



September 30, 2025

TO: County Livestock and Youth Extension Agents

FROM: Dr. Bob Delmore & Clare Belk  
Professor and Staff Member  
Center for Meat Safety & Quality  
Department of Animal Sciences

SUBJECT: 2026 Carcass Data Services

This memo outlines the procedure for requesting Department of Animal Science services to obtain carcass or ultrasound data for fairs or other events. The Meat Science Program will prioritize requests for carcass evaluations (either chilled or using ultrasound on live animals) on a first-come, first-served basis. All requests must be submitted in writing by Friday, June 12th, 2026, using the attached reservation form via email or mail (no faxes):

Clare Belk  
Department of Animal Sciences  
Colorado State University  
350 W Pitkin Street  
Fort Collins, CO 80523-1171  
Tel: (970) 617-6320  
E-mail: [clare.harkin@colostate.edu](mailto:clare.harkin@colostate.edu)

The Department will strive to provide quality service, but some approaches may be more suitable than others. Ideally, collecting carcass data followed by a demonstration is the best way to maintain accuracy and offer the best educational experience. However, due to food safety concerns and the location of processing plants, some counties may not be able to use carcass evaluation. In those cases, ultrasound of live animals, along with a demonstration, is acceptable. **At this time, ultrasound cannot determine USDA Quality Grades for live beef, we will only rank live beef based on yield grade. Ultrasound is not the preferred method for this.**

Ultrasound services require appropriate facilities to ensure high-quality data. The ideal setup for swine animals is a short alleyway that holds 3-4 animals with a restraint mechanism (e.g., a slide gate) for one animal at a time. Cattle can be scanned in a blocking chute, with no more than one required. No special setup is needed for lambs or goats. A table and power outlet should be provided for all species at a stationary location.

In 2026, the rate for full carcass assessment services will be \$10 per head, including data summary, ranking, and a presentation to youth or other interested parties. A minimum charge of \$250 will apply for fewer than 25 animals, plus travel costs. Travel expenses include mileage and any lodging costs. Please make checks payable to Colorado State University and send to Clare Belk or provide at the time of service.

The Department of Animal Sciences at Colorado State University fully supports these educational efforts and will work to meet your needs. For questions or comments, please contact me at the above address, phone, or email. Best of luck with your 2025 activities!

## 2026 Request for Carcass Contest Form

**Please submit no later than Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026 to:**

Clare Belk

Email: Clare.Harkin@coloradostate.edu



**County:**

**Contact (First, Last Name):**

**Email:**

**Phone Number:**

**Billing Address:**

☐ Ultrasound Data Collection      ☐ Carcass Data Collection      ☐ Both

**Date of Data Collection:**

**Start Time:**

**Address:**

Will an overnight stay be required? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Species	Estimated Number of Animals (fill out for each specie your county is expecting)	Location of Ultrasound (example: Barn A on County Fair Grounds)
Swine		
Goat		
Sheep		
Cattle (live)		
Beef (carcass)		

*\*Ultrasound data collected on beef cattle will not be graded and will **ONLY** be ranked on yield grade*

☐ We would like to have the data entered, summarized and presented on the day of collection.  
If you would like the presentation to be on a separate date, please fill out the following:

Date of Presentation:

Location of Presentation:

☐ It is not necessary to have the data entered, summarized and delivered on the day of collection.

Received on:

Received by: