Distribution:

Production:
Lauren Faust
Chris Bartleman
Rob Renzetti
Sarah Wall
Jayson Thiessen
James Wooton
Angela Belyea
Ridd Sorensen
Lesley Crawford

Discovery/Hasbro:
Donna Ebbs
Scott Pennington
Chris Mehl

Hasbro Studios:
Stephen Davis
Linda Steiner
Kathy Page
Brian Lenard
Robert Fewkes
Sophia Hussain

Hasbro IP & Brand:
Mark Wiesenhahn
Matt Mattus
Valerie Jurries
Donna Tobin

Hasbro Design:
Liz Knight
Dean Carley

Educational Consultant:
Donna Mitroff
Vicki Ariyasu

MY LITTLE PONY II

"Cider Horse Rules"

EP 215

Written by

Mitch Larson

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TEASER

INT. FLUTTERSHY'S COTTAGE - NIGHT

BLACKNESS. <BANG BANG BANG>!! FLUTTERSHY, groggy with sleep, scrambles out of bed and lights a light. She staggers toward the front door.

1 FLUTTERSHY
Who could that be? It's still dark.

<BANG BANG BANG>!!

2 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)
Hello? Who's--

<BOOM>! The door flies open and Rainbow Dash bursts in. She's a whirlwind of activity, shoving things in a saddlebag and hurrying Fluttershy to the door.

3 RAINBOW DASH
Come on, Fluttershy! Cider Season's about to start!

4 FLUTTERSHY
Wait--but--excuse me--um...

<SLAM>! They're gone.

CUT TO:

EXT. PONYVILLE - PRE-DAWN

The very first hints of sun start to threaten as Rainbow Dash shoves the groggy Fluttershy through the sky, inches above the ground. *

5 FLUTTERSHY
Where are we--could we just--what's the rush?

6 RAINBOW DASH
The rush? Don't you remember what happened last year? Or the year before that? Or pretty much any Cider Season ever?

7 FLUTTERSHY
Well, uh--

8 RAINBOW DASH
Pinkie Pie always ends up ahead of us in line then they always run out of cider.
(doing her best Pinkie)
"Ohmygosh, this cider was the best ever! I can't believe you didn't get any, Rainbow Dash!"

9 FLUTTERSHY
I guess I--

10 RAINBOW DASH
Well, not this year! This year I'm gonna get there before sunrise so I can drink all the cider I want and laugh when she doesn't get any!
It's the perfect plan! *

CUT TO:

EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - DAWN

A beautiful morning rises over the rolling hills around the orchard. Rainbow Dash and Fluttershy crest one of them.

11 RAINBOW DASH
I might even buy some cider and hold onto it for awhile, drinking it drop by drop in front of her--

Suddenly, she <GASPS DRAMATICALLY>! Sweet Apple Acres looks like Woodstock! A huge LINE OF PONIES, some sleeping in tents, waits for Sweet Apple Acres to open its doors.

12 FLUTTERSHY
Gee, Rainbow Dash, it looks like a few other ponies had the same idea.
Actually, their idea was better because they're already here, and they'll get served before we will--

Rainbow Dash drags Fluttershy to the very front of the line, to a frilly pink tent. PINKIE PIE steps out, yawning and stretching. Her mane is all pushed to one side.

13 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)
Gosh, Pinkie, I love your new style!

14 PINKIE PIE
What, this? That's just my bedhead. Actually, maybe it's more like tenthead.

She <SNORT-LAUGHS> like Chrissy from *THREE'S COMPANY*.

15 RAINBOW DASH
(exasperated)
Who are all these ponies?!

16 PINKIE PIE
Isn't this great? I couldn't sleep last night 'cause I was so excited about Cider Season and I had this brilliant idea to come down here and camp out and I told a few others about it and they all thought it was a great idea, too, and now it's just a big ol' CIDER PARTY! WOOO!!
(noticing the giant line)
Gosh, that's a lot of ponies. I hope they don't run out before you get any...

CLOSE ON RAINBOW DASH -- stewing. Pinkie wins again.

FADE OUT.

MAIN TITLES

ACT I

FADE IN:

<u>EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - DAY</u>

Rainbow Dash sulks next to Fluttershy at the back of the line. TRUCK AHEAD, all the way to the front, where GRANNY SMITH, APPLE BLOOM, and BIG MCINTOSH have set up a CIDER STAND. TWILIGHT SPARKLE and SPIKE stand nearby.

17 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Isn't this exciting, Spike? Opening day of Cider Season!

18 SPIKE
Yeah! That means it's only thirty more days 'til Sapphire Season!

APPLEJACK steps forward with a megaphone.

19 APPLEJACK
Attention, everypony! Cider Season is now officially OPEN!!

A <MURMUR> rushes through the eager crowd.

ON THE CIDER STAND -- the Apple Family works like clockwork, filling cup after cup of cider from spigots of big wooden casks. Ponies shuffle through, blissful after they guzzle it down, more than happy to toss shiny GOLD BITS on the table. Granny wears a GREEN VISOR and collects the coins in a cash box.

