“I joined a judging team as a way to learn more about the industry, enhance my communication skills and to be involved. However, after completing my collegiate judging career, I realized I will most cherish the life long friendships and incredible memories I shared with my teammates and coaches who have become mentors.”

Julianna Albrecht
Howard, South Dakota
Animal Science and Agricultural Communications Double Major
Member of the Meat Judging and Meat Animal Evaluation Teams

Why Participate?

The competitive teams fielded by the OSU Department of Animal and Food Sciences have a long-standing tradition of excellence. These opportunities allow students from across the university to learn valuable life skills, build lasting friendships and network within the industry. The department, college and university benefit from successful judging programs in several ways. They bring national recognition, which aids in recruitment, improves alumni support, and brings pride and tradition to the program.

Skills Obtained

- Oral and written communication skills
- Critical thinking
- Team work
- Decision making
- Networking
- Leadership
- Responsibility
- Travel
  - National and international travel
**DAIRY JUDGING**
The dairy judging teams teaches students to evaluate the quality of dairy heifers and cows.
- The OSU dairy judging program began in 1923.
- Coach: David Jones, david.a.jones@okstate.edu

**EQUINE JUDGING**
The equine judging team trains individuals to evaluate halter and performance horses.
- The team has won 8 AQHA World Championships, 5 AQHA Reserve World Championships, 5 AQHA Congress Championships, and 4 National Reining Horse World Championships.
- Coach: Dr. Steven Cooper, steven.cooper@okstate.edu

**MEAT ANIMAL EVALUATION CONTEST**
The meat animal evaluation contest is a combination of market livestock, breeding livestock and meat judging evaluation.
- The MAEC is different from other traditional contests because of the unique aspect of individual estimation of yield and quality factors, as well as pricing groups of animals.
- Coaches: Dr. Gretchen Mafi, gretchen.mafi@okstate.edu
  Dr. Blake Bloomberg, blake.bloomberg@okstate.edu

**LIVESTOCK JUDGING**
The livestock judging team trains individuals to evaluate value differences in live breeding and market cattle, sheep, goats and swine.
- Since 1925, the first time an OSU Livestock Judging Team claimed victory at the International in Chicago, OSU students have earned more national championships than any other university in the country.
- Coach: Dr. Blake Bloomberg, blake.bloomberg@okstate.edu

**MEAT JUDGING**
The meat judging team trains individuals to distinguish differences in relative value of various meat cuts and carcasses.
- Oklahoma State has won more national championships in meat judging than any other university.
- Coach: Dr. Gretchen Mafi, gretchen.mafi@okstate.edu