



# Tolland County 4-H Fairboard Chili and Soup Cook Off Registration Form



Registration Information: Email to [kitchen.tollandcounty4h@gmail.com](mailto:kitchen.tollandcounty4h@gmail.com) or Mail to Tolland County 4-H Office, 24 Hyde Ave. Vernon, CT 06066

Name:

Email:

Phone:  
Soup

Number of  
Chili

Entries:

Entry Fee of \$15 per entry

Mail Check to Tolland County 4-H, 24 Hyde Ave., Vernon, CT 06066

Square Payments please contact Steve Gustafson at [kitchen.tollandcounty4h@gmail.com](mailto:kitchen.tollandcounty4h@gmail.com)

## 1. Event Information and Prizes.

- a. The event is March 8, 2025 at Tolland Agricultural Center (Gold Building), 24 Hyde Ave, Vernon, CT 06066 from 5:00 – 8:00pm.
- b. All registrations and Fees must be received by 5pm March 1, 2025.
- c. The decisions of the judges are final.
- d. 1<sup>st</sup> Place trophy to be awarded to best Chili and best Soup.

## 2. Chili/Soup Cooking Rules

Tolland County 4-H Fairboard Chili and Soup Cook Off is not sanctioned or sponsored by the Chili Appreciation Society International (CASI) or any other chili or soup cook-off organization.

Tolland County Fairboard reserves the right to make additional rules as the situation warrants. Rules are at the discretion of the Tolland County Fairboard Kitchen Committee (TC4HKC) and are subject to change prior to registration on the day of the event. The Tolland County 4-H Fairboard Chili and Soup Cook-off will not be canceled due to bad weather; therefore, no refunds will be made due to inclement weather.

- a. LOCATION, EQUIPMENT and SUPPLIES – Cooks are expected to provide their own equipment for keeping the chili or soup warm (crock pots) and serving utensils. The tables, tasting cups, napkins and spoons will be provided by TC4HKC,  
**Each cook is expected to utilize safe and clean serving procedures.**
- b. CHILI/SOUP WILL BE COOKED OFF SITE – Chili/Soup must be prepared before the event and transported to the Tolland Agricultural Center (Gold Building) in an electric crockpot. Contestants are required to make a minimum of **2 gallons of chili/soup**. This is important so that we will have enough for paying customers. You will be required to keep your chili/soup warm. Electricity will be provided to you (please bring a heavy-duty extension cord).



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- b. **ALLOWABLE INGREDIENTS** - Chili is defined in many different ways. Some of the ingredients such as spices, chili pepper, and beans are to the cooks' preference. Commercial chili powder is permissible, however complete commercial chili mixes ("just add meat" mixes that contain pre-measured spices) are NOT permitted. Entrants may serve condiments/toppings with their chili served to the public. Soup can be either cream, clear broth or chowder, but just like the Chili, no commercial soup mixes are NOT permitted.
- c. **SANITATION** – Cooks are to prepare and cook chili/soup in as sanitary a manner as possible. Please refer to the North Central District Health Department guidelines for more information.
- d. **JUDGING CRITERIA** – There are a few general attributes or characteristics of chili/soup that each judge will be evaluating. Scores will be computed for each entry that takes into consideration the four criteria for scoring:
- **Aroma** – Chili/Soup should smell good. This also indicates what is in store when you taste it.
  - **Consistency** - Chili must have a good ratio between sauce and meat. It should not be dry, watery, grainy, lumpy, or greasy. Soup should have a blend of staples (meat and veggies) to liquid. Not too much liquid with no substance or too much staples to make it stew like consistency.
  - **Taste** - Taste, above all else, is the most important factor. The taste should consist of the combination of meat, peppers, spices, etc, or in the case of soup or chowder, the combination of meat, seafood, vegetables, etc., with no particular ingredient being dominant, but rather a blend of the flavors.
  - **Public's Favorite** – The final criteria and the public's favorite, each paying customer is allowed one vote for the best chili and one for the best soup.

### 3. Penalties

Failure to comply with cook-off rules is subject to disqualification of that entry. The decision of the official(s) is final. In the case of disqualification, the official monitoring the cook-off must immediately notify the head cook and give a reason for the disqualification.

### 4. Proceeds

All funds received from the Chili/Soup Cook-off will be used toward the 2024 Tolland County 4-H Fair, August 8-10, 2025 at the Tolland Agricultural Center, 24 Hyde Avenue, Vernon, CT. Distribution of the proceeds will be at the sole discretion of the Tolland County 4-H Fairboard Directors and Advisors.

**Question: Please contact Stephen Gustafson at 860-324-8636 or at [kitchen.tollandcounty4h@gmail.com](mailto:kitchen.tollandcounty4h@gmail.com).**