

**DATE:** August 15, 2024

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

**FROM:** Kayla Mitchell - 4-H Youth Development Program Coordinator

**RE:** Important Details Regarding the Carcass Hog Contest

Thank you for your interest in participating in the 2024 4-H Carcass Hog Contest!

**2024 Contest Participants:** Below are the names of the 4-H members who will be the 2024 Carcass Hog Contest participants.

**Participant Name**

1. Noah Noga
2. Carter Oswald
3. Katelyn Trattles
4. ~~Jade Sechler~~
5. Rebekah Klein
6. Freddie Stears
7. Luke Frost
8. ~~Madelyn Oswald~~
9. ~~Tucker Davis~~
10. Sidney Torrey Long
11. Miley Holden
12. Cooper Stears
13. Taylor Trattles



**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](http://www.canr.msu.edu/st_joseph)

**Alternates (in order of eligibility):**

1. ~~Lyza Oswald~~
2. Sullivan Elliott
3. Makenna Holden
4. Elsa Frost
5. Mason Girdley
6. Ellyn Oswald
7. Matthew Byler
8. Luke Klein
9. Oakley Cupp
10. Zoey Baker

**\*\*\* 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.

1. If for any reason you are no longer able to or 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 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 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 at the fairgrounds in Centreville on Saturday, September 7, 2024 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 from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 7, 2024 for weigh-in.
  6. Arrangements have already been made to transport the hogs to **Bontrager's Custom Meat Processing**, Leonidas, MI where the hogs will be slaughtered and prepared for evaluation by the judge on Tuesday, September 10.
  7. The **Carcass Hog Evaluation Workshop** will take place on Tuesday, September 10, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at Bontrager's Custom Meat Processing, 53541 Correll Rd., Leonidas, MI 49066.
  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 Saturday, September 7 for live evaluation. **Exception:** The Champion and Reserve Champion carcasses **MUST** be sold in the 4-H Large Animal Sale on Thursday, September 19, 2024. Therefore, when making arrangements 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 either 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 and processing costs.
  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](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 7.
- ❖ **“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's 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 **\$0.73** 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 15.
- ❖ **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 21.
- ❖ **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

Cc: Bontrager Custom Meat Processing