

- THE WILD HOG COOK-OFF -

Iron Hog bragging rights on the line

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The main event of the 40th annual La Salle County Fair is the “wildly” popular Wild Hog Cook-Off.

BBQ masters and outdoor chefs flock to Cotulla for a chance at winning the coveted Iron Hog trophy. Having become extremely popular and well-known among South Texans, the Wild Hog Cook-Off and Fair has welcomed hundreds, if not, thousands of people to its fairgrounds to experience this fun-loving event.

Cook-Off teams and their entourage arrive early to set up camp on the

fairgrounds before the festival begins. This gives them all plenty of time to prepare the fire pits for cooking, set up and decorate their campsite, and simply get themselves ready for a jam-packed awesome festival weekend.

The contest consists of three Food Categories. For each category, contestants need to bring at least 2 pounds of meat/product for judging.

BBQ entries are required to contain meat only. Fine, smooth, light sauce is permitted in the BBQ category, but the use of garnish is not allowed in the BBQ presentation.

In the EXOTIC category, the meat

may be prepared in any way except plain BBQ. In this category, cooks get adventurous with their cooking, and it is very popular amongst visitors vying for a sample. Past entries have varied from empanadas to taco salads and pizza. This year doesn't allow for the creation of tamales and sausage in this category.

The COOK'S CHOICE is where the cooks are encouraged to cook anything except wild hog meat. (Pork is accepted in this category.) This allows for them to showcase their winning recipe.

The contest also consists of three Artistic Categories in which trophy prizes will be presented for each category.

The ARTISTIC (MEAT) PRESENTATION is where the chefs base the main emphasis of their presentation towards displaying the theme for this year's contest, Medieval Swine. The entry must contain some meat, even if it is only one piece. Also, the judges must be able to see and find that piece.

TEAM T-SHIRT'S with quirky titles and cools designs are another fun category. Cooks and their teammates proudly display their creative works of art for judges and fans to see.

In the SHOWMANSHIP category, teams designate an area around their campsite and decorate it showcasing

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Contestants display their culinary expertise and creativity in several categories of the Wild Hog Cook-Off at the annual La Salle County Fair this weekend.