ON RAINBOW DASH -- irritated, trying to see over the crowd.

20 RAINBOW DASH
Look! They're gonna run out already!

The ponies around her start to <GRUMBLE>.

ON THE CIDER STAND -- while Big Macintosh tilts the last cask, Applejack pours the last drops of cider into a cup. The rest of the ponies in line crowd forward, <GRUMBLING> angrily. Twilight and Spike watch with concern.

21 APPLEJACK
(nervously)
Sorry, everypony! That's it for today!

22 RAINBOW DASH
Surprise, surprise! You ran out again!

23 RANDOM PONY
Yeah, you always run out!

24 FLUTTERSHY
(quietly)
For the record, I don't mind--

25 RAINBOW DASH
Why can't you make enough cider for all of us? Or at least for me?

The crowd <GRUMBLES>, sharing Rainbow Dash's sentiment. Applejack leaps onto the table and tries to calm them.

26 APPLEJACK
Hold on, everypony! We've done our best to improve supply this year!

27 RANDOM PONY
You always say that!

28 APPLEJACK
And it's always true! But Apple family cider is made with love and integrity, and only the highest quality apples in Equestria. Sorry, but that recipe takes time!

An angry <RUMBLE> ripples through the crowd.

29 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
If y'all just be patient, we'll have plenty more tomorrow!

The angry mob starts to disperse, <GRUMBLING> all the way. Pinkie Pie strolls up next to Rainbow Dash and Fluttershy.

30 PINKIE PIE
She's right, you know.

Rainbow Dash glares at her.

31 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
You can't rush perfection. And this year's batch was perfection.

32 FLUTTERSHY
Uh, Pinkie Pie...

Rainbow Dash has started turning red and shaking. She's getting ready to explode on the clueless Pinkie Pie.

33 PINKIE PIE
(wistfully) *
I'll never forget the cider I just *
drank... it was a moment in time *
that will never exist again. *

Just as Rainbow Dash is about to blow...

<WHOOOOOOOO>!! A high-pitched <WHISTLE> sounds from over the hill, followed by <STRANGE, MECHANICAL NOISES>. Rainbow Dash immediately decompresses.

All eyes go to the hillside. Puffs of smoke appear first, followed by a giant, chugging, heaving SEUSSIAN MACHINE.

Two twin brother unicorns, FLIM and FLAM, power the billowing machine with their glowing horns, attached like jumper cables. They wear old-timey straw hats.

34 APPLEJACK
What in Equestria is that?

35 RAINBOW DASH
(in awe)
I don't know. But I want one.

The machine's engine falls into a steady beat, the basis for a big <MUSICAL NUMBER>! Even when the twins stop next to the cider stand and deftly hop off, the beat continues...

[NOTE: This song is in the fast-paced conversational style of "Ya Got Trouble" from THE MUSIC MAN. Flim and Flam are separate characters, but together they have one personality: slick-talking salesman.]

36 FLIM
Well, lookie what we got here,
brother of mine /
It's the same in every town /
More ponies with thirsty throats
and dry tongues and no cider in
their bellies, and no hope to make
it right.

37 FLAM
Maybe they're not aware that
there's no need for teary despair /
That the key to solving serious
cider sorrow is right here in their
midst!

They work the crowd like a pair of equine Harold Hills.

38 FLIM
Well, ya got opportunity!

39 FLAM
In this very community!

40 FLAM (CONT'D)
He's Flim--

41 FLIM
And he's Flam, and we're the world
famous Flim Flam Brothers,
travelling salesponies *nonpareil*!

42 PINKIE PIE
Nonpa-what?

43 FLAM
Nonpareil! And that's exactly the reason why--

44 FLIM
Nopony else in this whole wide windswept world /
Is better suited to get you where you need to go.

45 FLAM
And that's a new world /
A new world with flowing cider /
Golden cider, freshly-squeezed and ready for drinking.

Flim sidles up to Rainbow Dash.

46 FLIM
More cider than you could possibly handle in all your days of thinking!

47 RAINBOW DASH
I doubt that--

48 FLIM AND FLAM
Opportunity!

49 PONIES
In our very community!

50 FLAM
He's Flim--

51 FLIM
He's Flam, and we're the world famous Flim Flam Brothers, travelling salesponies...

52 ALL
NONPAREIL!

Flim and Flam dance the ponies over to their waiting machine.

53 FLIM
I suppose by now you're wondering /
About our peculiar mode of transport /
I say, our mode of locomotion.

54 FLAM
And I suppose by now you're also wondering /
(MORE)

FLAM (CONT'D)
Where is that promised cider? /
Any horse can make a claim /
And any pony can do the same /
But my brother and I have something
most unique and most superb and
most unseen at any time in the
whole big blessed modern world /
And that's opportunity!

The <MUSIC> quiets and a <DRUMROLL> starts.

