

Missouri 4-H State Meats Judging Contest

General Contest Information:

- Missouri 4-H State Meats Judging Contest is open to all individually enrolled Missouri 4-H members 8-18 years old. There is no limit to the number of members a county may enter in the contest. Youth and coaches must register using 4-H Online.
- **Age Breaks:** Junior Division 8-13; Senior Division 14-18 as of Dec 31st of the current program year.
- Participants and coaches must register through 4-H Online by the set deadline. No late registrations are accepted.
- After registration closes, youth and coaches will receive an informational email with all the details of the contest.
- Missouri 4-H receives registration payments by credit/debit card or check. 4-H Online will receive your payment using credit/debit card. If paying by check, send your payment to your County Extension Office. Check with your county 4-H staff for whom you should make the check payable to.
- No refund will be granted.
- Lunch will be provided for all contestants, coaches, and workers that register.
- While the contest is in progress, there shall be no conferring between the contestants or between contestants or anyone else except as authorized by the contest superintendent or their representatives.
- 4-H Members should bring a pencil, clipboard, and be dressed appropriately. Dress should include long pants, close-toes shoes, and a clean ball cap or hairnet. Youth might also want to bring a sweatshirt or jacket for while in the coolers.
- Any Missouri 4-H member that has competed at the National Meats Judging Contest will ONLY be able to compete at the Missouri State Contest as an Individual. They will be eligible for Individual Awards; however, their scores will not be able to compete for any Team Awards. This includes a team total score or the Missouri All-Star Team.

Contest Components:

- The contest will consist of the following components:
 - 3 classes: Retail cuts – 150 points
 - 1 Class: Carcasses (beef, pork, or lamb) – 50 points
 - 2 classes: Wholesale cuts – 100 points
 - 2 classes: Oral reasons – 100 points
 - 30 retail cuts for identification – 300 points

- TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE – 700 points

Team vs Individual Determination

- All individuals competing in the State 4-H Meats Judging Contest (Junior OR Senior division) must be registered in one of two ways:
 1. Under a “County Team” (as defined below) **OR**
 2. As an “Individual Contestant”
- Upon registration, participants will select either “compete as an individual” or “compete on a team.” If the team option is picked, they’ll need to specify their team name and coach’s name. A team code for scantron use will be assigned to their team.
- **“COUNTY TEAM” is defined as the formation of a team based on the member’s primary county of 4-H enrollment or an adjoining county/counties where members are enrolled (primary county).**
 - The primary county must be designated and used to create a county team. Team members are determined by their primary county of enrollment. Teams may be formed from the primary county or a county that directly touches or adjoins the primary county.
 - *Example – A “Linn County” team consisting of 2 contestants from Linn County, 1 contestant from Sullivan County, and 1 contestant from Grundy County would be permissible.*
 - Teams can have up to four (4) individuals. The top THREE final scores on contest day will comprise the total team score.
 - If there are more than four (4) individuals working with a group, we recommend that a second team be created so that everyone can participate on a team.
 - SPIN (Special Interest) club members are invited to compete but must be individually enrolled in Missouri 4-H. The primary county of enrollment will be used to determine your eligibility.
- Multiple teams can exist from one county, there is no limit to the number of teams a county can bring, as long as each team follows the definition of a “county team” as explained above.
- Coaches must work with the 4-H State Agriculture Educator to confirm team rosters and team code prior to the contest.
 - If an extenuating circumstance occurs, a team member may be substituted by another team member prior to the start of the contest, but no additional members can be added after the registration deadline.

Rules

- Contestants will not be permitted to:

- Handle or touch cuts or lean cut surfaces under any condition.
- Use any mechanical aid, such as a measuring device, light, etc.
- Talk to fellow contestants at any time during the contest.
- Monopolize any one exhibit for any unreasonable length of time.
- Separate themselves from the class in which their group is working.
- In any way willfully obstruct the work of any other contestant.
- Ten minutes will be allowed in the cooler per placing each judging class and taking notes for reasons.
- Oral Reasons may not exceed two (2) minutes for any one class.
- Contest committee will decide on all official placings and cuts for the contest.
- All forms and placing cards will be provided by the contest superintendent.

Scoring

- Tie-Breaking –
 - All ties overall, individual, or team will be broken using the following sequence:
 - Higher total evaluation score
 - Higher total reasons score
 - Lower total placing score in reasons classes
 - In the case of a tie in team placing scores, ties will be broken using the following sequence:
 - Higher total reasons score
 - Higher total overall score
 - In the case of a tie in the team identification scores, ties will be broken using the following sequence:
 - Higher total overall score
 - Higher total placing score

State Awards and National Recognition

- Prizes are TBA closer to the contest date and are dependent on funding.
- The top 3 teams and top 5 individuals overall will be recognized in the Junior and Senior Divisions. Team and Individual awards and recognition on specific contest components and reasons will be dependent on funding.
- The top 10 of the 8-10 year old participants will be recognized. Those individuals are still eligible for awards in the Junior (8-14) division.
- National Contest Qualifications
 - The top senior team will have the opportunity to represent Missouri nationally at the National 4-H Meats Evaluation Contest at the American Royal held in Manhattan, KS.

- An All-Star Team will be formed and have the opportunity to represent Missouri nationally at the National Western Round-Up 4-H Meats Evaluation Contest in Denver, CO.
 - The All-Star Team is made up of, at minimum, the four (4) highest placing youth (team or individual contest enrollment) from the senior division at the state contest that ARE NOT already participating on a county team going to a national contest. If one of those four youth is unable to attend the national contest, the next highest scoring youth that is not already participating nationally with a county team, will be contacted and so on down the scores until each of the slots are filled. The parents/guardians/coaches of the 1st and 2nd highest placing individuals will be asked to serve as the coach for the team. If they are unable to do so, the other parents/guardians/coaches will be asked.
- The Missouri 4-H State Office will register and pay entry fees for each team for their respective national contests.
- If a county team qualifies for a national contest, the national contest roster can only consist of those youth that completed the state contest on that team.