



Knowledge to Go Places

Department of Animal Sciences

Fort Collins, Colorado 80523-1171

TEL: (970) 491-5226

FAX: (970) 491-5326

February 1, 2006

TO: County Livestock and Youth Extension Agents

FROM: John A. Scanga
Assistant Professor
Meats Extension Specialist

SUBJECT: 2006 Carcass Data Services

This memo is intended to reflect the standard procedure to use when requesting Department of Animal Science services to obtain carcass or ultrasound data for fairs or other functions.

The Meat Science Program in the Department of Animal Sciences will attempt to fulfill all requests for service relative to the collection of carcass information—by either evaluation of chilled carcasses or by use of ultrasound. Such services will be scheduled and accommodated on a first-come, first-serve basis and all requests must be received, **in writing, no later than April 30, 2006. Requests for services should be made by completing the attached reservation form and submitting it via email, fax or mail to:**

Dr. John A. Scanga
Associate Professor and Meat Extension Specialist
Department of Animal Sciences
Colorado State University
Fort Collins, CO 80523-1171
Tel: (970) 491-6244
Fax: (970) 491-0278
E-mail: John.Scanga@csumeats.com

When a request for service conflicts with another scheduled carcass/ultrasound data collection event, we will make every effort to find a solution to the problem and keep all parties informed. We would also appreciate any efforts to maximize the efficiency of our travel time through coordination with adjacent or regional counties. If we are not able to resolve the conflict, the entity requesting the service causing the conflict will be notified immediately to provide enough time to explore other options for gathering carcass/ultrasound data. In this method, scheduling errors should be eliminated, and coordination can occur in a standardized, centralized fashion.

Although the Department will do its utmost to insure quality service, some approaches and recommendations for service are appropriate. When possible, collection of actual carcass data, followed by a demonstration/presentation, is the ideal system for maintaining accuracy and providing the best educational experience for youth and interested parties. However, due to food safety concerns, the location of livestock processing plants, etc., it may not be possible for some counties to utilize carcass evaluation *per se*. In such cases, ultrasound of live animals, in conjunction with a demonstration/presentation, is acceptable for use with live pigs and sheep. **We are not capable of ranking live beef animals based upon carcass characteristics.** If carcass data for pigs and lambs can be collected, but no subsequent demonstration/presentation of the data is possible (due to packing plant limitations, etc.), then ultrasound would be the preferred educational choice for ranking pigs and/or lambs based on carcass characteristics. In general, there is never a need to provide both carcass data and ultrasound data for the same animals.

For 2006, the rate for providing full carcass assessment services will be \$5.00 per head of livestock/carcasses evaluated, which will include summarizing and ranking the data and a demonstration/presentation of the results to the affected youth or other interested parties. Thermal images of sonograms will be made available, upon request, for an additional \$2.00 per head. A minimum charge of \$250 will be assessed, in addition to travel costs, when the number of livestock/carcasses to be evaluated is less than 50 head. In addition, all travel costs to collect and present the data will be assessed. This includes mileage to and from the point of data collection or presentation (\$0.40 per mile), the standard, state per diem rate for meals (\$26.00 per day except in high-cost areas) and any lodging costs encountered. All collected fees, excluding travel expenses, will be credited to the Meat Science Program (Intercollegiate Meats Judging Program and Meat Science Graduate Program) in the Department of Animal Sciences. **Please make all checks payable to Colorado State University and either send to Dr. John Scanga (address above) or make available at the time services are rendered.**

We hope that by establishing these standardized costs and methods for conducting carcass evaluation services, we will assist counties and other entities in organizing and planning such activities. Colorado State University Cooperative Extension and the Department of Animal Sciences strongly support such educational activities and will make every effort to satisfy your needs. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at the address, phone numbers, or E-mail address listed above. Good luck with your 2006 activities!

cc: Bill Wailes, Interim Department Chair, Animal Sciences

SUBMIT NO LATER THAT APRIL 30, 2006 TO:

**John A. Scanga, Department of Animal Sciences, Colorado State University,
 Fort Collins, CO 80523-1171, Fax (970) 491-0278, E-mail
 John.Scanga@csumeats.com**

County or Fair:			Contact Name:		
			Contact Number:		
Date	Species	Data Collection (Carcass or Ultrasound)	Estimated Number of Animals	Location	Start Time
	Beef*				
	Swine				
	Sheep				
	Goats				

*Ultrasound information collected on Beef cattle will not be summarized and ranked for competitive purposes. It will be provided as raw data only.

- We would like to have the data entered, summarized and presented on the day of collection.
- It is not necessary to have the data entered, summarized and delivered on the day of collection.
- We would like an educational program or demonstration to be presented.

Date of Presentation: _____

Location of Presentation: _____

Topic of Presentation: _____

Will an overnight stay be required? YES NO