

Utah's Cheeseburger Battle Official Rules - 2026

The Utah Beef Council and Dairy West are proud to announce the launch of the Utah Cheeseburger Battle, a statewide competition designed to celebrate Utah's vibrant cheeseburger scene. **Nominations will be taken from Friday, May 15 to Monday, June 15, 2026.**

Anyone may nominate a cheeseburger from a Utah-based restaurant. To be eligible for the contest, the cheeseburger must meet the following guidelines:

1. To qualify as a cheeseburger, the patty must be **100% beef** although other ingredients may be added to the patty (such as spices, vegetables, etc.)
2. The cheeseburger must contain at least one slice of cheese, real or processed is allowed.
3. All cheeseburgers must be served on a bun. Cheeseburgers may include any combination of condiments (such as ketchup, mayonnaise and mustard), sauces (such as barbeque or hot sauce), and toppings (such as bacon, onions, tomatoes and lettuce). Every component of the cheeseburger must be placed between the bun or bread pieces or served open-faced on a bread product.

Official Rules

- Entries will be accepted online between **Friday, May 15 to Monday, June 15, 2026. To enter online:** Visit www.utburgerbattle.com. Follow the on-screen directions to submit your nomination.
- Cheeseburgers must be available on the nominated restaurant's regular menu.
- The Sponsors (Utah Beef Council & Dairy West) retain the discretion to make all decisions regarding the interpretation of these Official Rules. All decisions of the Sponsors are final and discretionary.
- The sponsors have a right to disqualify for fraud, vote manipulation, or rule violations
- Sponsors have permission to use restaurant names, photos, etc. for marketing
- Void where prohibited

Voting on the Cheeseburger Nominations:

The selection committee will determine the finalists for the competition and consumer voting will begin on July 1, 2026 and run through July 31, 2026. Voting can be done by following the link at

www.utahbeef.org/cheeseburgerbattle

Voting is limited to once per day per email. Any attempt to manipulate voting (including bots or coordinated fraudulent activity) may result in disqualification.

To follow Utah's Cheeseburger Battle, LIKE the Utah Beef Council on Facebook or follow us on Instagram at @. You are encouraged to post a photo of your favorite cheeseburger on social media using **UTBestCheeseburger**.

Selection of Finalists

The Top 5 cheeseburgers will be selected as finalists from throughout the state based on the number of votes each cheeseburger receives. This is a location-based competition where each restaurant stands as its own

entity. The Sponsors (Utah Beef Council and Dairy West) retain the discretion to make all decisions regarding the selection of these five finalists. All decisions of the Sponsors are final and discretionary.

- *All cheeseburgers nominated from a single restaurant will be included in that restaurant's final nomination total.*
- *Restaurants who receive nominations for multiple locations will be counted per individual location not as a total.*

Judging Criteria

Selection of the 2026 Utah's Best Cheeseburger will be conducted by an **anonymous** judging panel. Judging will take place August 8-14. **Judges will not announce their presence at your restaurant.** Decision of the judges is final.

The following guidelines will be used in judging:

- 40% -- The Beef Patty (Juiciness, seasoning balance, and overall beef quality)
- 30% -- The Cheese (Melt quality, coverage, and flavor pairing with the beef)
- 10% -- The Bun (Toasting level, freshness, and structural integrity from first bite to last)
- 10% -- The Execution (Proper doneness (target medium), serving temperature, and overall build and ease of eating)
- 10% -- Utah Flair (Creativity, use of local ingredients, and a clear Utah identity or story)

Winners

The judges scorecards will be aggregated to determine the winners. The following amounts will be awarded:

- 1st Place: \$3,000
- 2nd Place: \$2,000
- 3rd Place: \$1,000
- People's Choice Award: \$1,000 (awarded to the cheeseburger with the most fan votes)

Winners will be announced on www.utahbeef.org/cheeseburgerbattle

Award will be delivered within 60 days of announcement.