55 FLIM
Folks, it's the one and only--

56 FLAM
The biggest and best--

57 FLIM
The unmistakable--

58 FLAM
The unimpeachable--

59 FLIM
The indispensable--

60 FLAM
The I-can't-believable--

61 FLIM AND FLAM
Flim Flam Brothers Super Speedy
Cider Squeezy 6000!

Flam sidles up to RARITY.

62 FLAM
Whattaya say, sister?

63 RARITY
It's beautiful!

The <MUSIC> kicks back in as the brothers race to their posts. The townsponies gather around and sing.

64 PONIES
Oh, we got opportunity! /
In this very community /
Please, Flim, please, Flam /
Help us outta this jam /
With your Super Speedy Cider
Squeezy 6000!

Flim bows dramatically to Applejack.

65 FLIM
Young filly, I would be ever so honored if you might see fit to let my brother and I borrow some of your delicious - and might I say spellbindingly fragrant - apples for our little demonstration here?

66 APPLEJACK
Oh, uh... sure, I guess.

The brothers hook their horns to the machine.

67 FLAM
Opportunity!

68 RAINBOW DASH
In our community!

69 FLAM
Ready, Flim?

70 FLIM
Ready, Flam!

71 FLAM
Then let's bing, bang, zam / And show these thirsty ponies a world of delectable cider!

Their horns start to glow. The other ponies chant quietly and rhythmically.

72 PONIES
Cider... cider... cider... cider...

73 TWILIGHT SPARKLE & SPIKE
Cider... cider... cider... cider...

This continues as the machine <CHUGS> to an apple tree, where a giant BELL-SHAPED VACUUM is positioned over the top.

74 FLIM
Watch closely, my friends--

75 FLAM
The fun begins!

Their horns glow brightly and the machine starts to BELLOW to life, sucking the apples right off the tree! They shoot into the vacuum, working their way through the Seussian machine.

76 FLIM
Now here's where the magic happens /
Right there, in the heaving,
roiling, cider press coiling /
Guts of the very machine.

77 FLAM
Those apples plucked fresh are
right now as we speak /
Being turned into grade-A top-notch
five-star blow-your-horseshoes-off
one-of-a-kind cider.

78 FLIM
Feel free to take a peek.

The ponies stop chanting and crowd around to see the machine in action.

79 GRANNY SMITH
Now you fellers hold it! /
Y'all went and oversold it /
You can go ahead and make it /
I guarantee that they'll forsake it /
Without the number one most important
ingredient in any cider /
And that's quality /
Sweet Apple Acres means quality!

80 FLIM
Well I'm glad you raised that
point, my dear /
I say, I'm glad you brought that up /
As you see we have our own high
standards when it comes to cider, if
you'll kindly try a cup...

He shows her a WINDOW in the side of the machine. A CONVEYOR BELT takes the apples through. Each one pauses in the window. A green light goes off and bell <DINGS> for each approved apple, and a red light goes off with a <BUZZ> for rejected apples.

81 FLIM (CONT'D)
Yes sir, yes ma'am, this choosy
machine only allows the finest
quality of apples into the mix...

He holds a cup under a spigot, then Granny Smith takes a drink. Her expression says it tastes pretty good.

82 FLAM
So whattaya say, Apples?

83 FLIM
Care to step into the modern age
and enlist the services of the
Super Speedy Cider Squeezy 6000?

The Apple family starts to discuss amongst themselves. Meanwhile, the rest of the ponies resume their chant.

84 PONIES
Cider... cider... cider... cider...

85 FLIM
Whattaya think folks? Do you see
what the Apples can't?

86 FLAM
I see it clear as day! I know she
does! So does he! Come on,
Ponyville, you know what I'm
talking about!

87 ALL
OPPORTUNITY! /
Right here in our community! /
He's Flim, he's Flam /
And they're the world famous Flim
Flam Brothers...

Big finish...

88 ALL (CONT'D)
Tra-vel-ling saaaales-ponies
NONPAREIIIIIIIL!!

<MUSIC ENDS>.

89 APPLE BLOOM
You got a deal!

A <BUZZ> runs through the crowd.

90 GRANNY SMITH
Not so fast!

The Apples tighten their huddle. Apple Bloom forces her way in, too.

91 GRANNY SMITH (CONT'D)
Them boys got lucky with that cup.
No way no how that machine matches
up with the care we put in our
cider.

92 APPLE BLOOM
But if it really does work, we could make everypony in town happy. And we could raise enough money to finally replace the old apple silo.

93 APPLEJACK
I just don't know, y'all. We've always made cider the same way.

They look to Big McIntosh, who says nothing. After a beat, he simply shrugs. WIDEN TO REVEAL -- Flim and Flam have snuck unnoticed into the huddle.

94 FLIM
We'll sweeten the deal. You supply the apples...

95 FLAM
We supply the Super Speedy Cider Squeezy 6000.

96 FLIM AND FLAM
Then we split those sweet, sweet profits, 75/25.

97 APPLE BLOOM
Deal!

Applejack puts a hoof over Apple Bloom's mouth and does some quick mental calculations.

