

JESSE JAMES BBQ COOK OUT
1305 Colony Drive
KEARNEY, MISSOURI 64060

Jun 1, 2026

The Thirty Eighth Annual Jesse James Barbeque Cook-Out (**36th Annual Show-Me State Championship**) contest will be held during the 55th Annual Jesse James Festival, September 18-19, 2026. Check-in time is 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Friday. Plans are underway to improve the electrical layout of the BBQ area with fifty eight 40 X 50 spaces and electrical pedestals at each space, to include a 50 amp, 30 amp, and a duplex receptacle. And a special bonus this year since the Royal has moved back to their original date, this will allow you a two week tune up for the Royal!

We are very proud to continue to have Red Top Farms (a division of Premier Proteins) located here in Kearney as a major sponsor this year. Other sponsors are North Kansas City Beverage Co., distributors of Anheuser Busch products, and St. Michael's Knights of Columbus Council No. 8915 of Kearney, in conjunction with the Jesse James Festival Inc.

The contest will again be sanctioned by the Kansas City Barbeque Society and their judging procedures will be used. This contest is the SHOW ME STATE CHAMPIONSHIP which is determined by the four basic categories.

We will have one division with SIX categories. The Four Basic categories are, beef brisket, pork ribs, chicken, and pork shoulder/Boston butt only. The two ancillary categories are pork chops from a top loin, and tenderloin. A top loin of approx. 4 lbs. and 2 lbs. tenderloin will be provided by Red Top Farms at the cooks meeting. Judging will begin at 12:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 19th. **ONLY THE FOUR BASIC KCBS CATEGORIES WILL COUNT TOWARD THE GRAND CHAMPION AND RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION!**

The contest will be held at Jesse James Park, 3001 N. 33 highway as in the past few years. The pavilions at the festival grounds will be the site of the cooks meeting at 6:00 p.m. Friday night and the awards presentation Saturday afternoon.

This will also be the site for all the Jesse James Festival activities which will include a beer garden, and entertainment of both Friday and Saturday nights.

There will be many other activities, so please visit the JesseJamesFestival.com website for other activities.

We will continue with the increased prize money to a total of **\$8,300, (this will be for ten places in each category plus the Reserve and Grand Champion)**. We will be paying for the first ten places beginning with **\$225** for first place and decreasing down to tenth place. The overall Reserve Grand Champion will receive **\$550** and a trophy. The Grand Champion will receive **\$700** and a trophy. **RED TOP FARMS WILL BE AWARDING A \$1,500 GIFT CERTIFICATE TO THE GRAND CHAMPION THAT CAN BE USED FOR THE NEXT YEAR. THE FIRST PLACE WINNERS IN ALL CATEGORIES (except chicken) WILL RECEIVE A \$250 GIFT CERTIFICATE.** The Kearney Chamber of Commerce will also award a plaque for the Showmanship Award.

The entry fee is \$300 for all categories which will include electrical hookup. Advance registrations are strongly encouraged with a deadline of September 8th. Entry forms and copies of rules and regulations will be posted to the JesseJamesFestival.com website or you may request by email LPratt2@kc.rr.com or mail from JESSE JAMES BARBEQUE, 1305 COLONY DRIVE, KEARNEY, MISSOURI 64060.

If you have any questions, call Larry at 816-935-9644. Interested judges can email Valerie Fort at VFort1982@gmail.com or contact her by phone at 816-719-5141, which she already has a waiting list!