



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 21, 2026

Contact: The Mississippi Egg Marketing Board
121 North Jefferson Street, Jackson, MS 39201
Phone: 601.359.1140
Fax: 601.359.1175

Mississippi Egg Marketing Board Announces Winners of the 2026 State Fair Omelet Cook-off *Winners Named from Jasper and Desoto County*

JACKSON, Miss. – The Mississippi Egg Marketing Board (MEMB), Mississippi Poultry Association, Mississippi State University (MSU) Department of Poultry Science and Mississippi Beef Council are pleased to announce the winners of the 2026 Mississippi State Fair Omelet Cook-off. This annual event was held during Mississippi 4-H Day at the State Fair and featured 11 contestants from various 4-H chapters around the state.

Participants entered their recipes prior to the competition and were selected by their district, north or south, to compete at the state level. Participants presented their entry to a panel of judges within 60 minutes. Contestants were provided with the necessary ingredients to prepare their omelets but brought unusual or unique ingredients from home. In addition, all contestants received an omelet toolkit that included an apron, omelet pan, whisk and spatula.

Eliza Holloway of the Jasper County 4-H won first place with a “Crab Trap Omelet.” She was awarded a \$100 cash prize. Winning second place and awarded a \$50 cash prize, Fenix Schaafsma of the Desoto County 4-H prepared a “Bacon Cheese Omelet.” Bianca Jones of the Jasper County 4-H prepared a “Deluxe Bacon Omelet” and won third place and was awarded a \$25 cash prize. The contestants placing first, second and third were presented with a cash prize by the Mississippi Poultry Association.

In the Best Beef omelet, presented by Mississippi Beef Council, Allie Meredith of the Copiah County 4-H prepared a “Philly Steak Omelet” and took home a \$25 cash prize. In celebration of the “Let Freedom Ring” theme of the 2026 Mississippi State Fair, Ezra Cuevas of the Hancock County 4-H prepared a “Spanish Omelet with Ground Beef & Feta Cheese” and was awarded a \$25 cash prize for “Best Patriotic Costume”.

“Each contestant brings their own unique style to the competition, and this year, continuing the celebration of America’s 250, celebrating Let Freedom Ring was a special treat,” said MEMB President Ryn Laster. “It’s always a delight to watch these youth and the enthusiasm they have when cooking, especially with eggs. I’m always amazed at the creativity that goes into the omelets they prepare.”

Other contestants competing include Laila Carter, a member of the Forrest County 4-H, Nathan Scerbak, a member of the Webster County 4-H, Janika Schaafsma, a member of the Desoto County 4-H, Oakleigh McCray, a member of the Covington County 4-H, Leland Smith, a member of the Rankin County 4-H, and

K'Ly Montgomery, a member of the Humphreys County 4-H.

Serving as judges for this year's cook-off were Dr. Angus Catchot, Director of MSU Extension; Angela Evans, Host of WLBT's Studio 3; Anne-Marie Baker, Director of Revenue National 4-H Council; and Dr. Trent Irby, Associate Director of Mississippi State Extension Service.

Visit www.MSEggMarketing.com for great tasting egg dishes brought to you by the Incredible Egg. For more information about the Mississippi Egg Marketing Board, contact Katie Sansing at msegg@mdac.ms.gov.

###

Photo attached.



The Mississippi Egg Marketing Board, Mississippi Poultry Association, MSU Department of Poultry Science and Mississippi Beef Council announced the winners of the 2026 Let Freedom Ring Mississippi State Fair Omelet Cookoff. Pictured (L-R): Angela Evans, Host of WLBT's Studio 3; Dr. Angus Catchot, Jr., Director of the Mississippi State University Extension Service; Best Patriotic Costume, Ezra Cuevas; 2nd Place winner Fenix Schaafsma of Desoto County; 1st Place Winner Eliza Holloway of Jasper County; 3rd Place winner Bianca Jones of Jasper County; Best Beef winner Allie Meredith of Copiah County; Anne-Marie Baker, Director of Revenue National 4-H Council; Mistress of Ceremonies, Maggie Wade, News Anchor, WLBT-TV; Dr. Trent Irby, Associate Director of Mississippi State Extension Service; Dr. Ryn Laster, Mississippi Egg Marketing Board President.