



Greetings Youth Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) Plus Advisors! Thank you for your time and assistance with the Youth PQA Plus program in Michigan. Because of your work and dedication to this educational opportunity, the state of Michigan ranks second in the number of youth currently enrolled in Youth PQA Plus. Currently there are over 5,000 youth involved in Youth PQA Plus. It is because of dedicated advisors like you that we have been able to build a successful program, offer educational programming for youth involved in pork production and promote good production practices for exhibition swine.

Please join us for the Michigan Youth PQA Plus Advisor Update Webinar with Julie Thelen and Megan Sprague, during an Adobe Connect session on **February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 4:00 pm**. During this session you will hear about updates to the program and have access to the newly developed educational materials. For access to the webinar, use <https://connect.msu.edu/juliethelen/>.

If you have never attended an Adobe Connect Pro meeting before, please test your connection in advance by going to this link: [https://connect.msu.edu/common/help/en/support/meeting\\_test.htm](https://connect.msu.edu/common/help/en/support/meeting_test.htm). You may need to download a small, harmless plug-in and update your version of Flash Player. Also, to get a quick overview of Adobe Connect go to: [http://www.adobe.com/go/connectpro\\_overview](http://www.adobe.com/go/connectpro_overview). If you have problems, call the MSU Distance Learning Services 24-hour helpline: 800-500-1554 or 517-355-2345.

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## Online Certification



In the 2014 revision of the program, Youth PQA Plus added an online training, testing, and certification option to accompany the current in-person process. Delivered to youth in the form of an engaging, interactive learning module, the online option allows participants to learn, test, and become certified.

Parents can register to manage their children's training (parental registration is required for youth age 8 - 12) or children 13 – 19 can self-register or be managed by a parent. It is strongly suggested that advisors do not register and manage youth.

Once the youth begins the online session, if the youth leaves the training module at any time they can return to where they left off and finish the program. Once the training module is complete, if the youth is eligible to test out, they will be prompted to do this by the program. Unlike face-to-face trainings, if they are eligible to test, they must complete the test to earn an online certification. Once a youth begins the testing process they must complete the entire test at that time. The system will automatically update the database with the youth's new expiration date and the youth will be able to print their Youth PQA Plus certificate showing an expiration date upon completion.



The online course is suggested for youth in need of immediate training, who can't make it to a face-to-face session in their area. It is not meant to replace holding Youth PQA Plus certification sessions in your area. It is meant to be a tool that increases flexibility for youth and compliments face-to-face sessions.

**Please warn youth that there can be technical glitches, and online training courses are NOT compatible with Mac/Safari or mobile devices (i.e.: cell phones and tablets).**

If youth experience technical difficulties they can call the Pork Checkoff Service Center at 800-456-7675. They are open from 9 am - 6 pm, Monday through Friday. They will only be available during their business hours. Please remember that they have no control over technical glitches and remind parents to be courteous and understanding when asking for assistance. The certification portion of [www.pork.org](http://www.pork.org) is currently being redesigned, and the appearance of the site will change in the near future. Please address all questions to either Megan Sprague or Julie Thelen (contact information on page 4).

## YPQA Online Tips

- ✓ The online option may take up to 2 hours to complete, longer for first time learners. Be sure you allow enough time to complete the training.
- ✓ Each registration needs an unique email. When the parent registers and manages the youth, each youth does not need an unique email.
- ✓ Each online training can only certify one youth regardless of how many youths watch the training.
- ✓ Online Training courses are NOT compatible with Mac/Safari or mobile devices (i.e.: cell phones or tablets).
- ✓ If youth have a Youth PQA Plus certificate number, they should use the number when registering for the website. If they do not know their number, call the Pork Checkoff Service Center (pg2).



## Become an Advisor ● ● ● ●

In order to become an Advisor for the Youth PQA Plus program you must contact your Youth PQA Plus State Trainer (Megan Sprague or Julie Thelen) and submit your name for consideration. The State Trainer is then responsible for submitting the qualified candidate's name and contact information to National Pork Board. They will also set up either an online or face-to-face training session for the candidate. In order to be considered as a candidate for the Youth PQA Plus program you must be a certified veterinarian, extension personnel, or a secondary/post-secondary agriculture instructor. Once you have been identified as a possible Advisor for the Youth PQA Plus program, your State Trainer will set up your training session. This may be provided via face-to-face with the State Trainer or through online modules supported by National Pork Board. Once you have completed your training you will be required to take and pass an exam to gain your Youth PQA Plus Advisor certification. This exam can be taken up to three times before re-training is required.

All Extension employees responsible for Youth PQA Plus events are encouraged to become an advisors. Even if teaching Youth PQA Plus is not something 4-H staff feel comfortable with, they would still benefit from completing the training. If you ask another advisor to present to your group you are still able to enter certifications and look up participants as needed.

If you are a current Youth PQA Plus Advisor you have to renew your certification every three years with the State Trainer. This can also be completed via face-to-face training or through the online modules. In order to remain a certified Advisor you will need to complete and pass the exam following the training.

## Resources

To view biosecurity, swine identification and links to other useful website, please visit the Swine Exhibition program page, [http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/info/exhibition\\_swine](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/info/exhibition_swine). MSU Extension will update the page with pertinent information for swine exhibitors in Michigan as it comes in.

In order to access the 2015 exams and the 2015 Power-Point you must contact Megan Sprague, at [Sprague@mipork.org](mailto:Sprague@mipork.org) to request access to the files on Google Drive. All of the materials will be automatically shared with anyone who had access in 2014. Other resource information is available from National Pork Board and is housed at [www.pork.org](http://www.pork.org).



## Class Info

An effort will be made to maintain information on Youth PQA Plus training dates throughout the state for 2015 utilizing the MSU ANR Communications events calendar. This is to ensure that youth have access to all of the sessions being held. MSU staff members can upload their own session information by logging in at: [http://anrcom.msu.edu/anrcom/msue\\_events\\_form](http://anrcom.msu.edu/anrcom/msue_events_form). If you are having troubles, or are not associated with MSUE, please email Julie Thelen, [thelenju@msu.edu](mailto:thelenju@msu.edu), with the following information for her to enter it online:

1. Title of event
2. Content about the event (include ages and whom it is open to and if they need to RSVP for the training)
3. Date of training
4. Time of training
5. Contact information
6. Location of training including address of event and county where training will be held.

## Contact Information:

### Megan Sprague:

Youth PQA Plus State Trainer  
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