

Competitive Education Opportunities in Meat Science

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Education in meat science has been a major focus of Meat Scientists and a common topic in past Reciprocal Meat Conferences. Meat Judging has been the most visible competitive meat science activity offered to college students. Meat Judging activities have contributed greatly to the personal and educational development of students by: 1) developing decision skills through critical thinking; 2) stimulating motivation, discipline, and excellence in preparation and competition; 3) building self-confidence through competition and recognition; 4) enhancing communication skills; 5) building interpersonal relationships with students and faculty; 6) acquiring and applying knowledge of the livestock and meat industry; 7) acquiring and applying meat science knowledge; 8) exposing students to the diversity of career opportunities in the livestock and meat industry; and 9) developing an appreciation for the importance and value of the livestock and meat industry to society. (Intercollegiate Meat Coaches Association Long Range Planning Committee Report, May 2, 1991). Future Meat Judging and other competitive education activities must contribute to this vision.

During the past century, the field of Meat Science has grown, technology has increased, and students have changed. As we look toward the next century, we need to evaluate and adjust our current programs and investigate alternative opportunities to enhance the education of students. For example, the Meat Judging Contest format may need to be restructured to allow for more flexibility and future change. Also, additional competitive Meat Science education opportunities such as product development, quiz bowls, and other activities should be analyzed. The focus of this reciprocation session will be to interact and discuss future potential events that will provide student education through competitive Meat Science activities.

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