



This year's Marshall County 4-H Poultry Judging team recently competed in the Central Region 4-H Poultry Judging Contest. Team members are, from left: Henry Hearnsberger, Aryana King, Savannah Davidson, Courtney Judd, and Ashlynn Davidson.

## 4-H'ers prove to be egg-cellent at Central Region Poultry Judging Contest

By **Kaylee Layton** 

UT Extension

You walk through the grocery store aisles, filling your cart with the necessities for the week. You reach the eggs and grab a dozen off the shelf then walk over to the meat section and grab some chicken thighs and chicken tenderloins. It seems thoughtless and easy, but do you really know what you are getting when you purchase those items? Do vou know what it means when an egg carton has the words



Ashlynn Davidson tests her knowledge of egg grading.

"Grade A" printed on it? Do you know what classifies a tenderloin versus a thigh? We have some 4-H'ers who just might be able to answer those questions for you.

Starting in August a group of 4-H'ers started poultry judging practice where they learned about USDA criteria for grading different kinds of poultry products. They learned how to identify all parts of a chicken carcass and how to identify a good past production live hen. They learned about the inside and outside

of eggs and different defects some eggs may have. They also learned about further processed poultry products such as chicken patties, nuggets, and tenders and what defects may cause that product to be discarded during the packaging process. Most importantly, while learning all these things, the 4-H'ers learned why it is important to understand the grading process and why there are standards in place to ensure the consumer gets quality products.

On September 28,

these 4-H'ers put their knowledge and practice to the test and competed in the Central Region 4-H Poultry Judging Contest. Team members of the Marshall County 4-H Poultry Judging team were, Savannah Davidson, Aryana King, Henry Hearnsberger, Courtney Judd, and Ashlynn Davidson. It was a long day, but they all walked away with a greater understanding of the poultry industry and the Junior team took 2nd place in their division!

Through participation

in 4-H judging teams, youth learn valuable lessons such as decision making and critical thinking. It builds confidence and provides an opportunity to build friendships with other youth. These judging teams are open to all youth and no prior knowledge is needed.

If you would like more information about 4-H or the current judging teams in Marshall County, call 931-359-1929 or email Kaylee Layton at klayton2@



## Oak Grove starts year strong

Miss Perryman, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Talley, and Mrs. Rogers' classes at Oak Grove Elementary are enjoying doing family projects and special dress up activities to end our reading domains. We are having a great year so far!!







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