



Welcome to the 22nd Annual Smokin' on the Beaver BBQ Contest

Friday & Saturday, September 25-26, 2026 in Atwood, Kansas

(Revised 8/24/2026)

BBQ Sauce Contest Rules

1. BBQ Sauce contest is open to anyone. BBQ Sauce contest participants DO NOT have to participate in the BBQ Contest.
2. No pre-registration will be required.
3. All sauce must be homemade and may either be cooked or fresh.
4. Participants must supply a portion of sauce in the 4 oz black container with lid, which is provided upon entry.
5. Upon registration a numbered carton will be issued for each contest sample to be judged. There is a limit of ONE entry per participant.
6. Entries from BBQ Contestants are to be turned in at the time designated for your team. Participants from the community will turn in BBQ Sauce from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM on Saturday, September 26. Judging will begin at 2:00 pm on that day.
7. Any reserved BBQ Sauce shall be presented by BBQ Contest teams during the meal. Participants from the community are not required to serve their reserved sauce at the meal.

Judging Guidelines

Entries for the Smokin' on the Beaver contest will be scored using the process outlined below. Scores will range from 9 to 2 with 9 being the highest and 2 the lowest. The score of 1 is assigned for disqualification only. Each entry will be judged on its own merit; judges will not rank entries – therefore two or more teams may get the same score from the same judge.

Judging criteria for BBQ Sauce will be as follows:

Appearance: Does the entry have eye appeal?

Texture: Does the entry have a pleasant feel in your mouth?

Taste: This is a personal preference, but should consider things as spice, blend of flavors, and the overall palate appeal.

Overall Impression: The final criteria. What is the overall effect of the entry, your total impression?

In the case of a tie, the winner will be determined by the highest score in the "Taste" category; if a tie still exists, Judges 1 and 5 will determine the winner.

Judge 2 in each category will score the Appearance/Presentation of the entries. The same designated judge is to score ALL the entries in their assigned category; however, group discussion/consensus may occur.

If one had to describe the 9 to 2 rating scale, the descriptions might use the following words:

9 = So outstanding, it is among the best

8 = Close to but not quite among the best

7 = Much better than average, but not nearly among the best

6 = Slightly better than average

5 = Average

4 = Slightly below average

3 = Quite a bit below average, but not among the worst

2 = Among the worst

1 = Disqualified per rule violation