

Program Overview

Fall Semester #1: Students begin learning the basics of meat judging and how to evaluate:

- beef, pork, and lamb carcasses
- beef and pork wholesale cuts
- beef, pork, and lamb retail cuts
- poultry carcasses
- processed meats
- specifications

Significant time is spent learning terminology, how to take notes on classes, and how to use those notes to write reasons. Evaluating product in the cooler is coupled with videos and pictures used in the classroom.

Spring Semester: Students officially begin their judging careers by participating in national contests and traveling to the American Meat Science Association Student Leadership Conference.

Fall Semester #2: Contests resume and the team continues competing in four national contests. The season concludes at *The International* - the national championship.

Due to our affiliation with a number of meat processing plants and other university meat laboratories, travel to these sites to evaluate product provides extra opportunities to interact with industry professionals and personnel at other universities.

Contests

Intercollegiate meat judging contests are supported by the American Meat Science Association (AMSA). Policies for these contests are managed by the Intercollegiate Meat Coaches Association (IMCA). The Iowa State University Department of Animal Science fully supports the meat judging program and provides scholarships each semester to the young men and women who represent the department at meat judging contests.



Contact

194 Meat Laboratory
Ames, IA 50011
515.294.5310
moffice@iastate.edu



Meats Judging at Iowa State University; Iowa State University Meats Judging

Iowa State University Intercollegiate Meat Judging Team

Developing future leaders for the livestock and meat industries.

Find your place in the livestock and meat industries!

Meat judging will help you begin acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary to have a successful and fulfilling career while representing ISU at the highest levels.

We believe in team members that strive to do their best inside the coolers, the classrooms, and in life. If you want a career in agriculture, to make life-long friends in a family atmosphere, and push yourself further than you thought possible, we want and need you on our team.



Shelby Deaton-Maher

Burke Corp.

"Being involved in the ISU Meat Judging program was the single most rewarding part of my college career. You're getting the opportunity to network with industry professionals and build a brand for yourself before you start your career. I would not be where I am today if it wasn't for this program and what it had to offer to better myself as a young professional. You not only develop skills like time management, decision making, and teamwork, but you'll develop lifelong friendships and mentors that will continuously build your network in this industry well after your college career."

"Looking back at my four years at Iowa State, being a part of the meats judging program is the only thing that got me where I am today. It not only taught many skills in evaluating meat products but also gave me many valuable skills such as time management, organization, and decision making. Being on the judging team helped me gain connections within the industry and be given a high respect for what the program does. Industry professionals know how well rounded the individuals are that participate in the Iowa State Meats Judging Program and are looking to hire them after graduation."



Darin Koch

Upper Iowa Beef

"Whenever asked about my time spent on the ISU Meat Judging Team, my first response is that joining the team was the single best decision I ever made throughout my collegiate career. My time spent in the cooler set me up for success in my career today, granting me the opportunity to connect with and better serve livestock producers in areas I otherwise would not be able to. It is my advice to all students to just take a chance on meat judging if they have an interest, because what you gain from the experience is truly invaluable."



Gabby DiRusso

Elanco Animal Health

Team Members

Students who participate in meat judging are highly regarded by livestock and meat industry personnel and representatives of universities across the country and internationally. Communication, evaluation, and personal development skills mastered by meat judges are highly valued when applying for internships and establishing careers. It is not uncommon to find alumni judges in other careers such as academia, law or medicine.

