

Terms and Conditions

General Rules

1. All decisions of the organizers and judging panel are final. Organizers, judges, promoters, and sponsors will not enter into any correspondence or discussion regarding the merits or otherwise of any entry. Organizers reserve the right to disqualify any entry which is deemed to be against the rules or against the spirit of the rules.
2. The organizers, judges or sponsors of the awards cannot accept responsibility for the validity of claims made by entrants, although care will be taken to verify details provided.
3. The organizers reserve the right to amend the judging criteria if deemed necessary but will remain within the spirit of the published criteria.
4. The organizers' decision on whether a location (home or business address, production facility, factory address etc.) is within the county of Northamptonshire is final. Locations will be verified using Northamptonshire County Council's mapping system; postcodes and postal addresses outside Northamptonshire will not be the determining factor.
5. The final decision on which category an entry falls under will be made by the organizers at their discretion within the spirit of these rules. The essence of the venue/product/drink entered will be the determining factor.
6. The organizers' decision on whether or not an entry meets the spirit of the rules is final and no correspondence will be entered into nor appeal possible.
7. No entry into an individual category will be accepted from the immediate past winners of that category (e.g. the winners of the Best Local Product 2009 Award cannot enter the Best Local Product 2010/11 competition). However, there is no bar to a previous winner entering a different category (for example, Local Food Hero of the Year 2010/11).
8. All entries from businesses (Restaurant of the Year, Pub or Bar Restaurant of the Year, Best Local Product, Best Local Drink, Community Pub of the Year, Local Food Hero of the Year) must contain the registered business number (from Companies House), or registered charity number (if applicable).
9. All entries from individuals (Best Local Product, Best Local Drink, Local Food Hero of the Year, Curry Chef of the Year) must contain valid proof that the individual is legally entitled to live and / or work in the UK., and that the person lives or works in Northamptonshire.
10. Businesses can enter any number of categories, as long as:-
 - a. they meet the necessary entry criteria of each category; and
 - b. complete a valid entry form for each entry;
 - c. and the entries are not mutually exclusive (e.g. a restaurant cannot enter the Restaurant of the Year category AND the Pub or Bar Restaurant of the Year category, but a chef could enter the Curry Chef of the Year category AND the Local Food Hero of the Year category).
11. The organizers and the judges are impartial. Any attempt to influence the judges or the judging process in favour of or against any entrant will result in the disqualification of the appropriate entry.

Confidentiality

12. The application form and all supporting material will become the property of the organizers and cannot be returned to entrants.
13. Other than as is necessary to run and publicize the awards, all material submitted will be treated with the strictest of confidence. Whilst every care will be taken, no responsibility can be taken for the loss or damage of submitted material.
14. Comments made by judges or members of the public (whether in the shortlisting, mystery shopping, public tasting, the final judging, or otherwise) are confidential and will not be released by the organizers, subject to the following rules.
15. Organizers will provide general feedback to entrants which are not shortlisted in the form of a short written analysis, based on the entry form, supporting materials, and the shortlisting.
16. Organizers will provide more detailed oral feedback to finalists in the form of an analysis based on the entry form, supporting materials, the shortlisting, and the final judging.
17. The result of the competition will be kept confidential until the Awards Dinner on 6 October 2010 and any attempt to ascertain the result beforehand may result in the disqualification of the appropriate entry.

Publicity

18. All entrants must agree to participate in awards-related publicity.
19. The organizers reserve the right to use recordings, film, and photographs taken at the public tasting at the Northamptonshire Food Show at Holdenby, the cook-off, and the awards dinner and to use any non-confidential material, supplied by applicants, for promotional purposes.
20. Entrants who are selected as finalists may be asked at a later stage to prepare / produce further details or information to promote the awards.
21. All publicity generated by entrants, finalists and winners must refer to the awards as the "Northamptonshire Food & Drink Awards 2010/11". The Northamptonshire Food and Drink Awards logo will be provided to finalists for use in their publicity, on menus, on packaging, on leaflets etc. Any variation from the official wording or logo must be agreed with the Awards office in advance. Failure to adhere to this rule may result in disqualification from the 2010/11 awards competition, or the competition in subsequent years.

Category Specific Rules

There are seven awards categories. The entry requirements and specific rules for each are:-

22. Best Local Product / Best Local Drink

- a. The closing date for entries is 5 p.m. on 19 July 2010.
- b. Entries are open only to:-
 - businesses which make a product that is:-
 - grown or reared and supplied from a farm in Northamptonshire; and/or,
 - made predominantly using raw materials produced, grown or reared in Northamptonshire; and/or,
 - made in a production facility within Northamptonshire.and,
 - businesses which produce a drink that is:-
 - made using raw materials grown and supplied from a farm in Northamptonshire; and/or,
 - made predominantly using raw materials produced or grown in Northamptonshire; and/or,
 - made in a production facility within Northamptonshire.and,
 - food and drink producers whose registered headquarters are in Northamptonshire.
- c. Only products and drinks which are available for sale to the public on 29 July 2010 and are reasonably expected to remain on sale until after 6 October 2010 will be accepted.
- d. The product / drink submitted must be "as supplied to the public" / "as sold" and must not be modified or enhanced in any way.
- e. Businesses can enter any number of categories, as long as they meet the necessary entry criteria of each category.
- f. There is an overall maximum of five product and five drink entries per business.

