



YQCA Background Information Sheet

Version 12.21.2017

How did YQCA get started?

The National Pork Board (NPB) program manager for the Youth PQA Plus program called a meeting in 2013 to discuss the feasibility and interest in a national, multi-species youth quality assurance (QA) program. Attending the meeting were representatives of other livestock organizations and state leaders from states where a statewide multi-species QA program has been approved by NPB as a Youth PQA Plus equivalent. The consensus among the 15 attendees was that the burden of each state and group maintaining a unique QA program was growing burdensome and that a collective, national effort would be worth investigating.

The next year, this same group conducted a series of three meetings to explore the feasibility of a national program that would replace Youth PQA Plus and the need for states to develop and maintain their own programs. The group gathered input from stakeholders and others to arrive at a decision to move forward with fundraising efforts to initiate the launch of YQCA.

With initial funding secured, this informal task force established committees to determine program requirements, to establish evaluation priorities, to define the scope and sequence of the curriculum and to seek and secure additional funding for program sustainability. This work began in 2015 and was managed by Vivayic, a firm contracted to facilitate the development process and to build the elearning modules for the online program. This group made integration with 4HOnline a high priority and established an agreement with RegistrationMax, the developer of 4HOnline to build the platform to host and deliver YQCA to achieve this integration. YQCA was officially incorporated as a not-for profit in September 2016 and is currently seeking federal 501c(5) status.

Who established and reviewed the content and curriculum for YQCA?

The initial planning group of YQCA established a curriculum committee. The committee was comprised of state youth livestock extension specialists. This group established the overall curriculum framework and objectives for each module in the 14 years of YQCA programming. A weeklong content writing workshop was held in November 2015 with 12 state university extension specialists. The resulting content source documents were then sent out for a blind peer review with topic experts (animal wellbeing, food safety, and youth life skills). With final revisions made, these content source documents were used to create the storyboards for the online modules and the instructor-led workshop designed and developed by Vivayic. Drafts of the modules and instructor-led materials have been reviewed by YQCA committee members, experts from livestock organizations, and others. The online materials are preparing for a field test in late December 2016 for final edits and release for the March 2017 launch of YQCA.

Are livestock organizations involved and supportive of YQCA?

Livestock organizations have provided both financial support and technical expertise to the YQCA program. The National Pork Board plans to discontinue the Youth PQA Plus program after 2017 and provide ongoing support to YQCA. Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) program specialists have been involved in the development of the YQCA



program and are ready to support state efforts to promote YQCA for youth producers. Representatives of sheep, dairy, and rabbit industries were involved in the planning and review of materials and plan to promote the use of YQCA to young producers as well. The National Pork Board, National Cattlemen's Beef Association and the American Sheep Industry Council contributed financially to the development costs for YQCA.

Who is the Current YQCA Board of Directors?

State Representatives

- IA - Mike Anderson
- NE - Karna Dam
- MO – Marcia Shannon
- WA - Paul Kuber (Vice President)
- WI – Bernadette O'Rourke (Secretary)
- OH - Nancy Snook
- SD – Heidi Carroll
- NV - Lindsay Chichester
- CO - Steve LeValley

Livestock Organizations

- Chase DeCoite – National Cattlemen's Beef Association
- Dinah Peebles – National Pork Board (Treasurer)
- Emily Stepp – National Milk Producers Federation
- Peter Orwick – American Sheep Industry Association
- Mike Avesing – American Rabbit Breeders Association

Livestock Shows

- Erin Dorsey, National Western Livestock Show

Allied Industry

- Brett Kaysen, Zoetis

University Livestock Specialists

- Jodi Sterle, Iowa State University (President)

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



YQCA Fees Information Sheet

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

Breakdown – where do they go?

The following is a breakdown of where the fees collected are distributed for utilization.

\$12.00 fee for online program

- \$0.36 = credit card fees (typically)
- \$5.00 = technical/user support, email and phone support, based in U.S.
- \$5.00 = online system hosting, maintenance, ongoing development, security and privacy assurance
- \$1.64 = stays with YQCA to invest in ongoing curriculum development and revision, program management, and promotion

\$3 fee for in-person

- \$0.09 = credit card fees (typically)
- \$1.50 = technical/user support, email and phone support, based in U.S.
- \$1.41 = online system hosting, maintenance, ongoing development, security and privacy assurance

Cancellations are allowed prior to youth beginning their web-based course and up to 24 hours prior to an instructor-led training. Registered youth will receive an email 48 hours prior to their scheduled instructor-led training to remind them of the event.

