Florida 4-H is excited to announce the First Annual Florida 4-H Tailgating Contest sponsored by Sonny's BBQ & Winn Dixie Supermarkets. The purpose of this new contest is to promote the use of animal protein in the diet by teaching the art and science of safely preparing beef, pork, poultry, and seafood in an outdoor setting. Investment in this activity will provide 4-H youth with life skills, including decision making, healthy lifestyle choices, and communication.

Four regional contests will be conducted between mid-May and mid-August across Florida. Check-in for each contest will start at **8 am, respectively**

**Who is eligible?** All bona fide Florida 4-H members who are between 11 and 18 years of age prior to September 1, 2015. All participants are REQUIRED to prepare their recipe in the presence of a parent or guardian prior to the contest.

**What will the contest consist of?** Contestants will have 2.5 hours to prepare a beef, pork, poultry (1/2 chicken or turkey breast must be presented to judges), or seafood (shrimp) dish on a provided 14” charcoal grill. More information about contest logistics and scoring is found here @ Florida 4-H Tailgating Contest. The State winner for poultry (chicken/turkey) will be eligible to participate in the National competition in November 16-17, 2016 in Louisville, KY. For rules, visit [http://www2.ca.uky.edu/national4hpoultry/](http://www2.ca.uky.edu/national4hpoultry/) for more information.

**How do I learn more?** A twenty minute “How & What to Do” video is posted to Tailgate Contest Videos

**When and Where will the regional contests occur?**

**Region 1 – Northwest district contest** - 8 am Saturday, July 23, 2016 @ the Washington County Agricultural Center, 1424 Jackson Ave. Chipley, FL 32428  (Bay, Calhoun, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Wakulla, Walton, Washington)  
Coordinator:  Mark Mauldin mdm83@ufl.edu

**Region 2 – Northeast district contest** – 8 am Saturday, June 18, 2016 @ Animal Sciences Horse Teaching Unit, 1934 SW 63rd Ave Gainesville, FL 32608 (Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Dixie, Duval, Flagler, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns, Suwannee, Taylor, Union)  
Coordinators:  Chad Carr chadcarr@ufl.edu & Brian Estevez bestevez@ufl.edu

**Region 3 – Central district contest** - 8 am Saturday, July 2, 2016 @ Pasco County Fairgrounds, Clayton Hall, 36702 State Rd. 52, Dade City, FL 33525 (Brevard, Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Lake, Manatee, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Sarasota, Seminole, Sumter, Volusia)  
Coordinator:  Ed Jennings edjennin@ufl.edu

**Region 4 – South district contest** – 8 am Saturday, June 4, 2016 @ Camp Cloverleaf in Lake Placid, FL. (Broward, Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Indian River, Lee, Martin, Miami Dade, Monroe, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, St. Lucie)  
Coordinator:  Sonja Crawford sycr@ufl.edu
State Contest- Saturday, September 10, 2016 with grills to be started at 9 am Straughn IFAS Extension Professional Development Center 2142 Shealy Drive PO Box 110225 Gainesville, FL 32611-0225 Coordinators – Chad Carr, Brian Estevez, Sonja Crawford

How do I sign up? 4-H members must meet contest requirements and notify their county agent. County agents should then email Chad Carr @ chadcarr@ufl.edu and a password will be issued for those 4-H members to register on Eventbrite by 5 pm on the date 10 days prior to the contest. The cap of 10 4-H members per protein category will be first-come-first serve.

What will I receive for participating? All participants will receive a cooking thermometer and a $25 voucher from Winn-Dixie Supermarkets to purchase ingredients for the contest. After the competition, all participants will receive a $15 gift certificate to eat at a Sonny's BBQ location.

What can I win? For each protein category- First place = $500 cash award; Second place = $300 cash award and an invitation to compete against the two high placing individuals at the State Championship Contest

The State Championship Contest will be held on Saturday, September 10, 2016 (UF/UK Game) @ the Straughn IFAS Extension Professional Development Center University of Florida Campus, Gainesville, FL

What if I win my protein at the State Contest- 1st place- $1,500 college scholarship- 2nd place- $1,000- for all four proteins.

Will I get to do anything else cool? An award reception will occur outside Gate 3 of the Stephen C. O’Connell Center starting 3 hours prior to kickoff including a large public promotion facilitated by Sonny’s and Winn Dixie. Additionally, award winners will be interviewed on the Gator IMG Radio Network during the third hour of the Gator Pre-Game Show.