

FREE TUITION

Fall 2025
Spring 2026

CLC
**CENTRAL
LAKES
COLLEGE**
Staples Campus



Train and Retain Grant for Meat Cutting & Butchery

Thanks to grant funding from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Region Five Development Commission is partnering with Central Lakes College Staples Campus to offer **FREE TUITION for 22 students enrolling in the Meat Cutting & Butchery program during the 2025-2026 academic year.**

Who is eligible?

Any degree-seeking student who is 16 years of age or older who completes the enrollment steps listed below.
Must be one of the first 22 eligible students to register.
Must intend to pursue a career in meat cutting or processing.

Program Details:

Fall 2025: Meat Cutting & Butchery Certificate
Spring 2026: Sausage Smoking & Curing Certificate
Location: Central Lakes College - Staples Campus
Cost: 100% Free Tuition (first 22 students)

How to Apply:

1. Apply to Central Lakes College | clcmn.edu
2. Complete the Microsoft Forms application
3. (Link to be provided via Region Five or CLC after enrollment)
4. Confirm eligibility & enroll in the Fall 2025 Meat Cutting & Butchery program

Act fast! Free tuition is limited to the first 22 students who enroll and complete all steps.

m DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

R5DC REGION FIVE
Development Commission

Questions? Contact:

Region Five Development Commission

Staci Headley, sheadley@regionfive.org 218-831-0137 | regionfive.org

Or reach out to:

Central Lakes College - Staples Campus

Cory Detloff, Director of Ag & Energy/FBM, cory.detloff@clcmn.edu 218-894-5134 | clcmn.edu

Train and Retain Grant for Meat Cutting & Butchery

Powered by Region Five Development Commission & Central Lakes College

Funded by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture



REGION FIVE
Development Commission



Retain - \$2,000 Employment Incentive Bonus

Retention Bonus: Keeping Talent in the Industry

In addition to receiving free training, students will be eligible to receive a \$2,000 sign-on bonus as part of our "Retain" strategy to keep skilled workers in the meat cutting and butchery industry.

How It Works:

Must be one of the 22 students enrolled in the Train and Retain program.

During the 2025-2026 academic year, obtain employment at a:

- Butchery
- Meat processing facility
- Other qualifying meat-cutting-related business

Bonus is awarded once employment is verified and eligibility is confirmed.

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Why This Matters:

This program supports:

- A growing need for trained meat processors in rural MN
- Local food systems and small businesses
- Career pathways in a high-demand, hands-on skilled trade

R5DC is an equal opportunity provider, lender, and employer.