



# LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL DAIRY COMPETITION

## COMPETITION GUIDELINES & INFORMATION INTERNATIONAL ENTRIES

Los Angeles International Dairy Competition  
Judging Begins April 25, 2026  
Mr. Kain Marzalado, Dairy Chairman

*The Los Angeles International Dairy Competition and its panel of esteem judges invite you to participate in the 104th annual competition.*

- 1. ENTRY FEE <sup>(1)</sup>** – Early Bird - \$45 per entry received before February 9, 2026, \$60 per entry beginning February 10, 2026. Payment may be made by credit card: Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover, by U.S. check payable to: “Los Angeles County Fair Association”, or by wire transfer. Please email a copy of the wire transfer to the Competitions office at [competitions@fairplex.com](mailto:competitions@fairplex.com). Entry fee must accompany entry form to be eligible for competition.

\*Early bird discounted fees must be paid by February 9, 2026, to qualify.

\*All other entry fees must be received by the entry deadline April 10, 2026, to be entered to the 2026 competition.

### Wire Transfer Information

Bank:	Fifth Third Bank, N.A.
Bank Representative:	Blanca Salcedo + 1 (630) 801-2846
Bank Address:	38 Fountain Sq Plaza, Cincinnati, OH. 45202
Beneficiary Account No:	7029167553
ACH/Wire Routing No:	042000314
Swift Code:	FTBCUS3C
Account Name:	Los Angeles County Fair Association Fairplex General Account 1101 W. McKinley Ave., Pomona, CA 91768 USA
Reference:	“Dairy Competition”

- 2. SHIPPING** – International dairy products will be accepted through April 24, 2026. Shipments are received on weekdays from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. **All dairy products entered MUST BE SHIPPED PREPAID. The competition is not responsible for any customs or shipping charges.**

Products being sent to the competition from outside the U.S. require an FDA number, FDA Prior Notice and pro forma invoice before shipping to:

Los Angeles International Dairy Competition  
1101 W. McKinley Ave.  
Pomona, CA 91768

<sup>(1)</sup> Entries, after submitted, become property of the Los Angeles International Competitions

<sup>(2)</sup> Entry fees are non-refundable

International shipments of dairy products must be cleared by a licensed broker with applicable importing licenses. If you have an importer, it is best to use your own importer. If you do not have an importer, you can contact Mark Newman with Accolade Brands, [mark@accoladebrands.com](mailto:mark@accoladebrands.com) to provide this service.

**REGISTERED FDA NUMBER:** You must obtain registration with the FDA (see below). If you have an FDA registration number, you might need to renew your account information with the FDA. Renewals should have been completed by December 31, 2024. Otherwise, new registration may be required:

<https://www.fda.gov/food/guidance-regulation-food-and-dietary-supplements/registration-food-facilities-and-other-submissions>.

**An Authorized US Agent is required for all new and renewed FDA Permits.** Accolade Brands can assist you with this service for 180 Euros (95 Euros is for the Producer Registration and 85 Euros is for the US Agent fee) for the 2025/2026 calendar year registration which goes through December 31, 2026. The FDA also requires a UFI or a DUNS number. If your company does not have a DUNS number, we will request one for you. The fee is 25 Euros. It is best to fill out the form at the end of the guidelines and email to Mark Newman, [mark@accoladebrands.com](mailto:mark@accoladebrands.com). You can file for your permit; however, a US FDA Agent will have to verify the application and there will still be a fee.

**FDA Prior Notice:** Mark Newman with Accolade Brands, [mark@accoladebrands.com](mailto:mark@accoladebrands.com), can assist with this service. You must file a Prior Notice with FDA online before shipping. <https://www.fda.gov/industry/prior-notice-imported-foods/filing-prior-notice-imported-foods>. If you are unsure about filing the FDA Prior Notice you can contact Mark Newman at Accolade Brands to perform this service for those producers that do not have an importer or FDA US Agent. See below the fees charged for these services.

If you do not have an importer, the Los Angeles International Dairy Competition works with Accolade Brands to clear shipments. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO USE ACCOLADE BRANDS TO CLEAR SHIPMENT PLEASE CONTACT **MARK NEWMAN, ACCOLADE BRANDS, (818) 390-3888 FEDERAL TTB IMPORT LICENSE # CA-I-15220. EMAIL [MARK@ACCOLADEBRANDS.COM](mailto:MARK@ACCOLADEBRANDS.COM) BEFORE SHIPPING.**

- Payment must be prepaid by credit card through PayPal to Accolade Brands. Your shipping documents should indicate that you will pay for all Customs Charges. If you do not properly designate that you will pay the customs fee, your customs fees must be paid by credit card or wire transfer within 72 hours from billing.
- **CONSIGNEE:**

ACCOLADE BRANDS INC.

