

M-P 4-H Does Well At State Meat Judging Contest

Illinois 4-H members demonstrated their knowledge of meat science and evaluation at the 2026 Illinois 4-H State Meat Judging Contest held March 6 at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Meat Science Laboratory in Urbana. A total of 56 4-H members representing 18 counties competed in the fifth annual statewide event.

The contest was hosted in partnership with the University of Illinois Meat Science program and the University of Illinois Meat Judging Team. The event concluded with an awards banquet sponsored by Illinois Pork Producers, where awards provided by the Illinois Meat Science Laboratory and Illinois Farm Bureau were presented.

Participants demonstrated their understanding of meat evaluation and identification, skills developed through months of preparation under the guidance of volunteer coaches. Many competitors also participated in the Illinois Youth Meat Judging Series in the months leading up to the contest. The hands-on educational series, coordinated by the Illinois Association of Meat Processors and the University of Illinois Meat Judging Team, is designed to spark interest in meat judging and build foundational industry knowledge.

"We are incredibly proud of the students from Illinois who choose to participate in the State 4-H Meat Judging Contest," said Elli Burris, Illinois Meat Judging coach and instructor. "I firmly believe that this contest greatly better their critical thinking, communication, and quick decision-making skills - skills that are incredibly vital as they grow and develop outside the classroom."

In the junior division, the top individual was Corben Strand of Henry-Stark County. Other top junior individuals included Ava

Faber of Livingston County, Eli Faber of Livingston County, Carter Keller of Marshall-Putnam County, Isaac Mackinson of Livingston County, Hunter Heckman of Marshall-Putnam County, Raylen Campbell of Marshall-Putnam County, Chloe Jae Schmidt of Stephenson County, Tanner Dwyer of Henry-Stark County, and Garren Boelens of Henry-Stark County.

The top junior teams were Livingston County in first place, followed by Henry-Stark County and Marshall-Putnam County. In the senior division, Reed Tharp of Jasper County earned top individual honors. Other top senior individuals included Brogan Keltner of Stephenson County, Maleigha Blunier of Marshall-Putnam County, Adam Weber of

Jasper County, Kyle Kocher of Richland County, Audrey Elliott of Jasper County, Lindley Burns of Mercer County, Owen Kocher of Richland County, Isabelle Probst of Jasper County, and Lane Kocher of Marshall-Putnam County.

Marshall-Putnam County placed first in the senior team competition, followed by Jasper County and Richland County.

The Illinois 4-H State Meat Judging Contest provides youth with hands-on opportunities to build decision-making, evaluation, and communication skills while exploring careers in agriculture and food systems. To learn more about 4-H opportunities, call University of Illinois Extension at 217-244-5812 or email Shasta Hladovcak at shlad@illinois.edu.



Members of the Marshall-Putnam 4-H Senior Meats Judging Team at the Illinois 4-H State Meat Judging Contest. From left: Cooper Hattan, Lane Kocher, and Maleigha Blunier. Photo by Carissa Nelson



Junior Division team members at the Illinois 4-H State Meat Judging Contest. Pictured (l-r): Davin Cioni, Hunter Heckman, Karson Actis, Chase Hattan, Carter Keller, and Raylen Campbell. Photo by Carissa Nelson



Whole ♦ Halves ♦ Quarters
Ribeye ♦ T-Bone ♦ Hamburger

Home Phone (309) 248-7355
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March Events

Lacon Area Community Center

March 18-Wed.	11:00 am 1:00 pm 6:00 pm	Lutheran Church Service Sparland Baptist Bible Study Card Players (call for more info.)
March 21-Sat.	10:00 am	Creative Memories
March 23-Mon.	9:00 am	Luminous Unveiled Homeschool Co-op
March 25-Wed.	11:00 am 6:00 pm	Lutheran Church Service Card Players (call for more info.)
March 30-Mon.	9:00 am	Luminous Unveiled Homeschool Co-op

For more information about any of these programs, other activities and building rental use, please contact us: (309)246-4050 Laconcommunitycenter@gmail.com or find us on Facebook.

Egg My Yard

SPONSORED BY MHS STUDENT COUNCIL

MHS STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBERS WILL COME TO YOUR HOUSE AFTER 7 PM. (PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL ANIMALS ARE INSIDE)

Please let us know how old the kids are and if there are any known allergies.

EGGING DATE: SATURDAY, APRIL 4

EMAIL: MCRAWLEY@MIDLAND-7.NET
OR CALL 309-463-8007 TO SET UP A DELIVERY

BRONZE \$25 25 Eggs 1 Golden Egg	SILVER \$35 35 Eggs 2 Golden Eggs	GOLD \$50 50 Eggs 3 Golden Eggs
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ALL EGGS COME PRE-FILLED
EACH ORDER COMES WITH A NOTE FROM THE EASTER BUNNY!

Reserve your spot by March 18, 2026

PUBLIC AUCTION

REAL ESTATE ♦ ANTIQUES ♦ PERSONAL PROPERTY

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

10:00 a.m.

1011 School St., Henry, IL 61537



OPEN HOUSE:
TUESDAY, MARCH 24
2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

This classic early century 2-story home sits on a 2 large corner lots in established neighborhood. Has 3 bedrooms, 2 baths and a newer family room/bedroom addition. Also a partial basement. Generac Generator too.


OWNER: MARJORIE (NIGHSONGER) SPANGLER

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