

YQCA Information Sheet for Shows and Fairs

Version 02.02.23



This information sheet is provided as a resource. For additional questions, please email programmanager@yqcaprogram.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 the cost. The cost for the online training is \$12. In states or with organizations agreeing to system-wide adoption of YQCA (for example: Nebraska 4-H and National Pork Board) they can offer in-person workshops by trained instructors with a YQCA registration cost of \$3. The information in the online and in-person workshops is the same so you can be assured that all youth coming to your show will have the same learning experience.

Which shows are requiring YQCA certification?

Starting with the National Pork Expo in June 2017, all National Junior Swine Association shows started accepting YQCA certification for their quality assurance requirement. The National Pork Board discontinued 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 started accepting YQCA certification for their quality assurance requirement 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. 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.

We are maintaining a list of shows and fairs that either require or accept YQCA certification at our website: https://yqcaprogram.org/local/fair_and_show_managers.php Please contact us at programmanager@yqcaprogram.org if you would like your show to be listed or your information needs to be updated.

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 utilize the certification verification site to validate certification numbers.

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

The Youth PQA Plus program provided by the National Pork Board was discontinued after December 2017 with their full support of YQCA. Nebraska Extension has offered an online quality assurance program that was discontinued in March of 2017 with their support of YQCA, as well.

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 governs 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 currently serves in that role.

How can we support the learning that is part of the YQCA program?

Great question! We'd love for the objectives and information in the YQCA training to be supported by additional educational activities provided by fairs and shows. Perhaps you have exhibits, pre-event mailings, participant workshops, or other means to communicate and educate youth. On the YQCA Curriculum page, you'll find the curriculum objectives by topic and age along with YQCA's curriculum map. This is a roadmap of what youth will be learning in YQCA by age. This will give ideas about which objectives to support and when youth will be introduced to them in the YQCA program. If you would like access to the online modules to review the youth's training program, please request a free coupon code reserved only for fair and show managers and education directors at programmanager@yqcaprogram.org. YQCA can also direct you to resources and connect you with other educators to brainstorm effective ways to extend the learning in YQCA.