April 21, 2021

To: Extension Agents, FFA Instructors, and coaches

From: Katherine E. Carter, Assistant Specialist, Youth Livestock Programs
       Dr. Bain Wilson, Assistant Professor, Extension Specialist, and B & B Club Advisor

RE: 2021 Block & Bridle Club Meat Evaluation Contest

The Block & Bridle Club at Virginia Tech has elected to hold their 2021 Meat Judging contest via a VIRTUAL format from Wednesday, May 5th to Sunday, May 9th. Contestants will complete electronically using a laptop, desktop computer, tablet or iPad. Mobile devices such as cellphones may be used, but we cannot confirm the ability of those devices to show the full scope of classes and contest materials.

The contest platform will open at 8:00 am on Wednesday, May 5th and close automatically at 5:00 pm on Sunday, May 9th.

As the contest delivery mode has changed for 2021, please read this letter carefully to make sure you understand the technology requirements, additional divisions, and contest logistics.

There is no limit to the number of teams a unit or chapter can enter in any contest. Out-of-state teams and individuals are allowed to compete.

**Contestant Eligibility** - All contestants must be enrolled in either the 4-H unit or FFA chapter that they represent in these contests. Contestant eligibility will be verified using 4HOnline and the State FFA enrollment records for all contestants. This will be the Virginia State Contest for 4-H and FFA members. The contest will be broken into separate 4-H and FFA divisions. Youth are allowed to dual enter and compete in both the 4-H and FFA divisions. This will require youth to complete additional components as required by one or both divisions.

- Junior 4-H contestants are youth who have not had their 14th birthday prior to January 1, 2021 and also includes youth who will turn 9 years old by September 30, 2021.
- Senior 4-H contestants are youth who turned 14 years of age prior to January 1, 2021 and have not had their 19th birthday prior to January 1, 2021.
- Junior FFA contestants are youth who are currently enrolled in grades 6, 7, 8, or 9.
- Senior FFA contestants are youth who are currently enrolled in grades 9, 10, 11, or 12.

**Contest Proctor** – The contest must be proctored, for every contestant or group of contestants, by a non-parent, non-coach adult. The “Request for Proctor Approval” form can be found at this link [https://tinyurl.com/RequestforProctor21Meats](https://tinyurl.com/RequestforProctor21Meats) and must be completed and on file for every team and/or contestant. There is the option for listing multiple participants/form/proctor. Suggestions for proctors include, but may not be limited to:
a. Unit 4-H or ANR Extension Agent that does not have responsibility for coaching the team/youth participants.
b. Another teacher in the same school or school system that does not have responsibility for coaching the team/youth participants.
c. An enrolled 4-H volunteer or FFA Alumni that the Unit Agent or FFA Advisor will verify does not have coaching affiliation or responsibility for the team/youth participants.
d. Other individuals as deemed appropriate and approved by the contest management.
e. Team Rosters and contest links will NOT be sent until a “Request for Proctor Approval” form is received electronically and approved.

Proctors will be responsible for insuring that there is no communication between contestants, no outside resources (written, electronic, or person) are utilized during the completion of the contest, contestants are seated far enough apart that answers cannot be shared, and the contest is completed with honesty and integrity.

**Consistent WiFi/Internet Access** – Contestants must have access to consistent WiFi and strong enough internet access to be able to access the contest platform. Should there be concerns or questions about access, please direct those questions to Katherine Carter at carterke@vt.edu. There will be short video footage of some of the classes, so the ability to open and stream those videos is necessary. A test video will be made available prior to the contest opening date so contestants can check to make sure they have adequate bandwidth at their testing location. It is recommended that contestants run the test video at a similar time of day as they plan to complete the contest. Internet strength and availability can be affected by the number of users in one location or general geographic area.

**Entry Fees** - The entry fee is $6 per individual for all contest divisions. **Entries are due no later than Friday, April 30th at 5:00 PM. Late entries will not be accepted.** Entry fees must be postmarked by Friday, April 30th or payment processing request emailed by Friday, April 30th. **Preferred method of payment is Credit Card via Square at this link:** [http://block-and-bridle-club-at-virginia-tech.square.site/](http://block-and-bridle-club-at-virginia-tech.square.site/).

Additional acceptable forms of payment are:
- Personal, business, or school check made payable to: Virginia Tech Block and Bridle Club
- VT Hokiemart or VA 4-H Foundation Check made payable to: VT Block & Bridle Club
- Copy of your VT Hokiemart PO Paperwork
- Copy of your VA 4-H Foundation Payment Request
- Please contact Jessica Dotson at ejessica@vt.edu for account information or payment questions

**Entry Forms** - Contest entries must be submitted online using the following link: [https://tinyurl.com/2021-4H-FFA-State-Meats](https://tinyurl.com/2021-4H-FFA-State-Meats)

Directions for how to complete the entry form and what information you will need to provide are included at the beginning of the form.
All contest divisions and all contestant information will be submitted at this one link. Please have the following information available for each contestant prior to beginning the entry process:

- Name
- Date of Birth
- Current Academic Grade (required for FFA youth)
- Any Assistive Services Requested (reader, interpreter, etc.)

Youth will be assigned to teams the week of the contest. Coaches will receive an email confirming entered/eligible youth names and asked to designate team members at that time.

