

## Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo

# WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP BAR-B-QUE CONTEST

The World's Championship Bar-B-Que Contest began in 1974 on the southwest corner of the Astrodome parking lot. Now it is one of the largest bar-b-que cook-offs in Texas, a three-day event of cooking, competition, and fun to help kick off the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Several Show volunteers had the idea of hosting a bar-b-que contest, and the first contest was initiated under the direction of the Go Texan Committee. During the inaugural year, the entries were limited to fifty teams, with each team required to cook at least ten pounds of meat. Seventeen teams competed that year, with five judges including actor Ben Johnson. By 1981, the World's Championship Bar-B-Que Contest had grown to include more than 200 entries and more than 45,000 visitors.

At today's contest, each team must cook two slabs of ribs, two chickens or two briskets, and the brisket must be a minimum size of ten pounds. The meat cannot be cooked with an electric or gas pit, only with wood or wood-substance fires. Teams compete for the coveted title of World's Championship Bar-B-Que Contest Grand Champion, but trophies also are awarded for preparing the best dish in each category of brisket, chicken, and spare ribs, and an overall winner is named. Teams also compete for awards for the most colorful team, the team with the cleanest area, the most unique pit, and the team with the best skit; Go Texan teams are presented with recycling awards as well.

Celebrating its thirty-fifth anniversary, the 2009 contest drew a record-setting crowd of 217,640 guests to the bar-b-que feast with approximately 249 teams competing. The 2010 World's Championship Bar-B-Que Contest will run **Thursday, February 25 through Saturday, February 27.**



*For thirty-five years contestants have fought for the coveted prize of World's Championship Bar-B-Que Contest Grand Champion with careful attention to all the details: fire, temperature, cooking time, sauce, and, of course, friends.*



*The first World Championship Bar-B-Que contest was held in 1974, and the event has become a popular annual tradition.*

### Barbequed Corn

6 pieces of corn, in the shuck  
1 stick butter, melted

Pull shuck back carefully. Remove silk. Brush on melted butter. Put shuck back into place. Place pieces of corn on outer edges of fire. Barbeque, turning now and then for 45 minutes. Serves 6.

Ladies Go Texan Committee, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo 50th Anniversary Commemorative Cookbook, (Houston: Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, 1982).