98 APPLEJACK
Hold on. Who gets the 75?

99 FLIM
Why, us, naturally.

100 FLAM
And we'll throw in the magic to power the machine for free.

101 APPLEJACK
(to her family)
Cider sales keep our business afloat through the winter. We'd lose Sweet Apple Acres if we agreed to this!

102 FLIM AND FLAM
So? What'll it be?

103 BIG MCINTOSH
NO DEAL.

And he means it. These negotiations are over.

104 FLIM
(affronted)
Very well. If you refuse our generous offer to be partners, then we'll just have to be competitors.

105 APPLEJACK
You wouldn't dare!

106 FLIM
Oh, no?

Flim nods to Flam.

107 FLAM
Don't worry, everypony! There'll be plenty of cider for all of you!

108 FLIM
(sinister and for the Apple's ears only)
Once we drive Sweet Apple Acres out of business!

The Apple Family <GASPS>!

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

FADE IN:

<u>EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - MORNING</u>

The sun rises on another beautiful day in Ponyville. Cider Season, Day Two...

There's another giant line of ponies ready for cider. Pinkie Pie, again in the catbird seat at the head of the line, waves excitedly to Rainbow Dash, who mopes next to Fluttershy at the back of the line.

Applejack and the other Apples work hard distributing cider. Ponies are leaving happy, but there's a slight air of tension. Applejack joins Twilight Sparkle and Spike, watching nervously as barrel after barrel is emptied. She looks at the huge line of ponies still waiting to be served.

109 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Still worried about Flim and Flam?

110 APPLEJACK
How could I not be?

111 SPIKE
Granny Smith says they were just blowing hot air. She thinks they're already off trying to hornswoggle another town. *

112 APPLEJACK
I'm not so sure. They sounded mighty serious when they threatened to run us out of business. I'd feel a lot better if we had enough cider for everypony--

113 APPLE BLOOM
That's it! Last cup!

The crowd <GROANS>.

114 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
Come on back tomorrow, everypony!

115 CROWD
Tomorrow? / We always have to come back tomorrow! / Why not today? / I want cider!

<WHOOOOOOOT>! <MECHANICAL CHUGS AND WHISTLES>!

Applejack's face falls. The disgruntled ponies prick up their ears.

116 APPLEJACK
Oh no...

It's the unmistakable sound of the Flim Flam Brothers and their cider-making machine! They <RUMBLE> to a stop and dismount.

117 FLIM
What seems to be the problem here?

118 FLAM
Out of cider again?

Flim rolls a barrel of cider out from behind the machine.

119 FLIM
What have we here? The barrel of cider our machine so beautifully prepared yesterday afternoon. Who'd like a cup?

To Applejack's horror, the thirsty ponies all crowd around the brothers, eager to buy from them. Rainbow Dash elbows her way to the front.

120 CROWD
<excited walla>

121 RAINBOW DASH
I've been waiting years for cider! Outta my way!

122 FLAM
Don't worry, everypony! We've got the Super Speedy Cider Squeezy 6000 to make more in an instant!

Rainbow Dash lowers her head to the straw.

123 RAINBOW DASH
Cider at last...

Big McIntosh RACES past to confiscate the twins' cider barrel, accidentally KNOCKING Rainbow Dash's cup to the dirt. * *

124 APPLEJACK
You can't sell that cider! That's made from Apple Family apples!

125 RAINBOW DASH
Is this some sort of cruel joke?!

126 FLIM
(ignoring her)
Don't worry, everypony! There are plenty of apples in Equestria! We'll find some others and make more cider than all of Ponyville can drink!

Everypony perks up. Apple Bloom jumps forward.

127 APPLE BLOOM
Go for it! You can't just waltz in here and threaten to run us out of business! We're not scared of you! *

Applejack yanks Apple Bloom back by the tail.

128 APPLEJACK
Settle down, now. We don't need to prove anything to these guys. Our cider speaks for itself.

The crowd deflates when they realize this means no cider. Flim and Flam, expert hucksters, play right to the mood of the crowd.

129 FLAM
What do you think, everypony? Are you happy with the way things are?

130 ALL
No!

Apple Bloom wriggles free.

131 APPLE BLOOM
We'll make more cider than you could ever imagine!

The crowd perks back up. Big McIntosh picks her up by the tail, holding her in front of Granny.

132 GRANNY SMITH
It ain't about speed, young'in, it's about quality. I'd rather serve no cider than bad cider.

The crowd deflates again.

133 RAINBOW DASH
Who cares how good the cider is if I never get to drink any?

Flim sidles up next to Rainbow Dash with exaggerated sympathy.

134 FLIM
Look at these poor, dissatisfied ponies. Future Flim Flam Brothers cider drinkers, all.

Apple Bloom tries to wriggle away from Big McIntosh like an overexcited dog.