The link to the entry forms will also be posted to the Block and Bridle Club’s website: https://vtblockandbridle.wixsite.com/vtblockandbridle, the Virginia Youth Livestock Website https://ext.vt.edu/4h-youth/youth-livestock.html, and on the Virginia Youth Livestock Programs Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/vayouthlivestock/

**Mailing Entry Forms - Please print and mail a hard copy of the Qualtrics form to:**
Block and Bridle Club at Virginia Tech  
Attn: Alex Kinsey - Meat Judging Contests  
175 West Campus Drive, Blacksburg, VA 24061  

You must submit the online Qualtrics form AND mail a hard copy of the completed form. This will help us confirm entries.

**Contest Details** - Quiz material will come from the Meat Science and Food Safety Microsoft PowerPoint found at: http://store.icevonline.com/Meat-Science-Food-Safety_p_737.html. Please be aware that you must order the PowerPoint from CEV and the cost is $125.00.

1) **The contest will be conducted virtually** using Flexiquiz for contest content and e-sheet Scantrons for submitting answers. No answers will be recorded in Flexiquiz – it will only supply contest content.

2) **The contest must be completed start to finish in one sitting.** There will not be the option to begin, save and continue, and finish at a later time. Contestants should allow at least 2 ½ hours to complete – but this will vary depending on individual work styles and how the contest is delivered (individually or in a group setting).

3) **Meats Judging Contestant Responses** - Contestants will complete an e-sheet Scantron form for all contest responses. This includes quiz, placings for judging classes, answers to questions, retail cut identification, and all the additional classes that are only in the FFA contest. Please familiarize your contestants with this form. The form is available at: https://www.judgingcard.com/ScanSheets/samples/480-4-Meats.pdf. Contestants may use either a printout of the Scantron form or the provided contestant scoresheet that resembles the Scantron form to record their contest response while viewing the classes. Contestants will be provided with a link to access the e-sheet scantron, at the conclusion of the contest. Contestants will transfer their answers to the e-sheet and submit electronically.
4) **Senior 4-H contestants will record a reasons video and submit electronically** using Google Forms. The link will be provided at the end of the contest platform. Reasons uploads are due within 30 minutes of submitting your e-sheet.

Previous contest materials and the Scantron form can be found on the 4-H Youth Livestock Program website at: [https://ext.vt.edu/4h-youth/youth-livestock/competitions/meat-contest-info.html](https://ext.vt.edu/4h-youth/youth-livestock/competitions/meat-contest-info.html).

Classes in the judging portion of the contest can come from the following but are not limited to:
- Beef, pork, or lamb carcasses
- Wholesale cuts of beef, pork, or lamb
  - Including but not limited to: Ribs, loins, chucks, rounds, strips, and hams
- Retail Cuts of beef, pork or lamb

**FFA Contest** - Description of contest format, examples, contest materials, etc. are available in the Virginia CDE guides for the senior ([https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/4e58fc_2e3f0108a6b5475aad13972d1079e4ba.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/4e58fc_2e3f0108a6b5475aad13972d1079e4ba.pdf)) and junior ([https://6866ef7c-009f-47ab-a1b0-a7a6d943036f.filesusr.com/ugd/4e58fc_700439c6410f407294b6d3a7a394fd6b.pdf](https://6866ef7c-009f-47ab-a1b0-a7a6d943036f.filesusr.com/ugd/4e58fc_700439c6410f407294b6d3a7a394fd6b.pdf)) contests. Contestants may be required to complete the beef grading portion of this contest on paper based on provided carcass measurements as enough beef carcasses may not be available.

The National FFA Meat Evaluation and Technology CDE employs a **four-person team** format with no drop score, and therefore our state FFA meat judging contest will follow that system.

**National Contest Participation** – The high Virginia team in the senior 4-H division will be invited to compete at the National 4-H Meat Judging Contest. That will be held at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas in October. Information about past 4-H contests and background material useful in training and preparing teams can be found at the American Meat Science Association website at: [http://www.meatscience.org/students/meat-judging-program/national-4-h-meat-judging](http://www.meatscience.org/students/meat-judging-program/national-4-h-meat-judging).

The high Virginia senior FFA team will be eligible to compete at the National FFA convention in Indianapolis in October. Details of that event can be found on the national FFA website.
Summary of Meat Judging Contest Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Junior Contestants</th>
<th>Senior Contestants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Identification</td>
<td>15 Cuts</td>
<td>30 Cuts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiz</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judging</td>
<td>5 or 6 Classes</td>
<td>4 Classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Questions on Judging</td>
<td>2 Classes</td>
<td>2 Classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Reasons</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>1 set</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>4-H Contest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FFA Contest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identification</td>
<td>15 Cuts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiz</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judging</td>
<td>5 or 6 Classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Questions on Judging</td>
<td>2 Classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beef Quality and Yield Grading</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carcass Order Fulfillment</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formulation Problem</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Contest Chairs**

Bailey Carpenter, baileyc4@vt.edu  
Alex Kinsey, alexk0017@vt.edu

**Contest Entry and Eligibility Questions**

Katherine Carter, carterke@vt.edu, 540-231-2257  
Dr. Bain Wilson, tbwilson@vt.edu, 540-231-5253

**Contest schedule**

Friday, April 30th  5:00 PM  Entries due. Postmark/email or credit card payment deadline for all contest entry fees or proof of payment processing.

Wednesday, May 5th  8:00 AM  Contest links open

Sunday, May 9th  5:00 PM  Contest links close

**Wednesday, May 12th**  7:00 PM  Contest Awards Ceremony, Live via Zoom. Official class placings and cuts will be released on or before this date.