

# Judging Jump Start

A Request for Proposal to Receive Funding for  
AMSA Intercollegiate Meat Judging Programs



2024-2025

# INTERCOLLEGIATE MEAT JUDGING

Intercollegiate meat judging is an event for students to evaluate meat products in a competitive environment. Meats judging has produced some exemplary leaders in both academia and business because of the work ethic, decision making, and communication skills that result from participating in the program.

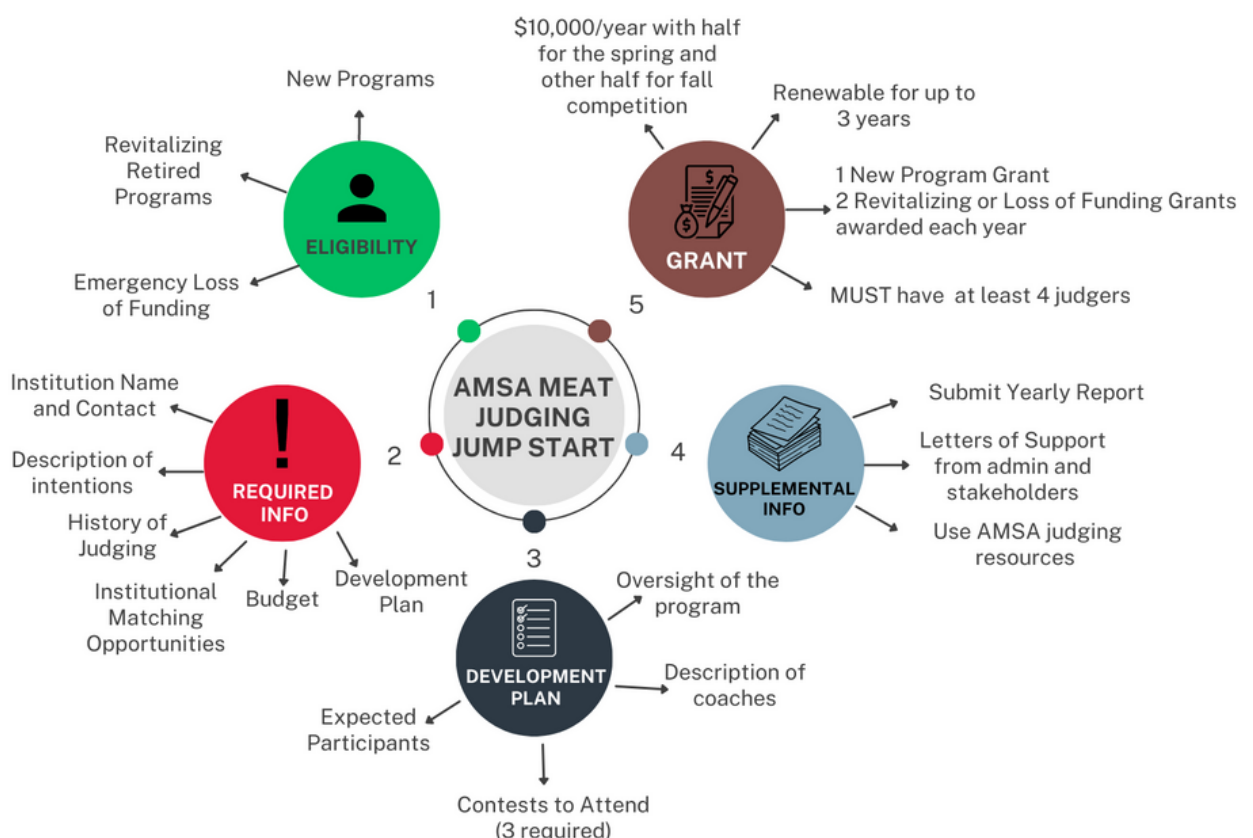
Judging programs are cost intensive due to product and team travel to gain the necessary proficiency. With the current economic environment, it has become more difficult for schools to maintain, much less start new programs. In the past 25 years, the number of schools competing in meat judging has had a drastic reduction with only about a third of the number of teams currently competing when compared to previous decades. We seek to stop that trend by providing external support for the creation of new meat judging teams or improving the sustainability of current teams that are struggling to continue.

## Judging Jump Start

The Judging Jump Start Fund has been created by the American Meat Science Association (AMSA) to provide assistance to educational institutes to start or rebuild meat judging programs with the following requirements:

This is a competitive process, and each interested school will submit an annual application for consideration that is focused on demonstration of unique need. Specifically, AMSA seeks to fund:

- New programs
- Revitalizing retired programs
- Teams that have suffered an emergency loss of funding



# Application Process

To apply, interested colleges and universities must submit the following information:

1. Name of institution and contact information
2. Plan for the judging program. A description of the intentions around the judging program
3. History of judging at that institution to include years participated, contests attended, and student participation, if available.
4. How the institution will support the meats judging program including matching opportunities. Support can include faculty or graduate student time, funds, etc.
5. A budget with justification of how funds will be used
6. Plans for development of the program including:
  - Number of students expected to participate and an outline of future recruitment strategies.
  - Team must attend 3 contests (2 out of 3 contests must be AMSA hosted).
    - AMSA Contests Include: National Western in Honor of R. Paul Clayton, Southwestern, South Plains, National Barrow Show, Eastern National, American Royal, Cargill High Plains, and International.
    - Non-AMSA Contests Include: Beef Empire Days, Iowa State University Meat Judging Contest, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Meat Judging Contest, Southeastern, and the Cyclone Classic Meat Judging Contest.
  - A description of the coach(es) and oversight of the program to ensure continuity.

Two letters of support from the institution's administration (e.g., chair, dean, etc. must be attached as an appendix to the proposal). Additional letters of support from faculty, student organizations, and local, regional, or state stakeholder groups are encouraged and can be added to the appendix.

## Grant Awards

Two levels of grants will be awarded with 1) new programs eligible to apply for up to \$10,000/year; and 2) revitalizing or demonstrated need able to apply for \$10,000/year. In 2024, there will be one new program grant and two need based grants for a total of \$30,000 for use in the 2025 competitive season. To ensure continuity of the programs 50% of the funds will be appropriated after registration for the spring season is complete (December) and the other 50% of the funds will be awarded following the registration of the fall competitive season (August). Funds will only be allocated to the program if they have a minimum of four participating students. These funds can be used to pay coaches, for travel, student equipment, and/or training materials.

Recipients are encouraged to use AMSA judging materials and must submit a report each year outlining the judging team activities including members, contests attended, results, and student outcomes.

It is expected that programs would be supported by the educational institution both academically and at least partially financially. Grant applications may be renewed for up to 3 years but will still be considered each year on a competitive basis.

## **Proposal Evaluation Committee**

The proposal evaluation committee will consist of the AMSA Intercollegiate Meat Coaches Association Board Liaison, AMSA Board of Directors Past President, 2 AMSA Board of Directors, and 2 AMSA Members. The Intercollegiate Meat Coaches Association Board Liaison will serve as the committee chair.

## **Proposal Evaluation Rubric**

1. Judging Program Development Plan- 40pts.
2. Institution Financial Support Plan- 30pts.
3. Program Budget- 15pts.
4. Two Letters of Support- 15pts.

Proposal Evaluation Rubric Total: 100pts.