How were these fees established?

The fee structure was established by the YQCA Board of Directors. As a not-for-profit established for the sole purpose of providing quality and effective youth quality assurance training, the fees are intended to cover the costs of offering the program. The YQCA Board projected two major costs: 1) the initial cost to develop the new curriculum and to develop an online system that would integrate with 4-H Online, was safe and secure for minors, was stable, and met current data and web standards, and 2) the ongoing costs of keeping the curriculum revised, managing and promoting the program, and keeping the online system secure, safe and up-to-date.

The YQCA Board had to make estimates on number of users to establish a price point that would cover both the remaining costs of development and ongoing costs. The goal of the YQCA Board was to establish a fee structure that would not have to increase for at least 5 years so that all users would have a known cost to use for future planning. The YQCA Board also heard from state leaders that there was little capacity in state offices to provide user technical support, especially over holidays and weekends. The decision was made to have YQCA offer this support to all users and include this cost in the fee structure.

Are these fees comparable to other programs?

- Nebraska Extension offered an online quality assurance training program for a cost of \$10 per user. This program did not include materials for an instructor-led workshop, nor did the program offer to provide

integration into 4-HOnline. Nebraska Extension will be discontinuing their program upon the availability of YQCA. A representative of YQCA is on the YQCA Board of Directors.

- The Youth PQA Plus program is offered for free to youth but only includes information for pigs and the National Pork Board allocated funds to revise the materials every three years. Local educators delivering the instructor-led workshop may have charged a fee for their time and materials, but there was no fee for the online program. The National Pork Board did allocate checkoff funds to support the development of the YQCA program and has a representative on the YQCA Board to ensure the program meets the standards established to qualify as an equivalent replacement for Youth PQA Plus. No other livestock organization offers a youth quality assurance training program.
- Many states maintained their own programs that require staff and educator time to develop, edit, design and maintain the program materials. Some states charged fees for quality assurance workshops while others offered them at no cost.
- Many states have not offered a youth quality assurance program but expressed interest in utilizing YQCA once developed and available.
- Texas Agrilife offers Quality Counts, a training and certification for youth quality assurance that includes resources for instructor-led workshops and an online program called Texas Trail. Fee information for this program was not readily available.

How do YQCA coupon codes work?

The YQCA system offers the ability for anyone to purchase coupon codes that can be applied to YQCA registration expenses. A few details about the coupons:

- Codes do not expire
- Each code is unique and once used it cannot be used again
- Coupons can be \$12 for a web-based training or \$3 for an instructor-led training
- Whoever purchases the coupon codes is responsible for distributing them to designated users; YQCA cannot be held liable for misuse of coupon codes

Here are a couple of suggestions on how to utilize coupon codes:

- Find sponsor(s) interested in supporting youth livestock projects and have them help offset the cost of YQCA for youth in a club, a county, or the entire state
- Use coupon codes for families that do not want to use credit cards for online purchases. Find another family or adult that will accept payment from this family and will purchase coupon codes to use for youth registration.

What if my state needs to charge more for instructor-led workshops to recoup costs for materials and staff time?

The YQCA system is not capable of establishing different price points based on delivery location. There are two options to consider for this situation:

1. Require participants to make two payments: one for the \$3 online registration fee to YQCA and another payment for local costs.
2. For convenience to youth and their families, you could have them write you one check that includes the \$3 YQCA online fee. Your instructor could go online and purchase \$3 coupon codes at yqca.org and distribute these codes to the families that included the payment in their check.

YQCA Information Sheet for Shows and Fairs

Version 12.21.2017



This information sheet is provided as a resource. For additional questions, please email info@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 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 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. 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: <http://yqca.org/fairs-shows>. Please contact us at info@yqca.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 request a validation of provided certification numbers. We are working on additional ways for shows to be able to make this process easy and efficient while still maintaining our responsibility to protect information collected from minors as part of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Rule ("COPPA"). Please contact us if you have suggestions or specific needs. We will work hard to find the best solution.

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 was discontinued in March of 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 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, Livestock Operations Manager of the National Western Stock Show, 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. You can find the list of the YQCA Curriculum Objectives by Topic and Age in the IAFE toolkit. 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 from Cara at info@yqca.org. She can also direct you to resources and connect you with other educators to brainstorm effective ways to extend the learning in YQCA.

