

# 2023 4-H/FFA Meat Evaluation Contest



Co-Superintendent: Tanya Flowers - Ranch House Meat Company  
Co-Superintendent: Bailey Shaw - S&S Cutters  
Competition Date: **TUESDAY** - October 17, 2023  
Registration: [www.JudgingCard.com](http://www.JudgingCard.com) | (979) 575-2686 | [info@judgingcard.com](mailto:info@judgingcard.com)  
Entry Fee: \$50/team | \$20/individual (*please see team specifications below*)  
Payment: NILE Contests  
*Check or Credit Card accepted. Send payments or call with payment info* P.O. Box 1981  
Billings, MT 59103  
[livestock@thenile.org](mailto:livestock@thenile.org) | (406) 256-2495

Day of Schedule:  
7:30am-8:30am Registration - First Interstate Arena Concourse  
8:40am: Pre-contest instructions - First Interstate Arena Concourse  
9:00am: Contest Begins  
12-1pm: Lunch - Arena Concourse - Fuddruckers (*requires a pre-paid lunch ticket purchased with entry - \$9/person*)

This contest is limited to the first 32 teams entered and paid in full.  
**Entry deadline: October 3, 2023**  
Teams entries submitted at [www.JudgingCard.com](http://www.JudgingCard.com)

**Purpose:** The purpose of the Meat Evaluation Contest is to develop students' abilities to evaluate meat animal products in order to optimize economic returns to producers and industry as well as to meet the needs of the consumer. Students will learn analytical skills, critical thinking strategies, cooperation, communication skills and understanding of appropriate meat terminology. This contest is ran by the NILE and is not affiliated nor governed by Montana or National 4-H or FFA rules.

**Registration & Entry Fee:** All registrations will be submitted through JudgingCard.com. ([www.judgingcard.com](http://www.judgingcard.com)) If you have never previously registered a team through JudgingCard.com, please contact them to setup an account: [info@judgingcard.com](mailto:info@judgingcard.com) or 979.575.2686. Upon completion of your registration you will be directed to send payment for all your entries and requested lunch tickets to the NILE office.

**Entry Fee:** Due October 3, 2023. Entries for ALL teams will be \$50. Entry fee for individuals will be \$20/person. All payments of entries and requested number of lunch tickets, shall be mailed or called into the NILE office. **NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED, NO EXCEPTIONS. Entries must be paid in full PRIOR TO ARRIVAL at competition.** A Purchase Order (PO) IS NOT ACCEPTED. All entries shall be submitted through JudgingCard.com (see above).  
**NO REFUNDS AFTER October 3, 2023!**

**Maximum Entry:** A team will consist of four (4) individuals from the same 4-H county or FFA chapter. Two teams per chapter allowed (A & B). 'A' teams will take priority. FFA Jr. Team members shall be defined as members grade 10 and below, Sr. Teams will be defined as members grades 11-12 of current school year. A 4-H Junior Member will be defined as ages 8-13 and a 4-H Senior Member will be defined as members 14 years and over as of current 4-H year.

**Individuals:** Individuals enrolled in a 4-H or FFA program that have not graduated or under the age of 19, may be allowed to enter. (Not a collegiate competition) Those competing as individuals will not be eligible for team awards, but will be eligible for individual awards.

### Contest Guidelines:

- Contest may consist of a written exam, quality & yield grading, evaluation classes, keep/cull scenario, value based pricing, question classes, retail meats identification and a team activity.
  1. **Written Test:** 30-50-question written exam relating to meat storage and handling, cookery, nutrition, food safety (HACCP principles, bio-security and personal safety), processed meats, legislation and history, purchasing meat, and animal care and handling.
  2. **Quality & Yield Grading:** Students will quality & yield grade carcasses
  3. **Evaluation Classes:** Evaluation of carcasses, backfat recommendations, wholesale/subprimal cuts, retail cuts, processed meats
  4. **Keep/Cull Scenario:** Students will be given a scenario and given time to review/evaluate meat product to make selection based on information given.
  5. **Value-Based Pricing:** Students will place exhibits based on value derived from a pricing sheet based on current market values. Pricing sheet will be provided to each student.
  6. **Question Classes:** students will be asked questions from evaluation classes and given short time to review notes before providing answer.
  7. **Retail Meat Identification:** Students will identify up to 30 retail cuts. Points will be given for a correct specie identification, correct primal cut identification, correct cookery, and correct retail name.
  8. **Team Activity:** Teams will complete different scenarios that reflect and demonstrate a student's knowledge of the meat industry.
- All participants will be expected to remain in the contest until the announced hour of completion.
- Students are required to bring a #2 pencil, clipboard and calculator.
- Students will be provided blank paper, USDA grading worksheets and electronic scan form.
- Each participant is asked to compete independently and separately from other contestants or team members (*except for team activity*). No visiting during the time of judging, if found visiting the contestant will be disqualified. Any participant found with a cell phone, purses or backpacks during the contest will face automatic disqualification.
- The chaperon, advisor or leader is required to register their team, pick up judging packet and attend the leaders meeting prior to contest. The chaperon, advisor or leader must also be available to help in the contest. Coaches will also be asked to give a phone number where they can be contacted during the contest in case of emergency.

**Awards:** Results will be posted within 24 hours of the completion of the contest. All results as announced are final - all ties will be broken. Sr & Jr. FFA and Sr & Jr 4-H - Jackets to top teams in each division, plaques to teams placing second and third. Plaques to individual champions 1st through 3rd (per division).

**Questions:** For general contest questions and information please call the NILE office at 406.256.2495 or [livestock@thenile.org](mailto:livestock@thenile.org). For team entry & registration, contact [JudgingCard.com](http://JudgingCard.com) (see top of page for contact information).