



1st ANNUAL OREGON'S FINEST TEA COMPETITION

We're looking for Oregon's top tea professionals! The Oregon State Fair invites tea wholesalers and retail tea merchants to participate in the 1st Annual Oregon's Finest Tea Competition. Industry judges will award points based on smell, appearance and taste.

Eligibility:

Companies who sell tea for retail sales and/or wholesale sales are eligible. Tea applicants must have an active tea business in Oregon.

Entrant Information:

Entries are limited to one entry per division. An entry shall consist of 1 pound of tea for each category. Entries **must** be sent in a **sealed**, generic non-labeled container or **kraft** bag to keep tea fresh for a minimum of 15 days. Label must contain country of origin; scent or flavor added; recommended quantity and infusion time. Please mark the bag with your division number **and subdivision if applicable** (example: Black 1a; Green 2b). Only loose-leaf tea will be considered. Tea submitted must be routinely sold. Tea **entry forms** need to be submitted by **August 8, 2011**. Tea sample submissions must be received by **August 15, 2011**. Tea suppliers reaching the final judging will be asked to send a second bag of tea to guarantee product freshness. Winners will be asked to sample prepared tea to the audience for a "People's Choice" vote.

Divisions and Subdivision:

1. Black
 - a. Of Origin
 - b. Blended, Scented or Flavored
2. Green
 - a. Of Origin
 - b. Blended, Scented or Flavored
3. Oolong
 - a. Of Origin
 - b. Blended, Scented or Flavored
4. Tisanes
 - a. Single
 - b. Blended

Competition Classes:

Competition will be by class.

Class A – Tea importer/broker/wholesaler

Class B - Tea Retailer/Restaurant/Foodservice

Class C – Oregon Specialty Tea Grower

Judging:

The initial tasting of all entries will be held the week of **August 15, 2011**. The top three winners in each class and division will be invited for final tasting and judging at the 2011 Oregon State Fair on **Friday, September 2, 2011**.

Judges will taste teas in a BLIND scenario. Entries will be identified by number only. Sensory evaluation consists of dry leaf plus one infusion. Judges will award points between 1 (low) and 5 (high) in each category:

1. Smell (how does the dry leaf tea and the infused tea smell)
2. Appearance (clearly matches label as to FOP, BOP, etc.; color in cup)
3. Taste (is it good, where does it touch the palate and what aftertaste does it leave)

Awards:

Tea Competition awards will be presented immediately following judging. Results will be posted in the Creative Living Department during the fair and on the Oregon State Fair website after the fair.

Entry Forms:

Entry forms and registration fee of \$15.00 per company must be received by **Monday, August 8, 2011**. All credit card information will be destroyed upon payment approval. Please make checks payable to the Oregon State Fair. Entries may be mailed, or delivered to:

Oregon State Fair – Coffee Competition
Attn: Neva Hutchinson
2330 17th Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

I look forward to working with you this year. If you have any questions, please contact me at 503-947-3220 or via email at Neva.Hutchison@state.or.us.

Sincerely,

Neva Hutchinson, Department Coordinator
Oregon State Fair, a division of
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department