

DATE: August 23, 2023

TO: All 4H Members Who Registered to Enter Lambs in 2023 4-H Carcass Lamb Contest and all 4-H Sheep Project Leaders

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

RE: Eligible 4-H Carcass Lamb Contest Participants

We had a great response to the 2023 4-H Carcass Lamb Contest, with ten 4-H members submitting entries! Contest entrants include:

NAME

1. Harper Davis
2. Tanner Davis
3. Tucker Davis
4. HallieAnn Holtz
5. Emily Matz
6. Keegan New
7. Lily Preston
8. Cooper Stears
9. Frederick Stears
10. Lydia Wells



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

Following is information on the 2023 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 project, with older youth with more years of project membership taking precedence over younger members with less project experience.
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. **Attention!!!** 4-H members participating in this contest **MUST** attend the Carcass Lamb Evaluation Workshop on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, 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.

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6. The weigh-in/drop off portion of the Carcass Lamb Contest is scheduled for Saturday, September 9, 2023. Weigh-in is from 10-11 a.m. for all species.
7. All lambs entered in the Carcass Lamb Contest **MUST** be shorn within two (2) weeks of weigh-in (Saturday, September 9). 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.
8. The **Carcass Lamb Evaluation Workshop** will be take place on Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at Bontrager's Custom Meat Processing, 53541 Correll Rd., Leonidas, MI 49066.
9. Each participant in the Carcass Lamb Contest will be responsible for arranging for "private treaty" sale of his/her lamb before the contest. A **4-H Carcass Lamb Processing Information Sheet** is available at https://www.canr.msu.edu/st_joseph/4-h/4_h_fair#carcass to all program participants. This form must be filled out completely, signed by the buyer and turned in when the member unloads the lamb for weigh-in at the fairgrounds on September 9. The processing information is needed by Bontrager's Custom Meat Processing to process (cut and wrap) the carcass according to the buyer's specifications. **Exception:** The Champion and Reserve Champion lamb carcasses **MUST** be sold in the 4-H Large Animal Sale on Thursday, September 21, 2023. Therefore, when making arrangements for "private treaty" sale of a lamb, you need to be sure your buyer understands the carcass will be sold in the Large Animal Sale if it wins Champion or Reserve Champion honors.
10. It will also be the member's responsibility to inform the "private treaty" buyer of the carcass that the buyer will be responsible for the slaughter and processing costs, which will be payable to Bontrager's Custom Meat Processing.

Please feel free to call me at 269/467-5511 if you have any questions regarding information contained in this letter.

Enclosure

c: Bontrager Custom Meat Processing

Thank You's For Contest Support: Each member who exhibits an animal in the 4-H Carcass Lamb 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 Lamb Contest possible.

- **"Thank you" note must include complete donor address, your return address and must be affixed with a \$0.66 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 17.**
- **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 23.**
- **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's Custom Meat Processing** is as follows: Bontrager's Custom Meat Processing
c/o Willie Bontrager
53541 Correll Rd.
Leonidas, MI 49066