



THE SEARCH FOR THE GREAT Watermelon at the State Fair of Virginia

2018 Schedule

- Entry Deadline**.....Friday, September 7, 11:59 p.m.
- Deliver Pumpkins**.....Saturday, September 29, 9-10:00 a.m.
- Weigh-Off**.....Saturday, September 29, 12 NOON
- Release**.....Monday, October 8, 10 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Department: Crops & Vegetables, Division 16, Class 1600

Great Watermelon Rules

1. All State Fair General rules and Crops and Plants Department rules will apply.
2. Enter on-line at www.statefairva.org. Please note that all entries are charged \$5.00 per entry. Mail-in entries must be accompanied by a check payable to the State Fair of Virginia.
3. The specimens must be grown and cared for by the exhibitor. Growers from any state can compete.
4. Entries will be judged on weight. Weights will be recorded in half-pound increments. Exhibitor/grower must be present for weigh-off and judging.
5. Specimens that have been previously weighed at a weigh-off contest other than the State Fair of Virginia’s will not be eligible for the State Fair of Virginia Competition.
6. Each specimen must be sound, healthy and undamaged. Entries must be free of rot, holes
7. and/or cracks through to the interior cavity, chemical residues and serious soft spots. Cracks, holes and openings shall be free of any foreign material. The judges will probe any crack, hole or opening into the specimen which visually appears to extend into the interior cavity. A 36” by 1/16” probe will be provided to the judge to probe any suspect cracks, openings or holes. An opening where the probe meets no resistance into the interior cavity will disqualify the specimen from the competition. The decision of the judges is final.
8. Chemical residues and soil must be cleaned from the specimen before arrival at the State Fair of Virginia for the protection of judges, lifters and spectators.
9. The judges have the right to fully inspect each specimen before the official weight is announced. Refusal to allow a thorough inspection of the specimen will result in disqualification.
10. Specimens must clear the scale in sound condition for the weight to be official and grower eligible for prize money.
11. In the event of ties, the prize money for that placing and the placing below will be combined and split equally.
12. Delivery instructions, passes and maps will be sent by email once entry forms are received.
13. Contestants must be present to help weigh their pumpkin.
14. Ribbons will be presented after the judging is complete.

2017 Champion: Hank Houston, Thornburg, VA

Awards

1st* - \$75 2nd - \$50 3rd - \$25

***Break the State Fair of Virginia Record and collect a \$100 bonus!**

Current Record set in 2016 at 245.7 pounds by Davis Wells from Mechanicsville, VA!

For safety reasons, vehicles will be allowed on the ground for pick-up on Monday, October 8, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. only