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**Wisconsin's Top Meat Products and Processors Honored**

*Award winners available for auction at the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Governor's Blue Ribbon Meat Product Auction to raise funds for Wisconsin 4-H activities and support*

Madison, Wis. [July 8, 2013] – With a “Best of Show” yet to be named August 6, eight individuals have already earned championship honors in the 2013 Wisconsin State Fair Meat Products Contest. More than 100 entries competed for these top honors. The contest, held in association with the Wisconsin Association of Meat Processors, recognizes quality meat processing while promoting superior Wisconsin food products.

Championship ribbons were presented to hickory smoked bacon entered by Karean VanEss of Newton Meats Inc., Newton, which received recognition for best flavored bacon. Champion bone-in ham went to Tim Haen, Haen Meat Packing Inc, Kaukauna for a hickory smoked ham. Haen Meat Packing also topped the class for emulsified ring bologna.

Scott Vorpapel, Lake Geneva Country Meats of Lake Geneva, received top honors in the flavored summer sausage category. The champion dried and smoked beef was awarded to Mike Clark, Lodi Sausage Company, Lodi.

Both the best traditional snack sausage and the best specialty cooked bratwurst were won by Alan Feucht, Brandon Meats & Sausage Inc, Brandon. Andy Geiss, Geiss Meat Service, Merrill received recognition for best restructured jerky.

The contest's top 20 items will be auctioned to the highest bidder Tuesday, August 6 at the Governor's Blue Ribbon Meat Products Auction, Wisconsin State Fair Park, Ag Oasis. The special event is hosted by the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation and proceeds benefit the state's nearly 350,000 4-H youth. Buyer registration and dinner begins at 5:00 p.m. with the auction bidding beginning at 6:30 p.m.

“The Governor's Blue Ribbon Meat Products Auction is a signature event for 4-H youth and the state of Wisconsin by recognizing the quality meat processing taking place across the Badger state while raising funds to support future leaders, “ said Valerie Johnson, 4-H Foundation president.

Limited tickets are available and include a seated dinner and silent auction. The \$50 ticket includes State Fair admission ticket, parking, dinner and beverages. For more information, contact the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation at (608) 262-1597 or register online at [www.Wis4HFoundation.org](http://www.Wis4HFoundation.org). Ticket reservations are requested by July 19. For those not able to attend but would like to bid on or buy Wisconsin's Champion Meats, visit the 4-H Foundation website for more detailed information outlining the live webcast and bidder registration information.

The auction is a partnership of the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation, Wisconsin Association of Meat Processors (WAMP), UW Extension and Wisconsin State Fair.

Based in Madison, Wis., the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation provides essential funding for 4-H programs throughout Wisconsin. By partnering with individuals, corporations and foundations, the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation supports nearly 350,000 youth who take part in various 4-H leadership, development and community-building activities throughout the state. Learn more about the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation by visiting [www.Wis4HFoundation.org](http://www.Wis4HFoundation.org).

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