

Press Release

Results of the 2022 Statewide Certified 4-H Fair Lamb Carcass and Ultrasound Contest

The Montana State University Extension Service, the Montana 4-H Program and Montana Woolgrowers congratulate all our 4-Hers and are proud to sponsor this program. The Montana 4-H Certified Fair Lamb Contest is ranked in two divisions on a statewide level, Carcass and Ultrasound. Lambs in the Carcass division are shown, harvested, and graded in the cooler by a trained judge on ribeye area, backfat depth and quality. Lambs in the Ultrasound division are shown, scanned for ribeye area and backfat depth by trained technicians and may or may not be harvested after the fair. Data is entered into one of two spreadsheets to calculate percent boneless retail cuts for ranking. Lambs also need to make minimum and/or maximum requirements based on industry standards to be eligible for certification. All certified lambs received a certificate and youth who raised the top two lambs in each division will receive an embroidered jacket. Overall, 35 Montana fairs participated in the contest with over six hundred lambs measured between the two divisions. Here are the totals and averages for each of the divisions over the past three years.

Year	Method	# County	# Lambs	Live Wt	Carcass Wt	BF	REA	YG	%BRC	% Certified
2020	Ultrasound	16	387	132.6	69.0	0.20	3.13	2.42	48.1	55.0
2020	Cooler	21	184	133.5	75.6	0.20	3.13	2.45	46.4	38.6
2021	Ultrasound	21	460	132.2	69.4	0.21	3.10	2.46	47.9	53.5
2021	Cooler	23	232	133.4	74.5	0.21	3.20	2.50	48.3	42.0
2022	Ultrasound	20	452	130.5	68.1	0.21	3.11	2.48	48.0	55.3
2022	Cooler	15	152	132.1	73.5	0.19	3.10	2.30	47.4	69.7

The top two 4-H exhibitors in the Carcass division where: 2nd-William Marlow Beaverhead County and 1st- Jacynta Bomgardner Chouteau County whose 112-pound lamb yielded a 64-pound Prime quality lamb with a 0.15-inch backfat and 3.7 square inch ribeye and a final percent boneless retail cuts score of 50.02. Even though we tightened up the requirements for backfat, we had a significant percentage jump in certifying lambs in this division, so hats off to our youth for a job well done.

The top two 4-H exhibitors in the Ultrasound division where: 2nd- Zoey Kaufman Custer County and 1st- Sierra Nagel McCone County whose 132-pound lamb scanned an estimated 0.23-inch backfat and 4.57 square inch ribeye area and a final estimated percent boneless retail cuts score of 51.51. I did speak with the resale buyer of Zoey's lamb, and he said that lamb is providing some fantastic eating experiences.

Congratulations to all the contestants on a spectacular set of lambs and we thank all the community members and businesses who stepped up and supported the 4-H program at youth market sales across the state this summer.