**IN CARE OF: LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL DAIRY COMPETITION**

1101 W. MCKINLEY AVENUE

POMONA, CA 91768 USA

Phone 818-390-3888

- ACCOLADE BRAND – FEES:
  - **FDA Prior Notice** – 25 Euros per Company
  - **FDA Food Facility Registration** – 95 Euros per Company (only needed if you have not previously registered with the FDA)
  - **FDA Agent Filing** – 85 Euros per year per Company. FDA requires that you have a USA Agent. The permit is issued for the one remaining calendar year through December 31, 2026. This is required by the FDA for your shipment to legally arrive in the United States.
  - **Permit Renewals** – permits issued in 2025, will automatically be renewed in December 2026 for the period of January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2028. The renewal will be 85 Euros per year for a total of 170 Euros.

(1) Entries, after submitted, become property of the Los Angeles International Dairy Competition

(2) Entry fees are non-refundable

- **UFA DUNS Number** – The FDA also requires an UFA (Unique Facility Identifier) DUNS number. The fee for the UFI number is 25 Euros.
- **Customs Charges** – Taxes & Duty are to be paid by each producer  
**Contact Mark Newman via email** : [mark@accoladebrands.com](mailto:mark@accoladebrands.com), phone: 818-390-3888

- Please complete a Proforma Invoice. **YOU MUST DESIGNATE THAT YOU WILL BE CHARGED FOR ALL U.S. CUSTOMS CHARGES ON YOUR INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING DOCUMENTS OR AIRWAY BILL.** Accolade Brands is not responsible for U.S. Customs & Brokerage Charges and if this is not done properly, your shipment could be delayed until we receive payment for these charges. If the shipment is large enough for commercial airfreight, we must collect estimated tax, duty, and customs charges in advance. The commercial value for samples is typically one Euro per package and this should be stated on a pro-forma invoice.

- **Option 1** – Use UPS, FedEx, or DHL. Please charge your UPS, FedEx, or DHL account and include payment of all Customs Charges. The shipment must be DDP, Tax and Duty to be paid by the producer.

We require a credit card number just in case you have not completed the shipping forms correctly and you will only be billed for any excess charges or taxes that are billed to our account for your shipment.

- **Option 2** – Airline airfreight or DHL. This is usually a more expensive option than UPS or FedEx.

**All products must carry a statement these products are “TRADE SAMPLES – Not for Resale**

- 3. ENTRIES** <sup>(2)</sup> – An Entry shall consist of two (2) samples, no smaller than 16 ounces or 1 pound each. If cheese is produced in sizes smaller than 1 pound, submit a minimum of 2 pounds total (unless otherwise indicated in a class). Please also include labels, and empty consumer size packaging containers along with entry, *for display to be used at the LA County Fair Dairy Competition display in the Los Angeles International Tasting Room*. LIST CLASS/CATEGORY NUMBERS ON ENTRY FORM. Entries are assigned random judging codes, then placed in the proper temperature refrigeration and freezers, and separated into categories. All deliveries should be received by the shipping deadline April 24. Before judging, professional cheese mongers and servers break down and serve the dairy products in/on coded plates, bowls, and cups which are then placed in front of each judge. Each judge tastes the dairy products and makes selections independently.

All samples must meet the standard of the California State Food and Agriculture Code and are subject to testing at the discretion of the Fair management and/or judges.

- 4. JUDGING:** The Los Angeles International Dairy Competition uses a 100-point scoring system based on Flavor, Texture, Appearance, Bacteria, Finish, Salt, melting quality, depending on the product.

The decision of the judges is final, and no changes will be made to awards after the judging is complete.

- 5. AWARDS and MEDALS:** We award Gold, Silver, Bronze Best of Class, Best of Division and Best of Show. An award or medal is given to a producer for a particular dairy product. Best of Class dairy products will compete for Best of Division. Best of Division dairy products will compete for the “the Best of Show” (Best Dairy product of the Competition). The medal or award may only be displayed on the identical product on which the Best of Show, Best of Division, Best of Class, Gold, Silver or Bronze Medal was awarded. The Los Angeles International Dairy Competition will offer, for purchase, Best of Show, Best of Class, Gold, Silver, and Bronze award seals to the producers that won these awards.

<sup>(1)</sup> Entries, after submitted, become property of the Los Angeles International Extra Virgin Olive Oil Competition

<sup>(2)</sup> Entry fees are non-refundable

6. MAY 4, 2026, the competition results will be posted on the website [www.LADairyComp.com](http://www.LADairyComp.com)
  
7. May 7 - 31, 2026 2026 is the Los Angeles County Fair. All International Competition award-winning products will be displayed in the Tasting Room. There will also be gold medal wine and olive oil tastings, and education seminars featuring entrants from Olive Oil, Wine, Spirits and Dairy competitions in the Tasting Room education classroom.

For more information, please contact our International Competitions Dept., (909) 865-4538 or e-mail [Competitions@fairplex.com](mailto:Competitions@fairplex.com)

[www.LADairyComp.com](http://www.LADairyComp.com)