23. Restaurant of the Year / Pub or Bar Restaurant of the Year

- a. The closing date for entries is 5 p.m. on 26 July 2010.
- b. Entries are open only to restaurants and pub or bar restaurants in Northamptonshire.
- c. For the purposes of this competition, a restaurant (entering the Restaurant of the Year) is defined as a venue the sole or main purpose of which is to serve food freshly prepared on the premises to visiting customers and where it is not possible to buy and consume alcohol without food. A "restaurant with rooms" would enter this category. A restaurant within a larger venue such as an hotel would also enter this category.
- d. For the purposes of this competition, a pub or bar restaurant (entering the Pub or Bar Restaurant of the Year) is defined as a restaurant within a venue the main purpose of which is to serve alcohol, or where it is possible to buy and consume alcohol without food, but which also serves food freshly prepared on the premises to visiting customers. A separate seating area within a pub would enter this category but an entirely separate restaurant within a pub might enter the Restaurant of the Year category.
- e. Each finalist will be Mystery Shopped separately by two members of the expert panel who may be accompanied by a guest. The Mystery Shoppers will identify themselves at the end of the meal and will pay for any drinks taken. The cost of four meals will be subsidised by the entrant.
- f. The identity of Mystery Shoppers must not be revealed by entrants until after the awards dinner, unless already published by the organizers.

- g. Mystery shopping may take place at any time during normal service between the public announcement of the shortlist, and the Awards dinner.

24. Curry Chef of the Year

- a. The closing date for entries is 5 p.m. on 28 June 2010.
- b. Entries are open only to:-
- Chefs aged 18 years or over (on 21 June 2010) who are legally entitled to live and / or work in the UK., and who:-
 - live in Northamptonshire; and/or,
 - work in a food business based Northamptonshire.
- c. Entrants must provide evidence of residence at their home address (if in Northamptonshire) or employment at a food business based Northamptonshire.
- d. Individuals may enter only once. However, up to five chefs from any one business may enter.
- e. Entrants have to submit a menu plan for a curry meal for two people to comprise: one main course, one vegetarian dish, one accompaniment, and one complementary dessert.
- f. The menu must be devised by the entrant and dishes must not feature on the menu of the entrant's business.
- g. For the purposes of this competition, a curry is defined as:
"one of a general variety of spiced dishes, best known in South Asian cuisines, especially Indian cuisine. Curry is a generic term and although there is no one specific attribute that marks a dish as "curry", some distinctive spices used in many curry dishes include turmeric, cumin, coriander, fenugreek, and red pepper. The word curry is an anglicised version of the Tamil word khari which is usually understood to mean "gravy" or "sauce" rather than "spices". In Urdu, an official language of Pakistan and North India, curry is usually referred to as saalan. In most South Indian languages, the word literally means 'side-dish', which can be eaten along with a main dish like rice or bread.
- "Curry's popularity in recent decades has spread outward from the Indian subcontinent to figure prominently in international cuisine. Consequently, each culture has adopted spices in its indigenous cooking to suit its own unique tastes and cultural sensibilities. Curry can therefore be called a pan-Asian or global phenomenon with immense popularity in Thai, British, and Japanese cuisines."*
- h. The organizers' decision on whether or not a dish or menu constitutes a curry will be final and binding, and there will be no correspondence, discussion or appeal.
- i. All ingredients used must be approved for use in the UK and be commercially available (or from the entrant's own garden).
- j. No bought-in or commercial pastes, marinades, or similar, are allowed. Any chef who wishes to use any such ingredient must make it during the official cooking time only.
- k. At the final cook-off, entrants will have:-
- half an hour for the awards team and judges to check paperwork and ingredients – no cooking or preparation will be allowed during this time;
 - half an hour to orient themselves in the kitchen and set up any equipment – no cooking or preparation will be allowed during this time;
 - two and a half hours precisely to prepare and cook the meal exactly as set out in their entry. Any deviation from the submitted entry will result in marks being deducted or disqualification.
- l. For the final cook-off, entrants must supply their own ingredients and any specialist equipment or crockery at their own cost; the kitchen is otherwise fully equipped.
- m. No cooking or preparation is permitted before the official start time for the cook-off, and no cooking, serving, or presentational changes may be made after the end of the cook-off.
- n. The final cook-off will be held at one time only. Any entrant who cannot attend will be disqualified and their place may be offered to another entrant at the organizers' sole discretion.
- o. The cook-off will take place in controlled circumstances and no-one other than the individual finalists, the judges, the awards team, and the awards team's official photographer and media team will be present during the cook-off. Only the judges and the awards team will be present during the final judging.

25. Community Pub of the Year

- a. The closing date for entries is 5 p.m. on 14 July 2010.
- b. Entries are open only to pubs and inns in Northamptonshire.
- c. Only nominations made by members of the public in the prescribed form will be accepted. Once a pub has been nominated, the licensees / owners will be invited to complete an entry form. Only pubs which are nominated and complete a valid entry form will be considered for shortlisting.
- d. The pubs nominated and completing entry forms which:-
 - receive the greatest number of nominations; and
 - the pubs which have received outstanding reviews for community involvement (as determined by the organizers);will be assessed by an independent panel. The pubs that best fit the Judging Criteria in the spirit of the awards (as determined by the organizers), will be shortlisted.
- e. The shortlisted pubs will then be advertised and a public vote will be held. The winners will be the entrants which attract the most votes.

26. Local Food Hero of the Year

- a. The closing date for entries is 5 p.m. on 31 August 2010.
- b. Entries are open to:-
 - any person who is legally entitled to live and / or work in the UK., and who lives or works in Northamptonshire; and
 - any organization based in Northamptonshire;

which also meets the following criteria:-

- is involved in the production of a food product or drink; or
- is involved in the food and drink sector in supplying, promoting, or selling local food goods or food services; or
- champions local, Northamptonshire products, drinks, food venues, or food markets;

and who:-

- has a strong connection with their community; and
- is a hero in the accepted sense of the word.