135 APPLE BLOOM
It'll never work! Ponyville is Sweet Apple Cider country!

136 FLIM
Let's put it to the test!

137 APPLE BLOOM
Anywhere, anytime.

The crowd perks up again.

138 GRANNY SMITH
That's enough, now!--

139 FLAM
With our machine, we can make enough cider in an hour to satisfy this whole town.

140 APPLE BLOOM
We'll do it in 45 minutes!

Excitement <MURMURS> through the crowd.

141 GRANNY SMITH
Easy, Apple Bloom, easy!--

The brothers sit reclined on their machine in a pose of extreme arrogance.

142 FLIM
(silkily)
What's the matter, Granny Smith? Chicken?

WHIP ZOOM as Granny Smith spins to face them. Her EYES NARROW.

143 GRANNY SMITH
What'd you call me, sonny?

144 FLIM
If you're so confident in your cider, then what's the problem?

145 GRANNY SMITH
Tomorrow mornin'. Right here. We'll show you what the cider business is all about.

146 FLAM *
But I'm afraid we haven't any *
apples-- *

147 GRANNY SMITH *
You can use our south field. It'll *
be worth it to teach y'all a thing *
or two about cider makin'... *

148 FLIM
Excellent! We have a bet: whoever
produces the most barrels in one
hour wins the exclusive right to
sell cider in Ponyville.

149 GRANNY SMITH
And after we beat you, I don't ever
want to see you bamboozlers 'round *
these parts again.

Flim and Flam both do an exaggerated bow with a flourish at the end.

150 FLIM
Until tomorrow...

As they <CHUG> off on their machine, a <MURMUR> runs through the dispersing crowd. Applejack, meanwhile, turns to Twilight, concern on her face.

151 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Don't worry, Applejack. Your cider
is the best in the world! I know
you'll win tomorrow.

152 APPLEJACK
We better. 'Cause if we don't,
we're gonna lose our farm.

Applejack heads off with her family.

153 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Come on, y'all. We best talk
strategy...

Twilight watches them with concern.

CUT TO:

EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - MORNING

The next morning, a CROWD has gathered at the orchard for the big competition. Rainbow Dash stands next to Fluttershy, both of them covered in makeshift ARMOR (pots and pans, football helmet, etc).

154 RAINBOW DASH
Okay, you know what to do?

155 FLUTTERSHY
Um, I think so.

156 RAINBOW DASH
All you have to do is wait until the Apples win, then grab some cider and protect it with your life.

157 FLUTTERSHY
And where will you be again?

158 RAINBOW DASH
I'll be over there waiting for the Flim Flam brothers to win.

159 FLUTTERSHY
You really think the Apples are going to lose?

160 RAINBOW DASH
No way they'll lose! I'm 100% confident they're going to win. Even so, I'm not taking any chances.

She lowers the helmet over Fluttershy's eyes.

161 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
And neither are you.

She shoves the blinded Fluttershy toward the Apples. As she awkwardly stumbles toward them, we TRUCK OVER to see the Apples getting loose and ready for action. Big McIntosh stretches. Apple Bloom holds boxing pads so Applejack can limber up her kicking legs. Granny Smith blindfolds herself and practices sniffing apples for quality. *

162 GRANNY SMITH *
Good 'un... good 'un... bad 'un... *

Twilight Sparkle walks over from the crowd and finds Applejack, who continues kicking the boxing pads. <THUMP>!

163 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Can I talk to you, Applejack?

164 APPLEJACK
(pumped up)
Sure thing, Twilight! What's on your mind? *HYAH!*

She <THUMPS> the boxing pads.

165 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Well, it's just... are you sure this is such a good idea? I know you're going to beat these guys, but you said yourself that you could lose the family farm!

Fluttershy staggers by, still blinded, her pots and pans <CLANGING>. Twilight and Applejack just watch her pass.

166 FLUTTERSHY
Hello?

Once she's gone... <THUMP>! Applejack smacks the pads again.

167 APPLEJACK
(not really so confident)
Don't worry about that, Twilight. Me and the family are--
(<THUMP>!)
--*ungh!* - 100% confident in our cider making capabilities.

168 APPLE BLOOM
And besides, nopony calls Granny a chicken!

She braces for impact. <THUMP>!

169 MAYOR (O.S.)
Attention, everypony!

170 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Okay, well... good luck!

171 APPLEJACK
Thanks, Twilight--
(<THUMP>!)
(to herself)
--we'll need it.

Twilight smiles uncertainly, then trots over to join the crowd. *

172 MAYOR
Let's get the competition started, *
shall we? *

The crowd <APPLAUDS>. *

173 MAYOR (CONT'D) *
The teams have one hour to produce *
as much cider as they can, after
which, the barrels will be counted
and the winner will be named the
sole cider provider for all of
Ponyville!

A <MURMUR> runs through the crowd.

174 MAYOR (CONT'D)
Are both teams ready?

Big McIntosh lowers his goggles and gives a solemn nod.

