



2026 DISTRICT 5 MEAT JUDGING & IDENTIFICATION

Students are given a set of meat that they must evaluate and score. After they have made their decision of which cut of meat is the best, they will write a set of oral reasons. It is a competitive environment to test their knowledge of the subject of meat science.

Date

Saturday, March 21, 2026

Location

Mineola Packing Company
906 E. Broad Street
Mineola, Texas 75773

Entry

Enter on 4HOnline **individually** and county teams will be formed of three to four members of the same 4-H age division.

- Mixed aged teams of Junior and Intermediate ARE permitted if the county does not have enough members to complete a full team. These teams will compete in the Intermediate age division.
- In addition, youth may compete individually if their county does not fill a team.
- Senior teams may only be comprised of senior age division youth.
- Enter individually on 4HOnline beginning **January 5, 2026** at <https://texas.4honline.com>
- Fee - \$25 per contestant
- Late Entry Fee - \$50 per contestant

NEW! EAST REGION 4-H

MEAT JUDGING & IDENTIFICATION

Judge the quality and retail value of meat

NEW LOCATION | MARCH 21, 2026
MINEOLA PACKING COMPANY
906 E BROAD ST
MINEOLA, TEXAS 75773

Register on 4-H Online \$25
January 5 - February 26
texas.v2.4honline.com

Late Registration \$50
February 27-March 22
4-H members 3rd - 12th grades

District 5 Rules D54h.tamu.edu
Contact your local County Extension office for more information

If you need any type of accommodation to participate in this program or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact Carolyn Walton at 903-834-6191 by February 26, 2026. The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
1710 N Hwy 3053 | PO Box 200 | Overton, Texas 75684
Tel. 903.834.6191 | Fax 903.834.7140
www.texas4-h.tamu.edu

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District Deadlines

- Registration on 4HOnline, entry materials emailed and county approval by **February 26, 2026**
- Late entry – **February 27-March 2, 2026** (late fees apply)

Entry Divisions (grade by September 1, 2025)

- Junior Grades 3, 4, and 5
- Intermediate Grades 6, 7, and 8
- Senior Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12

Special Accommodations

- Any competitor who requires auxiliary aids or special accommodations must contact the District office at least 2 weeks before the competition or note such needs when registering on 4HOnline.

Tentative Schedule

- 8:30 a.m. Registration/Check-in
- 9:00 a.m. Contest Begins
- 2:00 p.m. Awards Presentation – location to be announced.

New!

Adult Attendance

- A parent/guardian/or designated adult, over age 18, must remain on the premises the entire time of the event (other 4-H youth cannot be classified as a designated adult of a minor, regardless of their age).
- The name of the designated adult will need to be provided when registering in 4HOnline and he/she will need to sign-in at the check-in desk with youth participant.
- The ratio of 1 adult to 8 youth is required for this Program for Minors as required by the Texas A&M University System.

New!

Event Paperwork

- All participants (4-H youth contestants, volunteers, agents) in attendance will be required to complete a Health and Safety Statement form.
- You may complete this form by downloading and printing during 4HOnline registration, printing from the District 5 website <https://d54-h.tamu.edu>, or completing it on-site at the check-in desk. Incomplete paperwork will not be accepted. **Every box/line must be completed with the designated information or filled with Not Applicable.**

Equipment

- All equipment is subject to review by the contest superintendent or assistants and subject to disqualification if determined they provide an unfair advantage to the contestant.
- Each contestant will need to bring the following items to contest:
 - Hard hat
 - Frock
 - Wear closed toe shoes
 - Dress warmly
 - Clipboard
 - #2 pencil(s)

Electronic Devices

- Contestants will not be allowed to carry electronic devices into the contest while judging, except those devices required for medical reasons (i.e. blood sugar monitors/apps). This includes cell phones, tablets and other devices capable of transmitting information (i.e. Apple Watch or other smartphone style watch devices).
- If a contestant is caught with a cell phone or other electronic device, the contestant and their team may be disqualified.

Communication

- The contestants will be divided into groups for the contest and will remain with the assigned group throughout the contest.
- While the contest is in progress, there shall be no communication between contestants or between a contestant and anyone else except by the Superintendent or assistants.
- If a contestant is caught communicating with other contestants, the contestants and their teams may be disqualified.

Group Assignment Label

- Group assignment label must be placed on **upper portion of shirt**, visible always.
- Do not place label on pants, clipboard, etc.
- If a contestant is found outside of his/her properly assigned group, the contestant and their team may be disqualified.

Contest Area

- Contestants will remain outside of the contest area until judging classes are in place and they are asked to enter the area.
- Coaches, agents, and parents are not allowed into the judging area once the contest begins, unless allowed by the contest Superintendent.
- Following the contest, coaches, agents, and parents may be permitted into the area for officials and allowed time to review the classes with contestants, if time permits.

Contest

- Contestants should face away from the judging class until instructed by the contest coordinator or group leader that they may turn and face the judging class. If a contestant does not cooperate with this rule, the contestant may be disqualified.
- Once time has been called and judging on all classes has been completed, contestants must immediately turn in their scan sheet / judging card to their Group Leader. Any contestant failing to turn in their scantron immediately following the end of the contest will result in no score.
- In the event of a tie, please refer to specific contest rules for the method of determining the winner.
- See the following link for specific guidelines on this contest <https://agrillife.org/4hmeat/texas-4-h-meat-judging-rules-guidelines/>

Awards

- Presentation of awards will be held following tabulation of results.
- 1st – 3rd places will be presented a rosette and a prize to be determined by committee.
- High point individuals in each age division will be recognized with a prize to be determined by committee.
- Entry via 4HOnline gives permission to the District office to use the participant's name and/or photograph as needed for marketing and promotion purposes.

Qualifying for State Roundup

- The top three Senior age division teams (grades 9-12) will advance to state.
- The Texas 4-H Roundup contestant paperwork is available online at <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/events/roundup/>