



# National 4-H Meat Judging & Identification Contest

In cooperation with the American Meat Science Association and Kansas State University

## Superintendents:

Leslie Frenzel, American Meat Science Association  
Travis O'Quinn, Kansas State University

**Tuesday, October 21, 6:45 a.m., Kansas State University**

**Entry Fees:** \$500 per team

Online entries and information are available at [www.meatscience.org](http://www.meatscience.org)

Or contact Leslie Frenzel, [lfrenzel@meatscience.org](mailto:lfrenzel@meatscience.org)  
American Meat Science Association  
302 S. Platte Clay Way  
Kearney, MO 64060

**Entry Deadline:** September 1, 2025

**Time & Place** – 6:45 a.m., Kansas State University Meat Lab in Weber Hall (intersection of N. Manhattan Ave and Claflin Rd) in Manhattan, KS ([www.k-state.edu](http://www.k-state.edu)).

**Eligibility** – This contest is open to a team of four (4) 4-H members from a state to be selected by the State 4-H Leader. The three (3) high scoring members of a team shall constitute the official team for the contest, the fourth ranking automatically being the alternate. The four (4) members, including alternate, shall not be eligible to participate in future National 4-H Meat Identification and Judging Contests.

All members, including alternates, shall meet the eligibility requirements found in the "Policies and Guidelines for National 4-H Competitive Events". Specifically, contestants:

- Must be 14-18 years of age as of January 1 in the year they compete.
- Must be a 4-H member during the year they compete.
- Must not have participated in official post-secondary (university, college, junior college, or technical school) competitive events of similar nature in the same subject matter area, nor be a member of a post-secondary team undergoing training in preparation for such event.

Contestants shall not have competed in an intercollegiate meat contest or a National 4-H Meat contest previously.

Each participating state shall certify its own contestants and adjudge their eligibility accordance with these rules and regulations.

A registration fee of \$500.00 per team will be charged to offset a part of contest costs.

No contestant will be eligible to compete in any judging contest at the American Royal if they have any sanctions or disciplinary action taken against them by the North American Livestock Show & Rodeo Managers Association, The International Association of Fairs and Expositions, 4-H, FFA, and/or breed association(s).

## **Divisions**

The contest shall be divided into two divisions – meat identification and meat judging. There will be three (3) sets of oral reasons.

Identification – a total of 30 retail meat cuts (beef, pork, and lamb; fresh processed or variety) shall be identified as to:

- Species
- Primal cut
- Retail cut
- Type of cut
- Cookery

A maximum individual score of 300 is possible on identification. There shall be a 24-minute time limit for the identification. There shall be a 24-minute time limit for the identification division.

**Judging** – Adjustments to classes can be made by the committee based on product availability.

Contestants shall place the following judging classes:

- Two retail classes
- Two beef classes
- Carcasses and/or wholesale cuts
- Two pork classes
- Carcasses and/or wholesale cuts

Twelve minutes to be allowed to place each class of four (4) items. A maximum of 450 points possible. Class selection will be conducted by the committee and will be dependent on the product quality and availability to ensure a high quality educational and competitive experience.

**Reasons** – there will be three (3) reasons classes selected from beef, pork, and retail classes. Each contestant will give three (3) sets of oral reasons.

The reasons classes will be chosen by the judges and announced to the contestants at the start of the contest. The contestant may not use notes while giving reasons, but will be provided reason cards to take notes during the contest to study before being called upon to recite.

A set of reasons should be given to the judges in the order the contestant placed the class. Included in the reasons should be both criticism and grants for placing each class.

Selection and securing of contest facilities, product and contest personnel shall be by the contest superintendent.

## **Awards Breakfast**

An Awards Breakfast for contestants will be held Wednesday, October 22, beginning at 8 a.m. at the American Royal Complex, 1701 American Royal Court, Kansas City, MO.