175 APPLEJACK
Ready!

Flim and Flam bow formally.

176 FLIM AND FLAM
Ready.

177 MAYOR
Then let's GO!!

The Mayor nods to her two ASSISTANT PONIES, who turn a large HOURGLASS. Sands immediately begin to flow.

ON THE APPLES -- working like clockwork.

-Applejack swiftly KICKS the tree trunks, knocking loose every single apple.

-Apple Bloom SCAMPERS underneath, catching the apples in a basket. She RACES over to Granny Smith and drops the basket, grabbing an empty one and racing back.

-Granny Smith inspects each apple carefully. She tosses aside every apple with the slightest imperfection, but places the perfect ones into a metal chute.

178 GRANNY SMITH
Good'un... good'un... bad'un...
good'un...

-The apples roll through the chute, which snakes over to Big McIntosh's station. Attached to an enormous stone GRINDER, he pushes with everything he's got, hooves sinking in the dirt. PRESSED CIDER pours out.

The whole family gathers around the first barrel, as Applejack puts on the lid.

179 APPLEJACK
Great job, y'all! We've already filled an entire barrel!

180 APPLE BLOOM
I bet those guys don't even have...

They look over to Flim and Flam and their jaws drop. The brothers have already filled and stacked FIVE BARRELS!

ON THE APPLE FAMILY -- they're in total shock!

181 APPLEJACK
<gulp>!

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT II

ACT III

FADE IN:

<u>EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - DAY</u>

The Super Speedy Cider Squeezy 6000 churns and billows as it sucks apples off the trees. The twins' horns glow, feeding power to the machine. Apples whiz through the machine's quality control center, green lights <DINGING> and red lights <BUZZING>. Cider pours into barrels at a steady pace.

ON THE APPLES -- Applejack winds up and <STRIKES> a tree. Apples <THUMP> to the ground next to Apple Bloom's empty bucket. She's missed them, distracted by watching the brothers make cider.

182 APPLEJACK
Come on, Apple Bloom, focus! We've got to forget those guys if we're gonna have a chance of winning!

183 APPLE BLOOM
Sorry, sis! I got 'em!

She herds the apples into her bucket and races over to Granny Smith, dropping her load behind a backlog of full buckets.

184 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
Better keep up, Granny! We're falling behind!

Granny Smith, harried and frazzled, pauses to wipe off her steamed up glasses.

185 APPLEJACK
No time for that! We don't have a second to spare!

186 GRANNY SMITH
Right!

She shoves the glasses back on. They're completely fogged up. She shakes an apple and deems it worthy, dropping it in the chute.

187 GRANNY SMITH (CONT'D)
Good'un...

Big McIntosh, meanwhile, stops churning the heavy stone wheel so he can catch his breath.

188 APPLEJACK
Rest when it's over, Big McIntosh! Grind! Grind!

Big McIntosh puts his head down and gets back at it. Twilight, Rarity, Rainbow Dash, and Pinkie Pie watch anxiously. Fluttershy faces the wrong way, still blinded by her helmet.

189 RARITY
This is just dreadful! Even at top speed, the Apples are only making one barrel to the twins' three!

Sure enough, the brothers are dropping barrels left and right. Thinking quickly, Twilight approaches the Mayor, who watches the hourglass diligently.

190 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Um, Ms. Mayor? Are honorary family members allowed to help in the competition?

191 MAYOR
Well, I'm not sure.
(calling to the brothers)
Flim? Flam! Would you object to honorary family members helping?

The brothers look calm, cool, and collected.

192 FLIM
Are you kidding?

193 FLAM
We don't care if the whole kingdom of Canterlot helps! It's a lost cause!

194 MAYOR
(to Twilight)
I guess it's okay. Applejack? What do you think?

195 APPLEJACK
I think I'd love to have the rest of my "family" helping out.

196 ALL
All right!

Twilight goes back to her friends, already in organizer mode.

197 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Okay, everypony. We're not going to let those smooth-talkers take our friends' farm! *

198 PONIES
YEAH!!

199 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Fluttershy, help Applejack with the trees!

200 FLUTTERSHY
(facing the wrong way)
Got it!

Rainbow Dash <POPS> off the helmet, and Fluttershy turns around.

201 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)
(embarrassed)
Got it.

202 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Pinkie Pie, you're on apple-catching detail!

203 PINKIE PIE
Yes sir, ma'am sir!

204 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Rarity, you've got a discerning eye, help Granny Smith at the quality control station.

205 RARITY
Of course!

206 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Rainbow Dash, if I levitate the apples over to the grinding wheel, do you think you can help Big McIntosh press?

207 RAINBOW DASH
In my sleep.

The ponies huddle up like a football team.

208 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
All right, everypony, let's save Sweet Apple Acres!

209 ALL
BREAK!

They disperse...

As an instrumental <REPRISE> of the Act I song starts to play, we FOLLOW THE ASSEMBLY LINE:

-Fluttershy flies straight into the trees, shaking them from the inside. With Applejack bucking away down below, they're clearing twice as many trees.