Junior (8-11)	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Food Safety	The Basics of Animal Identification	Administering Animal Health Products	Keeping Animals Healthy	Consumer Education – Thinking Like A Consumer
Animal Well-Being	The Basics of Animal Care	Quality Care	Willful Acts of Abuse	Record Keeping
Life Skills	The Basics of Animal Behavior	Goals To Success	Ethics In The Show Ring	Get Involved

Intermediate (12-14)	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Food Safety	Providing Quality Feed	Administering Animal Health Products	Herd Health Plan
Animal Well-Being	Daily Animal Care	Providing Quality Care	Animal Handling & Food Quality
Life Skills	Youth Leadership & Service	Emergency Action Plan	Ethics In The Show Ring

Senior (15-18)	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Food Safety	Providing Quality Feed	Administering Animal Health Products	Herd Health Plan	Responsibly Producing Foods
Animal Well-Being	Quality Animal Care	Record Keeping	Providing Quality Care	Ethics And Animal Well Being
Life Skills	Sharing the Story	Emergency Action Plan	Environmental Stewardship	Careers in Animal Agriculture

Young Adult (19-21)	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Food Safety	Food Safety And Youth Producers	Administering Animal Health Products	Herd Health Plan
Animal Well-Being	Animal Well-Being In Youth Livestock Projects	Providing Quality Care	Hot Topics in Animal Agriculture
Life Skills	Goals to Success	Continuous Improvement	Environmental Stewardship

Food Safety	
Year 1 Topics and Objectives	
The Basics of Animal Identification (J)	Summarize the importance of identifying and tracking animals.
	Identify appropriate methods of identification for each species and describe the application of those techniques.
Providing Quality Feed (I)	Identify the components of animal feed and additives.
	Describe the accepted practices for storing and handling feed.
	Determine the considerations for storing, handling and recorded use of medicated feed.
Providing Quality Feed (S)	Identify and define the components of a feed tag.
	Correlate the components of a feed tag with the decisions youth producers make concerning feeding animals.
	Understand appropriate feed additive use.
	Understanding the regulatory process for medicated and non-medicated feed additives.
Food Safety and Youth Producers (Y)	Identify the key messages to share with youth producers about the relationship between youth producers and food safety.
Year 2 Topics and Objectives	
Administering Animal Health Products (J)	Introduction to VCPR
	Differentiate between the types of medication used for animals (OTC, Rx, extra/off label, VFD)
	Define acceptable ways to administer medication to animals.
	Treatment record basics
Administering Animal Health Products (I)	Read the medication label to locate amount of medication needed and the type of administration.
	Identify the appropriate apparatus for administration based upon the medication label & species recommendations.
	Perform different modes of delivery of medicated products – injections, pour-ons, topical, modified live, nasals, oral, etc.
Administering Animal Health Products (S)	Define withdrawal time and its purpose and relation to food safety.
	Calculate withdrawal times.
	Explain the purpose of drug residue testing and when it would be appropriate to implement.
Administering Animal Health Products (Y)	Determine the effects of the incorrect administration and poor record keeping on the administration of animal health products to the animal and the public.
Year 3 Topics and Objectives	
Keeping Animals Healthy (J)	Describe the components to maintaining herd health.
	Define VCPR and its purpose.
	Record a list of steps to implement a VCPR.
Herd Health Plan (I)	Describe the components of a herd health plan and how they contribute to food safety and animal well-being.
	Perform appropriate methods of animal identification federal disease monitoring/surveillance including premise ID.
	Identify the accepted protocols for animal vaccination.
Herd Health Plan (S)	Evaluate herd health plans for youth livestock projects, identifying improvement opportunities.
	Implement biosecurity measures.
Herd Health Plan (Y)	Establish a herd health plan.
Year 4 Topics and Objectives	
Consumer Education – Thinking Like a Consumer (J)	Understanding food animal products: Recognize the purpose of wholesale cuts and identify common retail cuts found in the grocery store; common dairy products; eggs and egg by-products.
	Define the term ‘co-product’ and identify two common co-products from each species.
	Define common terms found on food labels (e.g., organic, natural, etc.)
Responsibly Producing Foods (S)	Describe what consumers want in food animal products and how they make purchasing decisions.
	Correlate consumer preferences in food animal products with the Good Production Practices taught and implemented through the YQCA program.

