

4-H Meats Judging Contest

COLUMBIA, Mo. – The University of Missouri Extension 4-H State Meats Judging contest on Feb. 25 drew 55 competing 4-H members, said Shane Potter, MU Extension 4-H youth development specialist.

Working in partnership with the MU Collegiate Meats Judging Team, the contestants were provided an opportunity to develop and hone their judging skills, and explore future career and educational options.

Youth involved with the meat judging program develop key life skills to aid in their future career success. “Through involvement in a 4-H judging team members must make rapid, logical decisions and defend their decisions via oral reasons. Therefore, students improve their ability for critical thinking and accurate communication. In addition, students become organized and self-disciplined, learn to accept criticism, develop self-confidence and become leaders,” said Potter. Alumni from the program have reported success in the meat judging competition has translated to employment opportunities, internships and scholarships.

The 2017 contest included two age divisions: Junior for ages 8 – 13 and Senior for ages 14 – 18.

The top 10 junior competitors were Rose Quinn of Monroe City, first; Elliot Glass of Saint Clair, second; Alaina Link of Moberly, third; Addie Thomas of Weatherby, fourth; Eli Grusenmeyer of Smithville, fifth; Lyndsey Conley of Parkville, sixth; Kiley Braun of Kansas City, seventh; Ava Louise Ploch of Labadie, eighth; Alena Nix of Villa Ridge, ninth and Paisley Nelson of Platte City, 10th. The top three junior teams represented the following counties: Platte-Green Team, first; Monroe, second; and Franklin-White Team, third.

In the senior division, the top 10 individuals were Rory James of Columbia, first; Truman Byergo of Dearborn, second; Will Crain of Monroe City, third; Anne Marie Quinn of Monroe City, fourth; Quincy Wiegand of Cairo, fifth; Emma Rose Ploch of Labadie, sixth; Lilly Nix of Villa Ridge and Bethany Conley of Parkville, tied for seventh; Kellen Glass of Saint Clair, ninth; and Toby Taylor of Kansas City, 10th. The top three senior teams represented the following counties: Monroe, first; Platte, second; and Franklin-Green Team, third.

The members of the championship team from Monroe County will advance to the National 4-H Meats Judging Contest held in the fall as part of the American Royal.

To find out more information or to join 4-H please visit 4h.missouri.edu.