-Pinkie Pie and Apple Bloom race around below catching apples. Using great communication, they catch everything.

210 PINKIE PIE
Over there, Apple Bloom! Don't miss them!

211 APPLE BLOOM
Behind you, Pinkie Pie!

-Rarity and Granny Smith burn through the backlog of apples while still allowing through only the finest of quality.

212 GRANNY SMITH
Good'un... bad'un... bad'un...
good'un...

213 RARITY
Lovely... horrid... horrid...
lovely...

-Twilight uses her magic to levitate the apples directly to the grinding wheel, bypassing the twisty metal chute.

-Rainbow Dash and Big McIntosh get the stone wheel moving, cider pouring out at a steady pace.

-Barrels stack up faster and faster.

Twilight Sparkle counts a big stack of barrels and totals up some figures on a floating parchment using her horn. Applejack waits anxiously for the report.

214 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Based on these figures, we're
making five barrels for every three
of theirs.

215 APPLEJACK
KEEP IT UP, EVERYPONY! WE'RE BACK
IN THIS!

ON THE BROTHERS -- they've heard Twilight, and for the first time, they look nervous.

216 FLIM
Come on, brother, we've got to pick
up the pace!

217 FLAM
Double the power!

Their horns grow BRIGHT WHITE! The vacuum starts sucking even harder. Apples fly off the branches... then so do the leaves! Then the branches themselves get sucked in!

CLOSE ON -- their quality control center. It blocks everything from going through that's not a perfect apple. It <BUZZES> profusely. Flim checks the machine's output. Same as before.

218 FLIM
We've got to try something else!

219 FLAM
I've got it, brother-of-mine!

He flips a switch next to the quality control window. Everything -- good apples, bad apples, branches, leaves -- passes through into the press!

The machine starts <CHURNING>, shooting out barrel after barrel of murky, chunky "cider." It's a disgusting slop, but at least it's filling barrels.

220 FLIM
Well done, Flam! We're at top productivity!

ON THE APPLES -- Rainbow Dash wipes her brow, and catches a glimpse at what the brothers are doing.

221 RAINBOW DASH
Hey! They're cheating! *

222 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Come on, Rainbow Dash! Keep grinding!

223 RAINBOW DASH
We've got to do that too! We don't have time for quality control if we want to win this thing!

She unhitches herself from the grinding wheel and makes to attack the quality control table. Granny Smith leaps on top of it to keep Rainbow Dash away.

224 GRANNY SMITH
Get back, you! One bad apple spoils the bunch! Or the barrel as the case may be.

225 RAINBOW DASH
Applejack, help me! We've got to cut out the quality control step!

226 APPLEJACK
Sorry, Rainbow Dash. There's no point in winning if we cheat.

227 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
We'll just have to work harder! Come on, everypony!

Rainbow Dash head-fakes Granny Smith, but she's not moving. So she reluctantly flies back to the grind wheel and straps in.

228 RAINBOW DASH
All right, then! DOUBLE TIME!

CUT TO:

MUSICAL MONTAGE

As the <REPRISE> picks up tempo, we see a fast paced montage of the competition. The music gets more intense, the angles get more severe, the cuts get faster.

-Hourglass sands running down...

-Apples flying frantically...

-Sweat pouring down pony brows...

-Cider churning out of the grinding wheel...

-Whole trees being uprooted from the ground and sucked into the twins' machine...

-Muck and debris flying down the conveyor belt inside the machine...

-Apples falling into barrels...

-Sand pouring swiftly out of the hourglass...

-Applejack's eyes narrowing...

-Flim and Flam's eyes narrowing...

-Apple!

-Hoof!

-Full barrel! It's impossible to tell who's winning!

-The final sands running out of the hourglass...

229 MAYOR
TIME'S UP!!

The Apples and friends collapse to the ground in exhaustion as the musical <REPRISE> ends. The crowd gathers around excitedly as the Mayor starts counting barrels.

Twilight lies on her back next to Applejack, both of them looking completely spent.

230 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(huffing and puffing)
I'm proud of you... Applejack... you didn't... compromise... and cut corners just to... win...

231 APPLEJACK
(huffing and puffing)
Thanks...

232 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
And I'm sure... integrity like that will always be... rewarded--

233 MAYOR
FLIM AND FLAM WIN!! *

The Apples and their friends stagger to their feet, dumbfounded. Sure enough, the brothers' stack of barrels * dwarfs the Apples'. *

234 APPLE BLOOM
What did she say?

235 APPLEJACK
We... lost?

Flim and Flam sashay over to the exhausted Apple family.

236 FLIM
Aw, too bad, Apples!

237 FLAM
Guess you'll just have to find a new line of work that doesn't match your names quite so perfectly.

238 FLIM
Should we tear down all these tacky old buildings and put up new ones brother?

239 FLAM
I don't see why not. After all, this isn't Sweet Apple Acres anymore. How about Flim Flam Fields?

Rainbow Dash gets a jolt of adrenaline and bolts for the twins!

