



## East Region Meats Judging Contest Memo

Date: Saturday, March 21, 2026

Location: Mineola Packing Company  
906 E. Broad Street  
Mineola, Texas 75773

Check-In: 8:30 a.m.

Contest: 9:00 a.m.

Awards: Awards Presentation

**Registration.** Each participating member is required to register on 4-H Online (<https://texas.4honline.com>) and pay the \$15.00 registration fee. Registration will open on February 11, 2026 and close at midnight February 25, 2026.

**Participation.** Contestants must be active 4-H members enrolled in a Texas 4-H and Youth Development County program in District IV. Contestants must also be academically eligible (according to UIL rules) to compete on the day of the contest.

**Age.** Age divisions are determined by a participant's grade as of September 1 of the current 4-H year. Age divisions for this contest are:

Junior	Grades 3, 4, 5
Intermediate	Grades 6, 7, 8
Senior	Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

**Academic Eligibility.** According to the Texas Education Code, a 4-H member must be deemed "eligible" to compete in an event that takes place on a weekday or weekend. All 4-H youth, including youth in public, private, and/or home school must adhere to the following guidelines regarding extracurricular activities and academic eligibility:

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- Complete a "Declaration of Eligibility Form"

OR

- Name of 4-H member must appear on a list of eligible students to participate in a specific extracurricular activity signed by the school principal or designee.
- Contact your local county extension office for the process used by YOUR county.

If a 4-H member is ineligible for a 4-H competitive event, the agent must notify the 4-H member, his/her parents, and the district office, by letter/email, of this situation. If the parent has any questions, he/she should be referred to the school administrator.

\*\*\*Eligibility forms will be returned to and remain in the county offices\*\*\*

**Entries per County.** Each county may enter unlimited teams per age division listed below. The top 3 senior teams will advance to state.

**Members per Team.** Mixed aged teams of Junior and Intermediate are permitted if the county does not have enough members to complete a full team. These teams will compete in the Intermediate Age Division contest.

Senior Teams may only be comprised of Senior Age Division youth.

Youth may compete individually if their county doesn't have enough to make a team.

**Participants with Disabilities.** Any competitor who requires auxiliary aids or special accommodations must contact the District Extension Office or **Denita Young at [djyoung@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:djyoung@ag.tamu.edu)**, or note when registering on 4-H Online, at least 2 weeks before the competition to request such needs.

## Contest

- Contestants are given a set of meat that they must evaluate and score. After they have made their decision on which cut of meat is the best, they will write a set of oral reasons. It is a competitive environment to test their knowledge of the subject of meat science.

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### Equipment

- All equipment is subject to review by the contest superintendent or assistants and subject to disqualification if determined they provide an unfair advantage to the contestant.
- Each contestant will need to bring the following items to contest:
  - Hard hat
  - Frock
  - Wear closed-toe shoes
  - Dress warmly
  - Clipboard
  - #2 pencil(s)

### Electronic Devices

- Contestants will not be allowed to carry electronic devices into the contest while judging, except those devices required for medical reasons (i.e. blood sugar monitors/apps). This includes cell phones, tablets and other devices capable of transmitting information (i.e. Apple Watch or other smartphone style watch devices).
- If a contestant is caught with a cell phone or other electronic device, the contestant and their team may be disqualified.

### Communication

- The contestants will be divided into groups for the contest and will remain with the assigned group throughout the contest.
- While the contest is in progress, there shall be no communication between contestants or between a contestant and anyone else except by the Superintendent or assistants.
- If a contestant is caught communicating with other contestants, the contestants and their teams may be disqualified.

### Group Assignment Label

- Group assignment label must be placed on **upper portion of shirt**, visible always.
- Do not place label on pants, clipboard, etc.
- If a contestant is found outside of his/her properly assigned group, the contestant and their team may be disqualified.

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### Contest Area

- Contestants will remain outside of the contest area until judging classes are in place and they are asked to enter the area.
- Coaches, agents, and parents are not allowed into the judging area once the contest begins, unless allowed by the contest Superintendent.
- Following the contest, coaches, agents, and parents may be permitted into the area for officials and allowed time to review the classes with contestants, if time permits.

### Contest

- Contestants should face away from the judging class until instructed by the contest coordinator or group leader that they may turn and face the judging class. If a contestant does not cooperate with this rule, the contestant may be disqualified.
- Once time has been called and judging on all classes has been completed, contestants must immediately turn in their scan sheet / judging card to their Group Leader. Any contestant failing to turn in their scantron immediately following the end of the contest will result in no score.
- In the event of a tie, please refer to specific contest rules for the method of determining the winner.
- See the following link for specific guidelines on this contest  
<https://agrilife.org/4hmeat/texas-4-h-meat-judging-rules-guidelines/>

### Awards

- Presentation of awards will be held following tabulation of results.
- 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> places will be presented a rosette and a prize to be determined by committee.
- High point individuals in each age division will be recognized with a prize to be determined by committee.
- Entry via 4HOnline gives permission to the District office to use the participant's name and/or photograph as needed for marketing and promotion purposes.

### Qualifying for State Roundup

- The top three Senior age division teams (grades 9-12) will advance to state.
- The Texas 4-H Roundup contestant paperwork is available online at  
<https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/events/roundup/>

**Contest Superintendents.** Questions regarding the East Region Meat Judging Contest need to be directed to Kaycee Davis at [kaycee.davis@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:kaycee.davis@ag.tamu.edu) or Cherrie Curtis at [cherrie.curtis@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:cherrie.curtis@ag.tamu.edu)

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