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Market Animal Show & Sale
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2/24/2021

TO: Market Animal Show Exhibitors and Families
FROM: John Benner, Animal Science Extension
SUBJECT: 2021 Market Animal Show Ultrasound Carcass Contest

Dear Exhibitors and Families,

2021 will mark the fifth year for the Market Animal Show Ultrasound Carcass Contest. After not being able to hold the carcass contest in 2020 we are hopeful to resume this tradition again this year. In 2019, we had an impressive participation in the contest with 94 lambs, 83 hogs and 73 steers entered. Please consider participating this year! Carcass data evaluation represents a very important educational tie from the Market Animal Show to livestock production. I encourage you to evaluate the carcass data from your animals and make comparisons on different animals across different years.

Updates to 2021 Carcass Contest

Carcass show fees for 2021 will be **\$8/head** for each species; steers, hogs lambs. As was the case last year, this will be collected as a deduction from exhibitor checks after the sale. To participate in the contest please inform the check-in staff at final weigh in on Wednesday, April 28. *Please only sign up if you are sure that you are participating.*

The carcass data collection period for steers will be on Thursday, April 29, beginning after the exhibitor meeting in the morning. Steer scanning will be done without use of clipping hair, but please wash the ultrasound oil off the back of the animal promptly. Confirmation of the time will be presented at the exhibitor meeting held on Zoom and announced at the show. The carcass data collection period for both lambs and hogs will be held on Friday, April 30 from noon to 3 pm, concurrent with the steer show.

Steer Ultrasound Data Collection: Thursday, April 29th, beginning after opening ceremony – between steer barn and multipurpose building

Lamb Ultrasound Data Collection: Friday, April 30, 12 pm Lamb Barn

Hog Ultrasound Data Collection: Friday, April 30, Beginning after lamb ultrasound has concluded, Hog Barn

Per rules, low select steers are ineligible show and sell. As such, they are ineligible for carcass contest. Red O lambs and #3 hogs are likewise ineligible for the carcass show. Heavy and light animals are also ineligible for the carcass contest.

Carcass ultrasound data will be compiled and analyzed in the weeks following the show and presented during the Market Animal Show Banquet. The top 5 carcasses in each species will be recognized with various prizes generously donated by Augusta Cooperative Farm Bureau, Inc. Additional support to cover costs of the contest is provided by the Rockingham Feeder Cattle Association, McNett Beef, Staunton Union Stockyards, Chris Wojo, Virginia Pork Council, Virginia Cattle Industry Board, and the Virginia Sheep Industry Board.

For more information on carcass show parameters, as well Market Animal Show policies for carcass show awards, please contact John Benner at the extension office 540-245-5750 ext. 2 or benner89@vt.edu.

Sincerely,



John Benner
Extension Agent
Animal Science

