

DATE: August 3, 2026

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

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

RE: 2026 4-H Carcass Lamb Contest

Contest entrants include:

2026 Carcass Participants

1. Jenna Scheffler
2. Tucker Davis
- ~~3. Madison Kulpinski~~
4. Cooper Stears
5. Harper Davis
6. Rebekah Klein
7. Valerie Klein
8. Lila Preston
9. Oakley Cupp
10. Kennedy Mosher
11. Branch Henderson

Alternates in order of eligibility

- ~~12. Braden Bower~~
13. Ava Batten



MSU EXTENSION
St. Joseph County

612 E. Main St
Centreville, MI 49032

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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 are no longer able to participate in the program for any reason.

Following is information on the 2026 4-H Carcass Lamb Program:

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 sheep project.
3. Only one (1) lamb may be entered per participant.
4. A given member may, if desired, exhibit a carcass lamb and up to two (2) individual market lambs from among the lambs registered in his/her name.
5. Eligible animals include any of the 4-H project lamb registered in a given member's name.
Note: Any and all potential carcass animals were required to be ear-tagged and registered in the St. Joseph County MSU Extension office by **June 4, 2026**.
6. The 4-H Carcass Lamb Contest will take place according to the following schedule:
 - **Live Beef 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 Beef Contest **MUST** be delivered to the fairgrounds by **11:00 a.m.** for weigh-in.
 - **Carcass Lamb Evaluation Workshop:** Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at **6:30 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!

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7. **Attention!!!** 4-H members participating in this contest **MUST** attend the Carcass Lamb Evaluation Workshop on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. to receive a premium and any associated awards. Any member who fails to meet this requirement will have his/her animal disqualified from the contest.
8. All lambs entered in the Carcass Lamb Contest **MUST** be shorn within two (2) weeks of weigh-in (Saturday, September 6). Animals that have not been shorn within this time period will be disqualified from the contest. It will be the responsibility of the 4-H member to have his/her lamb sheared.
9. Each member making an entry in this contest is responsible for arranging for a "private treaty" sale of his/her lamb before it is delivered to the fairgrounds on Saturday, September 12, for weigh-in. **Exception:** The **Champion** and **Reserve Champion** lamb carcasses **MUST** be sold in the 4-H Large 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 Large Animal Sale if it wins Champion or Reserve Champion honors.
10. 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 steer for weigh-in.

"Thank You's" For Contest Support:

- Each member who places an entry in the Carcass Class is required to write a thank you" letter to **Bontrager's Custom Meat Processing** (see address below) to thank this business for the vital role it plays in making the 4-H Carcass Beef 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 19.
- **Deadline for Submitting "Thank You" Note:** Completed "thank you" note **MUST** be turned in to the 4-H Fair Office by 10:00 p.m. on **Saturday, September 26.**
- **Penalty For Not Submitting "Thank You" Note:** 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's Custom Meat Processing** is as follows: Bontrager's Custom Meat Processing
c/o Willie Bontrager
53541 Corell 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