, or any combination of these. No other proteins are permitted. 5lbs of Louisiana shrimp (per team) provided by the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board for the 1<sup>st</sup> three teams to register. *Team must claim offer by September 30<sup>th</sup> to receive the free shrimp.*
- Teams must display a clearly visible sign at their station identifying all proteins used and any nut-based oils or major allergens present in their recipe. This is required for attendee safety.
- Teams are responsible for all ingredients, including rice.
- Ingredients may be pre-washed, pre-peeled, and pre-cut. Proteins may be marinated in advance but must remain in marinade until cooking begins on-site.
- Pre-made stocks or broths are permitted.

### Equipment, Fuel & Cooking Area

**⚠️ PROPANE ONLY. No wood, charcoal, or other fuel sources are permitted under any circumstances.**  
Teams found using wood or non-propane heat sources will be immediately disqualified.

- Teams must provide all cooking equipment: propane burner(s), propane tank(s), cooking pot(s), serving ladles, and all utensils needed for sampling and service.
- Teams must bring a fire extinguisher accessible at their cooking station.



- All cooking takes place at the team's assigned vendor tent/exhibitor space.
- Teams must bring their own canopy, table, and chairs if not already included with their exhibitor space.
- Teams requiring electrical power at their cooking station must bring a generator. Note: Pavilion electricity is reserved for event use and is not available to cook-off stations.
- All equipment and activity must remain within the team's designated space.
- Teams are responsible for full cleanup of their area by 3:00 PM. All trash must be bagged and removed or placed in designated receptacles.

## Tasting Samples

- Tasting samples are available free of charge to registered attendees wearing an event wristband.
- Walk-up visitors (no wristband) are not eligible for tasting samples.
- LCF provides tasting cups and small spoons. Teams are responsible for serving samples using sanitary gloves.
- Teams should be prepared to offer samples continuously from 11:00 AM through 1:15 PM.

## DRAFT - Cook-Off Timeline (Amanda's performance time TBD)

| TIME       | MILESTONE                                                                               |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:00 AM    | Cook-Off teams may begin setup and cooking (30 min before general vendor setup)         |
| 10:00 AM   | General vendor/exhibitor setup opens — all cook-off teams must have cooking underway    |
| 11:00 AM   | Gates open — teams must be ready to offer tasting samples to wristband holders          |
| 11:00–1:15 | Tasting samples served to wristband holders — adult bowl tickets redeemable at any time |
| 12:30 PM   | PA ANNOUNCEMENT: Reminder to redeem bowl tickets before 1:15 PM — vote closes soon      |
| 12:45 PM   | Amanda Shaw celebrity judging — LCF liaison escorts Amanda to each station              |
| 1:00 PM    | PA ANNOUNCEMENT: Final 15-minute voting reminder                                        |
| 1:15 PM    | Bowl ticket redemption closes. LCF staff collects all ballot boxes and tallies votes.   |
| 1:25 PM    | LCF coordinator privately confirms winner to Amanda Shaw and LCF Executive Director     |
| 1:30 PM    | <b>Amanda Shaw announces the winner. LCF ED presents trophy and prize. Photo!</b>       |
| 3:00 PM    | All equipment removed. Cooking areas fully cleaned. Event concludes.                    |



## Bowl Tickets & Voting

- Every registered adult attendee who wishes to eat jambalaya must purchase a bowl ticket — \$4 online in advance or \$5 at the pavilion on event day.
- Children age 12 and under accompanied by a registered adult receive a complimentary child bowl ticket at registration.
- To vote, an attendee brings their adult bowl ticket to their chosen team's station. The team collects the ticket and serves a full bowl. Ticket collected = one vote.
- Bowl ticket redemption closes at 1:15 PM. Teams may continue to serve food at their discretion after 1:15 PM, but collected tickets no longer count toward the vote.
- Tickets are non-transferable and non-replaceable if lost.

## Judging & Scoring

- Judging combines People's Choice (bowl ticket tally) with Celebrity Judge scoring by Amanda Shaw.
- Celebrity Judge criteria: taste, aroma, texture, rice consistency, and overall impression. Each team scored 1–10.
- People's Choice ranking by tickets collected: 1st = 3 pts, 2nd = 2 pts, 3rd = 1 pt.
- Celebrity Judge ranking by raw score: 1st = 3 pts, 2nd = 2 pts, 3rd = 1 pt.
- Combined total determines the winner. In a tie, Amanda Shaw's raw score is the tiebreaker.
- The winning team receives a prize provided by Louisiana Clean Fuels.

## Food Safety & Allergens

- The Head Cook and all team members handling food must wear sanitary gloves at all times.
- Teams must display an allergen statement at their station identifying all proteins (chicken, pork, sausage) and any nut-based cooking oils used. This is mandatory.
- All federal, state, and local food safety regulations apply. LCF reserves the right to disqualify any team found in violation.

## Disqualification

- Pre-cooked jambalaya brought from off-site.
- Use of wood, charcoal, or any non-propane heat source.
- Use of a protein other than shrimp, chicken, pork, or sausage.
- Failure to display protein and allergen labeling at the station.
- Serving full bowls without collecting a bowl ticket.



- Offering samples to visitors without event wristbands.
- Unsafe food handling or sanitation violations.
- Disorderly conduct by any team member.
- Head Cook not present on event day.

### What Teams Must Bring / What LCF Provides

| ✓ TEAM PROVIDES                                     | ✓ LCF PROVIDES                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| All jambalaya ingredients including rice            | Tasting cups (2–3 oz) and small tasting spoons                                                                                                 |
| Propane burner(s) and propane tank(s)               | Labeled ballot box for bowl ticket collection                                                                                                  |
| Cooking pot(s) — sized to serve event attendees     | Team station number/name sign                                                                                                                  |
| Serving ladle and full-bowl service utensils        | Cook-off station map distributed to all attendees                                                                                              |
| Sanitary gloves                                     | Celebrity judge score sheet                                                                                                                    |
| Fire extinguisher at cooking station                | Five pounds of raw shrimp, compliments of the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board for the 1 <sup>st</sup> three teams to register. |
| Canopy, table, chairs (if not with exhibitor space) | Electrical outlets are available at the pavilion. Please reach out to event organizers if you require power.                                   |
| Trash bags                                          | Complimentary entrance to the Jimmie Davis State Park                                                                                          |
| Protein + allergen label sign (required)            |                                                                                                                                                |
| Generator if electricity needed at cooking station  |                                                                                                                                                |

### Questions? Email the event organizers for more information.

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