240 RAINBOW DASH
You jerks! I oughta press you into jerk cider!

But Applejack grabs hold of her tail, stopping her.

241 APPLEJACK
No, Rainbow Dash. A deal's a deal, and Flim and Flam won. We've got to honor the bet.

242 FLIM
That's very gracious of you, Applejack. Nice to know somepony with integrity is in charge.

243 FLAM
Was in charge.

244 FLIM
Ah! Well said, brother!

They both erupt in <OBNOXIOUS LAUGHTER>.

245 APPLEJACK
Congratulations to y'all. The cider business in Ponyville is yours.
(to her family)
Come on, Apples. Let's go pack our things.

Flim and Flam notice the crowd, which is sympathetic to the Apples.

246 FLIM
Fear not, everypony! There's more than enough cider to go around!

But the ponies just stand there glumly, watching the downtrodden Apples.

247 APPLEJACK
Go ahead, everypony, it's okay.

The ponies tentatively start to move toward the brothers.

248 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Go on, y'all.

One by one, they make their way over to the brothers' cider table to collect a long-awaited cup.

249 FLAM
Drink up, Ponyville! Down the hatch!

Everypony drinks. There's a long beat as they pause, cheeks puffed with cider. Then...

250 EVERYPONY
SHTPPPT!!

Cider SPRAYS everywhere as they all spit the nasty stuff out!

251 EVERYPONY (CONT'D)
This cider tastes like bark! / Mine's got rocks in it! / Hey, what gives? I wouldn't pay one cent for this dreck!

The brothers watch with concern. They look at each other nervously.

252 FLIM
What did you just say?

253 FLAM
You wouldn't pay even one cent?

254 EVERYPONY
NO!!

The brothers huddle, speaking in whispers.

255 FLAM
How about two cups for one cent?

256 EVERYPONY
NO!!

Another huddle.

257 FLIM AND FLAM
Two bits for the barrel?

258 EVERYPONY
NO!!

The brothers exchange a nervous glance, their scheme collapsing around them.

259 FLAM
Well, Flim, it looks like we've encountered a slight problem here in Ponyville.

260 FLIM
I do believe you're right, Flam.
Nopony wants our product.

They pause for a beat. Then...

261 FLIM (CONT'D)
Next town? *

262 FLAM
Next town. *

263 APPLE BLOOM *
You mean you're giving up the *
Ponyville cider business? *

264 FLAM *
Business?! There's no business to *
be had in this one-horse town! *

265 FLIM *
(boarding the machine) *
We hereby relinquish our cider *
claim to this town and all *
derivations thereof so on and so *
forth in perpetuity--let's go, *
Flam! *

And just like that, the brothers hop on the Super Speedy Cider Squeezy 6000 and <CHUG> off over the horizon in search of new suckers.

266 APPLEJACK
I can't believe it! They're gone!

267 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
That means Sweet Apple Acres is *
still in business! *

268 RANDOM PONY
And we can have real cider again!
High quality Apple family cider!

The whole crowd <CHEERS LOUDLY>!

269 APPLE BLOOM
Hey, look, everypony! Because of
this silly competition, we've made
enough of our cider for the whole
town!

Everypony gathers around and takes a drink of the Apples' cider.

270 RARITY
There's really no doubt. Apple family cider is the finest in all of Equestria.

271 PINKIE PIE
That's for sure! Right, Rainbow Dash?

Pinkie Pie grabs a nearby cup, not realizing it's the chunky green concoction the twins' made. She slides it over to Rainbow Dash, who takes a huge gulp.

Cheeks puffed out, her eyes POP OPEN! She SPITS the "cider" everywhere!

272 RAINBOW DASH
That was Flim and Flam cider!

She chases after Pinkie Pie.

273 PINKIE PIE
You should try the Sweet Apple Cider! It's waaaay better!

The others all <LAUGH> and take another drink of the fresh cider.

CUT TO:

EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - SUNSET

It's a picture perfect sunset in Ponyville. Ponies drink cider and enjoy themselves on the grounds of the picturesque orchard.

274 APPLEJACK (V.O.)
Dear Princess Celestia. I'm writing you because my family and I just went through a truly incredible experience. We nearly lost our farm to a couple of smooth-talkers, but our friends rallied around us and helped us keep our cider business alive. I been thinkin' about everything that's happened, and what it's taught me about friendship, and I wanted to share my thoughts with you.
(<ahem>)
I didn't learn anything! I was right all along! *
(MORE)

APPLEJACK (V.O.) (CONT'D)
If you take your time and do things the right way, your work will speak for itself. Quality wins over quantity every time. Sure, I could tell you I learned something about how my friends are always there to help and I can count on them no matter what. But the truth is, I knew that already, too. *

Applejack and her friends and family raise a big glass of cider as they enjoy the end of another perfect day at Sweet Apple Acres.

FADE OUT.

THE EN