Instructions for the Ark of Taste Nomination Form

These instructions will provide you with specific suggestions for completing the Ark of Taste Nomination Form. Please read them thoroughly, and refer to them as you draft your nomination.

The bullet pointed questions below, corresponding to each section in the Nomination Form, are meant to assist you in determining what type of information you may choose to include in your response. In evaluating your application, the regional jury will base their judgments on the information you provide in addressing the criteria of Taste, History/Regional/Cultural /Ethnic Importance, Endangered/ at Risk/Underappreciated, Sustainability of Production /Harvest, and Produced in Limited Quantities. Please refer to the Guidelines for AoT Nominations and its appendix AoT (Rating Matrix) for further clarification and assistance.

Product name

Indicate the name of the product as it is known in its area of origin. Include the scientific name, if applicable.

Category

Choose the category that most closely matches the food you are nominating.

Product description

- In the case of a plant, describe its shape, weight, color, etc. and how and
 when it is harvested. Please provide the plant type (e.g. squash), species
 (e.g. Cucurbita Maxima), and variety or cultivar name (e.g. Anna Swartz
 squash). Note if the variety is linked to and propagated in a place, territory,
 or community.
- In the case of an animal breed, describe the animal's characteristics size, shape of horns, color of hide/fur, etc., and for which purpose it is bred, indicating also what products are derived from it (meat, cured meats, cheese, etc.).
- If it is a processed product, describe how it is produced, including the
 various production steps, and indicate if the ingredients used are
 produced locally. Is it is linked to a specific variety (for example, if it is a
 type of bread, is it made with a particular wheat or rye variety) or a native
 breed (if it is a cheese or cured meat, is it made with the meat or milk from
 heritage breeds)?
- If it is a cheese, please check and note if it is made from raw milk.
- Provide a photo or illustration of the product if possible. Please include the

photographer's or artist's name and note in the application if Slow Food has permission to reproduce the image(s) and indicate how the credit should read.

Taste

- Describe the flavors of this product and why it is considered "good" to eat by the local community.
- Describe any special preparations or traditional dishes and offer testimonials where possible.

Product History

(Regional/Cultural/Economic Importance)

- Please detail any known history about the product (are there related celebrations, proverbs, local customs, etc?)
- How is it significant to the community that produces or consumes it?
- A product must be believed to have been part of foodways in the US for at least 25 years to be eligible. This includes products that were available in past generations that have only recently been resurrected. To the best of your knowledge, how long has the product been a part of US foodways?

Historical Production Area

- Indicate the geographical area in which the product is still grown, produced and/or consumed (e.g. names of the towns, valleys, etc).
- Is this where it was produced or cultivated historically? If not, are there other areas where it was historically produced?
- If it is an indigenous plant or animal, does it have a natural range or habitat?

Endangered, At-Risk, or Underappreciated

 Explain and document why this product is in need of attention. For what reason is this product at risk of disappearing?

Sustainable Harvest or Production

- It is important that this product can be grown, harvested or produced in a
 way that is environmentally sound and gives dignity to its producers. In the
 case of a crop or breed so threatened that consuming it could hasten its
 disappearance, explain the level of threat, and any efforts at conservancy
 of which you are aware.
- Describe the potential for sustainable harvest or production should the species reach a stable population.

Produced in Limited Quantities

- Is the product available for sale on the market? If so, describe the producer/farmer size and their business practices (in general).
- Is it produced for home consumption only?

Supporting Documentation

Please attach any of the following additional documents. This information is not required but it will help the jury reviewing the nomination to form a more complete picture of the product, and may contribute to the success of your nomination. These documents will also be used by Slow Food USA to raise awareness about this product.

- List the food's producers, with contact information, if you know them farmers, harvesters, artisans, home cooks.
- If you know Slow Food aligned producers of this product, provide name and contact information for each.
- If it is a crop, are there seed sources? Please list.
- Testimonials from people who produce or consume the product.
- Any texts, articles, images, links to websites, dvds, etc.

Name and Contact Information

(Of person submitting the application)

Please include your email address, chapter affiliation (if any), phone number, and mailing address.

Personal Motivation

· Tell us why you have nominated this product!

Slow Food Affiliation

- Are you a Slow Food Member?
- If so, what is your local chapter?
- Which Slow Food chapter (if any) is sponsoring this nomination?

For more information on the review process once your nomination is submitted, please visit the http://www.slowfoodusa.org/index.php/programs/details/ark_of_taste or email megan@slowfoodusa.org

If approved, your nomination form will be made available in its entirety on Slow Food USA's website. Please note any photo credits or bibliographical references in your supporting documents.