

TO: Meat Processors

FROM: Brandon Klehm, Outreach Coordinator, University of Illinois

DATE: October 5, 2020

SUBJECT: 2020 Illini Meat Judging Team Product Show

Due to the 2020 Illinois State Fair having been cancelled, the Illini Meat Judging team is looking to show off what Illinois Processors have to offer! Fire up those smokehouses and bring your A-game as we sift through hams, bacon, snack sticks, beef jerky, and smoked/cooked brats for the best-of-the-best.

We will be evaluating product from the same five classes from last year's state fair, including the newly added smoked/cooked brats category, along with: commercial bone-in ham, commercial bacon, snack sticks, and beef jerky. Competition is open to all meat processors who process hams, bacon, smoked/cooked brats, snack sticks, and beef jerky. Exhibitors are limited to one entry per class, and all entries must be properly labeled.

- Hams can be of any weight and will consist of one class only -- light cured, commercial bone-in style:---This class shall be a mildly cured ham, may or may not be tenderized, and consists principally of pumped hams which require refrigeration.
- Commercial bacon can be of any weight and will likewise consist of only one class. They can have the rind either on or off, but must be cured or smoked.
- Beef jerky may be made from any cut of **beef**. All jerky must be adequately dried, to meet the required moisture/protein ratio of 75:1 or less. Excessively "wet" product will be downgraded or disqualified. Jerky must be made from one whole piece of meat. One half pound of jerky is required for submission.
- Snack sticks must be made from beef, pork, buffalo, lamb, veal, poultry, seafood or any combination of those. This product must be a traditional type meat snack stick and cannot contain specialty non-meat ingredients or flavorings.
- Smoked/cooked brats must be fully cooked. May contain additional ingredients. Additional ingredients will be subject to judging of distribution and uniformity (i.e. cheese and it's evenly distributed throughout the product).

**All entry forms must be submitted by Monday October 26<sup>th</sup> to allow for scheduling pickup during that week.**

Judging will take place at the University of Illinois Meat Science Laboratory at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 31, 2020. The Champion Ham, Bacon, Snack Sticks, Beef Jerky, and Smoked/Cooked Brat will be announced over social media on Monday November 2<sup>nd</sup>, and each winner will receive a plaque.

I hope you plan to participate and make the 2020 Illini Meat Judging Team Product Show! If you have never entered the Illinois State Fair Product Show, please feel free to contact me **(217-300-8128)** concerning rules and standards for the evaluation of products entered in the four classes.

Brandon Klehm



**2020 ILLINI MEAT JUDGIN TEAM PRODUCT SHOW**  
**HAM, BACON, COOKED or SMOKED BRATS, SNACK STICKS, AND BEEF JERKY ENTRY FORM**

Entries will be picked up by Brandon Klehm or Dianne Handsaker during the week of October 26<sup>th</sup>. Please indicate below the earliest when our product can be ready for pickup.

I plan to enter a:

Ham	Bacon	Smoked/Cooked Brats	Snack Sticks	Beef Jerky
It will be ready for pickup by October... _____				

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_