2026 Alabama Heritage Cooking Contest

The Alabama Farmers Federation Women's Division announces the 50th Annual **Alabama Heritage Cooking Contest, Thursday, September 10, 2026 at the Alfa Building in Montgomery.**

The contest category is **Chicken Salad**

WHO MAY ENTER

1. All Alabama Farmers Federation (ALFA Farmers) members, 18 years of age and over, will be eligible to participate.

2. The first-place winner in the previous year's state contest will not be eligible to enter the contest the year immediately following his/her win.

3. If the first-place winner in the county contest is unable to attend, the second-place winner may be sent to compete in the state contest. The individual who makes or otherwise prepares the dish is the contestant and must be at the state contest.

4. Professional caterers and/or those persons who cook for others and receive a monetary compensation for their services are not eligible.

5. Only one county winner will be eligible to participate in the state contest. The winning recipes in the state contest will be featured in NEIGHBORS magazine.

6. The state contest will be judged from a sample of the finished product and a copy of the recipe. All county winners must result from a contest conducted and approved by that county. Any recipes entered that have been state winners in previous years will automatically be disqualified.

7. The families of employees of the Alabama Farmers Federation and/or Alfa Insurance Companies will not be eligible for this contest.

HOW TO ENTER

1. **County contests should be held before August 1.**

   The deadline for entry forms to be submitted for the state contest will be **August 1**. Any forms received after this date will have 10 points deducted from the total score.

2. All recipes must be sent in on the official entry form.

3. Recipes should be placed at the left of the dish. Check your recipe to make sure all ingredients are listed in the method of preparation. Ingredients should be listed in their order of use. Recipes should not be altered from the county contest to the state contest.

4. Display of completed dish must fit into a space no larger than 14"x 28". **No placemats or decorative items. Only Food Garnishes Allowed.**

JUDGING

Judging should include the following points:

(a) Is the entry flavorful	50
(b) Attractive	20
(c) Is it interesting/different	20
(d) Is the recipe in correct form and easy to understand?	10

There will be a first, second and third place winner. Cash awards will be as follows:

First Place -	$150
Second Place-	$100
Third Place-	$50

SUGGESTIONS

1. This is an excellent way for you to involve many women in the Alabama Farmers Federation (ALFA Farmers) program. It is also a very good vehicle to tell the farmer's story to your community. Try to involve as many people as possible.

2. Judges could include: local Family and Consumer Science Teachers, Extension Agents, appliance company staff, government officials, newspaper and media staff.

3. Have as much publicity as possible – through the newspaper, radio, television, and letters.

4. Contest should be a tasting event with everyone bringing their finished product.