

YQCA Information Sheet for Shows and Fairs

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This information sheet is provided as a resource. For additional questions, please email sales@yqca.org.

How will YQCA benefit my livestock show?

The YQCA program ...

- Increases the educational preparedness of exhibitors
- Adds another layer of quality assurance to improve sportsmanship, animal wellbeing, and food safety for animal purchasers
- Helps demonstrate our commitment to the educational development of exhibitors
- Provides a nationally available program that any youth exhibitor can access

What does YQCA cost my livestock show?

Nothing.

YQCA charges a fee for each youth that registers in the YQCA training and certification program; this fee is paid for by the youth or the family. Coupon codes can be purchased by anyone and gifted to youth to help offset a portion or all of the cost. In states where there is statewide adoption of YQCA, the cost for the online training is \$12 and for attending an in-person workshop is \$3. For all other youth, the cost for the online training is \$15.

What shows are requiring YQCA certification?

Starting with the National Pork Expo in June 2017, all National Junior Swine Association shows will accept YQCA certification for their quality assurance requirement. The National Pork Board will discontinue supporting the Youth PQA Plus program at the end of 2017 and is supporting YQCA for all youth livestock exhibitors. The National Western Stock Show will accept YQCA certification for their quality assurance requirement starting with their January 2018 show. Other shows and fairs are currently in the process of considering accepting and/or requiring YQCA certification.

Shows that currently require quality assurance certification are encouraged to accept YQCA (as early as June 2017.) Shows that currently do not require quality assurance are invited to review the program and consider encouraging youth to complete the program for the goals of self-improvement and increased project success.

What are my options to promote and/or require YQCA certification for exhibitors at my livestock show?

The following are options for your livestock show to consider:

1. Promote YQCA as a valuable educational component in their livestock project
2. Accept YQCA certification if your show requires that youth have a quality assurance certification
3. Require YQCA certification for all exhibitors in your show
4. Work with other shows in your state or region to enact a requirement for YQCA certification for all exhibitors in all shows

YQCA offers promotional resources for you to use with exhibitors and others. YQCA program managers and board members are also willing to have conversations with your show regarding options to move forward.

How will my show know if a youth exhibitor has completed YQCA certification?

Youth will be issued a certificate and a unique certification number from YQCA upon meeting the certification requirements. Youth will be able to email or print their certificate for show entries. Show managers will also be able to request a validation of provided certification numbers. Shows that part of states with statewide implementation agreements will be able to request a listing of all youth in the service area that have current YQCA certifications. In general, though, YQCA promotes the responsibility of the youth individual to earn, maintain, and communicate their YQCA certification.

What about other livestock quality certification programs – are they going away?

The Youth PQA Plus program provided by the National Pork Board will be discontinued after December 2017 with their full support of YQCA. Nebraska Extension has offered an online quality assurance program that will be discontinued after 2017 with their support of YQCA, as well. Shows are asked, however, to honor the certificates earned by youth from these sources through the expiration of their certificate. This will require up to three years of “grandfathering” in youth that earned Youth PQA Plus certification, for example, even if a show begins to require YQCA.

The adult version of Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) Plus® and Beef Quality Assurance, BQA®, will not be impacted by YQCA and shows may choose to accept these certifications for youth producers, if desired.

Who is in charge of YQCA?

The YQCA program is owned and managed by the newly established Youth for the Quality Care of Animal nonprofit. There is no government involvement in this program. The board of YQCA is comprised of state university extension specialists and representatives of the livestock industry. YQCA has taken no funding from animal pharmaceutical or animal feed companies. The only funds for development have come from checkoff funds from beef, pork, sheep and corn producers and from the University of Missouri. There is a representative of livestock shows on this YQCA Board of Directors. Erin Dorsey, Livestock Operations Manager of the National Western Stock Show serves in that role.