

Barbecue and Beer- Name a better duo!

In the desert hill country of West Texas nestled along the Concho River, San Angelo is defined by its unique sense of culture and charm unparalleled by others. While it has made a name for itself as an oasis of art and history, beer and barbecue have edged their way in through an iconic annual event held downtown in the heart of the city. The Brews, Ewes, & BBQ festival has grown over the past seven years as an anticipated feature for locals and travelers from across the state and beyond. The multifaceted food event has evolved around the barbecue competition itself, with cook teams bringing their A-game across categories including beans, brisket, chicken, ribs, and the pièce de résistance: a cut of lamb. Dubbed the “World Championship Lamb Cook-off,” the weekend competition holds promise beyond prestige with cash prizes up to \$1,000 on the table up for grabs. Teams from across the state of Texas, New Mexico, as well as international neighbors from Monterrey, Mexico have traveled to attend and participate in the cooking showdown. As a family-friendly event, the addition of the Kids ‘Q Cooking Competition allows children from ages 6 to 18 to demonstrate their skills with a hamburger (6 to 10 year olds) or pork chop (11-15 and 16-18 year olds). All food submissions for the respective categories are subject to professional and volunteer taste-test style judging.

Beyond the International Barbecue Cookers Association sanctioned competition, the event has expanded to include all-day live entertainment, musical performances, vendors, and activities for the whole family. In 2022 alone, over 30 vendors were in attendance as part of the craft and food vendor portion of the event, bringing the beverages to Brews, Ewes, & BBQ. Local restaurants, breweries, and food trucks show out for the festival for guests to delight their taste buds. Once stomachs are full and thirsts have been quenched, craft vendors and businesses of the area bring their wares for a diverse local shopping experience. For the kids and the kids at heart, attractions such as face painting, bounce houses, and a rock-climbing wall are located on site for all-day fun. The Bart DeWitt Park which hosts the Brews, Ewes, and BBQ event along the historic Concho River serves as an attraction of its own, with the riverwalk complimented by local scenery, art, and architecture.

The Brews, Ewes, & BBQ annual cook-off competition and festival is hosted by the local nonprofit organization, Downtown San Angelo, Inc to bring business, entertainment, and a sense of adventure to the historic downtown area. While the event serves to facilitate a food extravaganza, it is ultimately a homage to the agricultural roots of the city sustained by the wool and mohair industry. This event has certainly flourished into a captivating scene. Due to its success, Brews Ewes & BBQ recently received an official Resolution from the State of Texas, declared by State Representative Drew Darby, announcing its 2024 IBCA participation as a

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State Qualifying cook-off. Brews, Ewes, & BBQ has and continues to bring together locals and travelers alike, but the city of San Angelo and its downtown welcomes everyone year-round.