

DATE: August 3, 2026

TO: All 4-H Members Who Registered in the 2026 4-H Carcass Goat Contest and all 4-H Goat Project Leaders

FROM: Kayla Michell, 4-H Youth Development Program Coordinator

RE: 2026 4-H Carcass Goat Contest

Contest entrants include:

2026 Carcass Participants

1. ~~Paityn Hutchison~~
2. Ben Iobe
3. Zak Iobe
4. Cooper Stears
5. Jade Sechler
6. Kason Schrock
7. Valerie Klein
8. Emma Sult
9. ~~Jazmyne Hunt~~
10. Jakson Iobe
11. Ellyn Iobe
12. Emma Campbell



**MSU EXTENSION
St. Joseph County**

612 E. Main St
Centreville, MI 49032

Phone: 269-467-5511
Fax: 269-467-5641
www.canr.msu.edu/st_joseph

Attention Participants: It is your responsibility to call the St. Joseph County MSU Extension office right away if you decide to drop out of the program for any reason.

The following is important information you need to know regarding participation in the **2026 4-H Carcass Goat Contest**:

1. The purpose of the program is to provide members with an opportunity to learn about the relationship between live animal evaluation and carcass composition and quality.
2. Entry in the contest will be limited to ten (10) members on a first-come, first-served basis. If more than 10 members submit entry forms, selection of the 10 participants will be based on a combined factor of member age plus years in the goat project.
3. Only one (1) goat may be entered per participant.
4. A given member may, if desired, exhibit a carcass goat and one (1) individual market goat from among the goats registered in his/her name. **Note:** Any and all potential carcass animals were required to be tagged and registered in the St. Joseph County MSU Extension office by **June 10, 2026**.

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5. The 4 H Carcass Goat Contest will take place according to the following schedule:
 - **Live Goat Weigh-in/Drop off:** Saturday, September 12, 2026, from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. at the fairgrounds in Centreville. All animals entered in the Carcass Goat Contest **MUST** be delivered to the fairgrounds by 11:00 a.m. for weigh-in. Goats must weigh a **minimum of 60 lbs.** and may only have a maximum horn/regrowth of 2 inches. Underweight goats will be disqualified.
 - **Carcass Goat Evaluation Workshop:** Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at **5:30 p.m.** at Bontrager's Custom Meat Processing, 53541 Correll Rd., Leonidas, MI 49066. Please remember to bring a winter-weight coat and gloves along to wear in the meat cooler where the workshop will be held, as the cooler is maintained at 34°F!
6. 4-H members participating in this contest are **REQUIRED** to attend the Carcass Goat Evaluation Workshop on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. to receive a premium and any associated awards. College students will be exempt from the Carcass Goat Evaluation if approved by the 4-H Program Coordinator by August 15. Any member who fails to meet this requirement will have his/her animal disqualified from the carcass contest.
7. Each member making an entry in this contest is responsible for arranging for a "private treaty" sale of his/her goat before it is delivered to the fairgrounds on Saturday, September 6, for weigh-in. **Exception:** The **Champion** and **Reserve Champion** goat carcasses **MUST** be sold in the 4-H Small Animal Sale on Thursday, September 24, 2026. Therefore, when you make arrangements for a "private treaty" sale of your carcass animal, it must be with the buyer's understanding that the animal will be sold in the Small Animal Sale if it wins Champion or Reserve Champion honors.
8. It is also the member's responsibility to inform the buyer of the carcass that he/she is responsible for the slaughter and processing costs (which will be directly payable by the buyer to Bontrager's Custom Meat Processing).

The "Processing (Cut) Sheet" which can be found at https://www.canr.msu.edu/st_joseph/4-h/4_h_fair#carcass must be filled out completely and signed by the buyer. Give the buyer one (1) completed copy to keep, and turn a second copy in on Saturday, September 12, 2026, prior to unloading your goat for weigh-in.

Thank You's for Contest Support:

Each member who exhibits an animal in the 4-H Carcass Goat Contest is required to write a "thank you" letter to **Bontrager Custom Meat Processing** to thank this business for the vital role it plays in making the 4-H Carcass Goat Contest possible.

- "Thank you" note must include complete donor address, your return address and must be affixed with a \$0.78 postage stamp.
- Attractive 4-H "thank you" note stationery (including a stamped envelope) will be available for sale at \$2.00 each at the 4-H Fair office starting on Sunday, September 20.

Deadline for Submitting "Thank You" Note: Completed "thank you" note **must** be turned into the 4-H Fair Office by 10:00 p.m. on **Saturday, September 26.**

Penalty for Not Submitting "Thank You" Notes: Your fair premium check will be held at the St. Joseph County MSU Extension office until your "thank you" note has been submitted in a properly prepared, stamped envelope.

The mailing address for **Bontrager Custom Meat Processing** is as follows:

Bontrager Custom Meat Processing
c/o Willie Bontrager
53541 Correll Rd.
Leonidas, MI 49066

Please do not hesitate to call the MSU Extension at 269-467-5511 if you have any questions regarding the information contained in this letter.

cc: Bontrager's Custom Meat Processing