

DATE: August 27, 2021

TO: All 4-H Swine Project Members Participating in the 4-H Carcass Hog Contest

FROM: Autumn Converse, Program Coordinator, 4-H Youth Development

RE: Important Details Regarding the Carcass Hog Contest

Thank you for your interest in participating in the 2021 4-H Carcass Hog Contest! All 4-H clubs with members enrolled in the Swine project were eligible to submit the names of up to two (2) members interested in entering a hog in the Carcass Contest, with each member ranked either 1st choice or 2nd choice to participate in the class.

Special Note: Carcass Hog Contest rules state that each club with members enrolled in the Swine Project may have one (1) entry in the contest, with a maximum of 12 total entries allowed (due to space limitations at Bontrager Custom Meat Processing). Each club was assured of having their "1st choice" member participate in the contest (unless they participated the previous year), with "2nd choice" and possibly "3rd choice" members also being provided with an opportunity to fill any of the 12 slots that remained "open" once all 1st choice members were accounted for.

2021 Contest Participants: Below are the names of the 4-H members who will be the 2021 Carcass Hog Contest participants.



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

<u>Participant Name</u>	<u>Club Represented</u>
1. Berkley Holtz	Burr Oak - Cancelled 08/30/21
2. Emily Mead	Burr Oak - Cancelled 08/31/21
3. Jared Shotzman	Rolling Clovers
4. Freddie Stears	Rolling Clovers
5. Katelyn Trattles	Burr Oak
6. Taylor Trattles	Burr Oak
7. Chaseton Wyckoff	Happy Herdsman

First Alternate:

***** 4-H Carcass Hog Contest Rules *****

The following is a review of the 4-H Carcass Contest rules. Please call me at the St. Joseph County MSU Extension office at 269/467-5511 if you have any questions regarding this information.

- If for any reason you are no longer interested in participating in the contest and/or you know in advance of the contest that your hog is not eligible to compete in the contest (by the hog being too light (under 225 lbs.) or too heavy (over 320 lbs.), *YOU* are responsible for calling the St. Joseph County MSU Extension office *IMMEDIATELY* at 269/467-5511 so that another eligible member may be given the chance to participate.**

2. **Attention!** All 4-H members participating in the Carcass Hog Contest are required to attend both the Live Hog Evaluation and the Carcass Hog Evaluation Workshop in order 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.
 3. All hogs intended for possible entry in the carcass hog class must have been tagged/weighed during the time period of June 1-15, 2021 to be eligible to compete in the contest.
 4. Market hogs entered in the carcass class **MUST** weigh a minimum of 225 lbs. and no more than 320 lbs. at weigh in for **Live Evaluation** at the fairgrounds in Centreville on Saturday, September 11, 2021 in order to be eligible to compete in the Carcass Contest. Market hogs weighing less than 225 lbs. or more than 320 lbs. are not representative of desirable market hogs being sought by today's livestock markets, and will not be eligible to compete in the Carcass Contest.
 5. **Delivery of Hogs:** All hogs to be entered in the contest **MUST** be clean and delivered to the fairgrounds in Centreville at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 11, 2021 for weigh-in. The Live Hog Evaluation process will begin at 3:00 p.m. **Note:** "Live Evaluation" involves visually examining a given live animal, and correlating its body conformation and visible "muscling" to the expected yield of lean meat from the carcass. Each hog entered in the contest will be ranked according to its "live evaluation" score for purposes of comparing this ranking to the ranking of the carcass based on percent muscle (lean meat).
 6. Arrangements have already been made to transport the hogs to **Bontrager Custom Meat Processing**, Leonidas, MI where the hogs will be slaughtered and prepared for evaluation by the judge on Tuesday, September 14.
 7. The **Carcass Hog Evaluation Workshop** will take place on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. at Bontrager Custom Meat Processing.
 8. Each participant in the Carcass Hog Contest will be responsible for arranging for "private treaty" sale of his/her hog before it is trucked to the fairgrounds on Sunday, September 8 for live evaluation. **Exception:** The Champion and Reserve Champion carcasses **MUST** be sold in the 4-H Large Animal Sale on Thursday, September 23, 2021. Therefore, when making arrangement for "private treaty" sale of a hog, the member needs to be sure that his/her buyer understands that the carcass will be sold in the Large Animal Sale if it wins any of these honors. **Note:** This same sale procedure is also being used with the Carcass Steer Contest, Carcass Lamb Contest, and the Carcass Goat Contest.
 9. 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 hog slaughter (TBD) and processing costs (**hanging weight = TBD, smoking/curing = TBD**).
 10. Complete two (2) copies of the **4-H Carcass Hog Processing Information Sheet** which can be found at https://www.canr.msu.edu/st_joseph/4-h/4_h_fair#carcass. Work with your carcass buyer to fill out both sheets, then leave one copy with the buyer, and turn in the other copy when you check in your hog at the fairgrounds on Saturday, September 11.
- ❖ **"Thank You" Note For Contest Support:** Each member who exhibits a hog in the carcass contest is required to write a "thank you" letter **Bontrager Custom Meat Processing** (see address below) to thank this business for the vital role it plays in making the 4-H Carcass Hog Contest possible.
 - "Thank you" note must include complete donor address, your return address and must be affixed with a **\$0.58** 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 25.
 - ❖ **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.

Mailing Address: Bontrager Custom Meat Processing
c/o Willie Bontrager
53541 Correll Rd.
Leonidas, MI 49066

AC/tb

Cc: Bontrager Custom Meat Processing