



Michigan 4-H Meat Judging Contest/FFA Career Development Event July 25, 2014

Audience

30 contestants competed in the 2014 Michigan 4-H Meats Judging Contest/FFA Meats Evaluation and Technology Career Development Event that was a collaborative effort between Michigan 4-H and Michigan FFA. The Contest was for youth ages 9 to 19 consisting of 19 females and 11 males. Four separate divisions exist consisting of 4-H and FFA. Within the 4-H divisions, 9 4-H members competed in the Junior 4-H Division consisting of contestants ages 9-13 and 9 4-H members competed in the Senior 4-H Division consisting of members ages 14-19. 4-H members were also allowed to compete against FFA members in the FFA Division and 5 youth took advantage of the opportunity.

Funding

Each contestant paid \$12 to participate in the state meat judging contest. Officials and volunteers donated their time to help teach youth about meat judging and live animal evaluation.

Objectives

This youth contest is designed to:

- Educate youth on Michigan's consumer preferences and factors that affect meat quality.
- Develop problem solving and critical thinking skills through evaluation of meat products.
- Enhance meat evaluation and selection skills.
- Improve communication and decision making skills.

Description

Participants had 5 contact hours with 3 MSU faculty along with 9 industry leaders and other volunteer resource people. The contest took place on campus at the MSU Meat Laboratory.

Contestants judged seven classes including Beef Ribs, Porterhouse Steaks, Pork Hams, Pork Chops, Lamb Carcasses, Beef Carcasses and Pork Carcasses. Contestants also identified 20 retail cuts, answered 10 questions about a class and yield graded and quality graded three beef carcasses. Additionally, 4-H members gave one sets of oral reasons to defend their placing and FFA members completed a multiple choice test. By participating, contestants illustrated their ability

to evaluate carcasses and identify meats through individual and team competition.

Participants had the opportunity to score up to 640 points during the morning event. Once all contestants had concluded their reasons or test, the officials described each class in detail and announced the proper placing of the class. At that point, contestants were able to calculate their own score based on the information presented.

Official results were given for the top 5 individuals in the 4-H Junior and Senior division for overall including. The top overall teams in each division were also announced. Prizes were awarded to the champion teams and champion individuals in the 4-H divisions. Michigan Meat Association was a donor to the event and sponsored the awards.

Impacts

General Contest Impacts:

- Contestants completed the contest using a Scantron to simulate their experience at the national contest. This was the first time this has ever been done at the state contest.
- Youth were able to evaluate the carcasses of the winning animals at the Michigan Livestock Expo.

Post contest Coaches Survey Results:

- 66.6% of the responding coaches agreed or strongly agreed that as a result of the contest, contestants increased their ability to explain and defend their opinion.
- 100% of the responding coaches agreed or strongly agreed that as a result of the contest, my confidence in engaging youth in experiential, inquiry based science learning has increased.
- 100% of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the contest has an educational impact on their contestant.

Contact Information

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