

19th Annual Mid-Atlantic Apple Cider Contest to be held during the Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention in Hershey, PA

Who is Eligible: Any commercial fruit or vegetable grower whose operation is in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, West Virginia, or Virginia.

What To Submit:

1. One gallon of your best cider in plain unmarked containers. If your container has a preprinted label it will not be placed in the competition.
2. Turn in the blend details on the entry form below or on a separate sheet with your name and mailing address. (We will not reveal the percentages but just want to know what cultivars are in the mix.) The purpose of the email is to be able to notify you about next year's contest.
3. Sorry only **one** submission per farm. Deadline for entries will be Tuesday, January 30th at 10:00 AM.

How the Cider Will Be Judged:

1. A number will be assigned to each entry, marked on the jug and recorded in a judging book.
2. A panel of judges will sample and evaluate the cider.
3. Ciders will then be placed on a table in the lobby of the Convention Center so that other people may taste them.
4. The top three rated ciders will receive certificates. In addition the top rated cider will be awarded one free registration to the 2026 Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention.
5. Judging will begin Tuesday at 10:30 AM and the ciders will be available through Tuesday evening for sampling.
6. The winners will be announced Tuesday evening at the banquet.

Mid-Atlantic Cider Contest 2025 Judging Criteria

Below are the criteria that will be evaluated for each cider entry. Note that the characteristics have variable points assigned to them. Please be sure to follow the correct number of points for each characteristic. Numbers in parenthesis are the maximum score for a particular characteristic. **The higher the number, the better the characteristic.**

| Characteristic | Cider entry number | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Appearance (4) <i>Looks appealing</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Color (4) <i>Attractive</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Aroma (4) <i>Fragrant and pleasing</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sweetness (6) <i>Not too high or low</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tartness (6) <i>Not too tart or bland</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sugar/acid ratio (8) <i>Good blend</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Flavor (6) <i>Typically apple</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Body (2) <i>Not too thick or thin</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bitterness (2) <i>Not bitter</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Overall impression (8) <i>A good cider</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total score (50) | | | | | | | | | | |

Mid-Atlantic Cider Contest 2025 Entry Form

Name/Farm: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Mixture of Varieties: _____ Entry Number: _____