Animal Well-Being	
Year 1 Topics and Objectives	
The Basics of Animal Care (J)	Describe the observations to make daily when caring for animals and how to successfully record the observations.
	Describe the accommodations needed to provide the basic needs of food, shelter and water to animals.
	Define quality animal care and animal well-being and describe the relationship between the two.
Daily Animal Care (I)	Create a record keeping system to track daily observations.
	Evaluate animals and define the visible identifiers that represent a healthy animal in appropriate care.
Quality Animal Care (S)	Demonstrate the appropriate way to handle, move and transport animals.
	Define euthanasia and describe the terms of acceptable use.
Animal Well-Being in Youth Livestock Projects (Y)	Verbalize the importance keeping animal well-being at the forefront of livestock projects to up and coming youth producers.
Year 2 Topics and Objectives	
Quality Care (J)	Define guidelines for good feeding and watering practices.
	Define the basics of biosecurity practices.
Providing Quality Care (I)	Troubleshoot issues within the feed and water supply.
	Troubleshoot biosecurity challenges.
	Evaluate the facilities and equipment used to properly care for animals.
Recordkeeping (S)	Evaluate past records kept for a youth livestock project.
	Reevaluate personal record keeping system for accuracy and efficiency.
	Create an action or treatment plan for dealing with problems found during daily observations.
Providing Quality Care (Y)	Describe how youth livestock programs demonstrate the relationship between quality animal care and animal well-being.
Year 3 Topics and Objectives	
Animal Well-Being Practices (J)	Describe examples of willful acts of abuse in and outside of the show ring.
	Create an action plan for handling willful acts of abuse.
Animal Handling & Food Quality (I)	Identify handling practices that can negatively impact the quality of the meat.
	Differentiate between positive and negative carcass and meat characteristics as a result of good or poor handling practices.
	Troubleshoot issues with handling or issues with facilities that may lead to poor animal well-being or negative meat quality.
Providing Quality Care (S)	Define the proper feed processing (mixing) and storage protocols pertaining to cross contamination and prevention.
	Demonstrate an action plan for checking and maintaining feed storage used for youth livestock projects.
	Demonstrate how biosecurity feed practices are incorporated into quality animal care for youth livestock projects.
Hot Topics in Animal Agriculture (Y)	Evaluate consumer concern about livestock production and safe food products.
	Describe how to maintain biosecurity practices in a variety of scenarios.
Year 4 Topics and Objectives	
Recordkeeping (J)	Justify the need for maintaining each type of record in youth livestock projects (e.g. daily observations, medication treatment records, identification records, etc.).
	Create a record keeping system to adequately track medication treatment records.
Ethics and Animal Well-Being (S)	Demonstrate how the pillars of character relate to the livestock industry and animal well-being.

Life Skills	
Year 1 Topics and Objectives	
The Basics of Animal Behavior (J)	Demonstrate the proper techniques for handling animals.
	Demonstrate the proper techniques for moving animals.
Youth Leadership & Service (I)	Identify various leadership & service opportunities within the animal projects.
	Identify opportunities to be a role model for the animal industry.
Careers in Animal Agriculture (S)	Identify a possible career path after completing a personal career self-assessment.
	Explore careers in agriculture related to current livestock projects.
Goals to Success (Y)	Evaluate the goals set for you and your livestock project.
Year 2 Topics and Objectives	
Goals to Success (J)	Identify the purpose of setting goals.
	Compose goals for success in a youth livestock project.
Emergency Action Plan (I)	Identify the components of an emergency action plan and how they can be implemented in youth livestock projects.
Sharing The Story (S)	Demonstrate ways to positively share the story of youth livestock projects and their effect on the community and youth.
Continuous Improvement (Y)	Demonstrate the importance of education for all livestock producers.
	Define a plan for youth producers to demonstrate continuous improvement throughout their time in livestock projects.
Year 3 Topics and Objectives	
Ethics in The Show Ring (J)	Define the pillars of character and explain how they pertain to youth livestock projects.
	Consider ethical decisions involved in youth livestock projects.
Ethics in The Show Ring (I)	Demonstrate how the pillars of character are visible in youth livestock projects.
	Identify actions you can take to address unethical practices.
Emergency Action Plan (S)	Create an Emergency Action Plan.
Environmental Stewardship (Y)	Demonstrate good environmental stewardship practices to implement in a livestock plan.
Year 4 Topics and Objectives	
Get Involved (J)	Define ways for youth to be involved in the community.
	Identify what Checkoff dollars are and how they are used.
Environmental Stewardship (S)	Identify how youth exhibitors can demonstrate good environmental stewardship with their livestock project.