

Ray Calhoun started cooking in 1978. He was a good chili cook. His chili team name is still the same, Grand Prize Chili. He is a lifetime member of CASI, #L12. Ray was involved in forming Top Of Texas Pod and was the 5th Great Pepper of the pod. It seems that he has always been on the steering committee.

In the early 1980's Ray wrote the "Yellow Book". It included the CASI rules and a "How To Cook Chili" section as well as a section about how to put on a chili cook-off. It was used by hundreds of people and was re-published five times. Ray also wrote the first Top Of Texas Cook Book which was published by Harvey West.

Ray was heavily involved in Cowtown Pod CASI for many years and held several offices. He is still involved in the chili pods including NOW Pod CASI. He has helped several chili cooks start cooking competition chili and was always willing to give a helping hand to any cook or promoter.

Ray is the perfect example of a CASI cook. He would do anything to promote chili, the Official State Food of Texas.