

TO: Meat Processors

FROM: Brandon Klehm, Outreach Coordinator, University of Illinois

DATE: July 1, 2021

SUBJECT: 2021 Illinois State Fair Bone-in Ham, Bacon, Snack Sticks, Beef Jerky, and Smoked/Cooked Brat Show

The 2021 Illinois State Fair is just around the corner and we are 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 have five classes this year with 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).

The meat display will be at the Illinois Department of Agriculture Display tent east of the coliseum again this year. Additional cooler space is available this year, so we need your participation to "fill" the coolers. The meats display will include the Illinois State Fair competition entries, winners of the 2020 IAMP Product Show (held in Effingham, Illinois), a variety of retail products, a display board of the 2020 Innovative contest winners, and a map of IAMP operator members. All products (competition and display products) must be at Turasky's by Noon on Wednesday, August 11. The entry form will be due Thursday August 5, 2021.

Judging will take place at the Illinois Department of Agriculture Tent at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 14, 2021. **Each plant that enters a product in the Processed Meat Show will be eligible to bring two specialty products to display in the meats display during the Illinois State Fair. The specialty products should be packaged for display as if they were in your own plant. The products will be displayed in one of the refrigerated coolers and should be able to maintain shelf life for the entire duration of the fair.** A Commodities Auction will be held for the winners of each category on Tuesday, August 17th at 4:00 p.m. in the Coliseum. The Champion Ham, Bacon, Snack Sticks, Beef Jerky, and Smoked/Cooked Brat will be sold at the Auction with proceeds going to the Sleeter Bull Scholarship Fund, a fund designed to aid the study of meat science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

I hope you plan to participate and make the 2021 Illinois State Fair Show the largest and most successful to date! 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. **If you need help transporting your products, please contact myself (217-300-8128) or Dianne Handsaker (815-443-2492).**

We will see you there! -
Brandon Klehm



**2021 ILLINOIS STATE FAIR
HAM, BACON, COOKED or SMOKED BRATS, SNACK STICKS, AND BEEF JERKY ENTRY FORM**

Entries may be delivered to Turasky Meats, 1129 Taintor Lane, Springfield, IL 62702. The plant is located on Illinois Highway 4, north of the Fairgrounds, just east of Gate 6. Please deliver your products to Turasky Meats by **NOON on Wednesday, August 11th NO EXCEPTIONS. If you need help transporting your products, please contact Dianne Handsaker (815-443-2492) or Brandon Klehm (217-300-8128).**

I plan to enter a:

Ham	Bacon	Smoked/Cooked Brats	Snack Sticks	Beef Jerky

...in the Illinois State Fair.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Social Security No.: _____

Hometown Newspaper(s) _____

Address: _____

Complete, remove lower portion, tape or staple, stamp and return by **August 5, 2021** or email your entry to **Brandon Klehm bklehm2@illinois.edu**

**Brandon Klehm
205 Meat Science Laboratory
1503 South Maryland Drive
Urbana, IL 61801**