

**Then the beauty pageant is over
and the science begins...**



**the 28th Annual Mohave County 4-H Carcass
Contest was held September 23, 2006**

The Carcass Contest is an important part of the learning process, as part of our ongoing educational program carcasses processed

at The University of Arizona Meat Science Lab are judged and graded according to USDA and industry standards. The carcass data then can be used by members & breeders to evaluate and improve their feeding and breeding programs.



Judging live animals on the hoof, like done at the County Fair is very different from judging carcasses on the rail. Livestock Show judges cannot see through the hide of the animal so they must rely on their experiences and knowledge to place the animals. But after the animals are sent to market and the hide is off, that's when the real story is told,...

the beauty pageant is over and the science begins.

To get the real story on the quality of meat of the animals they raise, 4-H / FFA members traveled to Tucson, to participate in the 4-H Carcass Contest to compete for awards and cash prizes. The carcass contest was developed to help members evaluate their exercise and feeding programs with the final finished meat product. Dr. John Marchello from The University of Arizona, Meat Science Department, evaluated the beef, sheep, goat and swine carcasses according to strict standards and modern grading criteria of the meat industry.



The requirements for this year were as stiff as past years, but it gave all 4-H / FFA members a goal to work toward. Through proper feeding and exercise, members can produce winning carcasses. A full Report and Carcass

Contest results are available at the Extension Office.

Awards members competed for:

- Top Placing Mohave County Beef, \$200.00 sponsored by *Mohave Livestock Association and Farm Bureau* and Steer of Merit Awards
- Top Placing Mohave County Swine, and Swine of Merit Awards
- Top Placing Mohave County Lamb, and Lamb of Merit Awards
- Top Placing Mohave County Goat, \$50.00 sponsored by Jacob Roer, 3R's Fencing, Wikieup Az and Goat of Merit Awards



Dr. John Marchello congratulates Ryan Cofer of the Bent Bucket Bunch 4-H Club with his Top Swine-of-Merit carcass.



Cordel Benson of the Buck-N-Doe 4-H Club with his Top Lamb-of-Merit carcass



Mathias Pruet for Black Mtn 4-H Club with his 29 lbs Top Goat -of-Merit Carcass.