



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 Emily Schmitt, during an Zoom meeting on **January 17, 2017 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, from PC, Mac, iOS or Android, visit: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/824970131> or join by phone at 1-646-558-8656, Meeting ID: 824 970 131. If you have never joined a Zoom meeting before, please log in early to download the Launcher. If you have questions, contact Julie Thelen at (517) 432-1626.

We hope you can join us!

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Youth for the Quality Care of Animals

The National Pork Board is excited to announce the transition of the Youth Pork Quality Assurance Plus (YPQA) to the new Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA).

Within the past few years, educators and livestock industry professionals have noticed NPB's success with the YPQA program and determined the need for a multi-specie (beef, dairy, goat, poultry, rabbit, sheep and swine), science-based educational program, offering access to every youth exhibitor ages 8 to 21, nationally. Annually, youth food animal producers raise thousands of food animals that contribute to the U.S. food supply. This contribution measures in the millions of pounds of consumable food animal products. Understanding how to produce a safe wholesome food animal product can only come from a comprehensive educational program focused on proper care and welfare of food animals. So a group of educators and livestock industry professionals have been working on developing this program to meet the needs for a multi-species program.

YQCA will provide a common framework for youth food animal quality assurance programs that will enhance the educational experience of youth, improve the care of food animals and provide a higher level of food safety to consumers. This program will embrace the founding principles of food safety that all quality assurance programs cover, with added information address-ing animal welfare, such as daily health observations, proper use of medications, and establishing a valid Veterinary Client Patient Relationship (VCPR), to mention a few. Those principal topic areas are similar across the species covered in the YQCA curriculum.

The YQCA program is set up for any youth

in the U.S. to have access to the online program and gain their certification. States can choose to implement YQCA on a statewide basis where additional requirements can be added and where an in-person training option can be offered. The national YQCA program will launch March 2017. Statewide implementations may also launch in March or at the time of the state's choosing. The first show to require YQCA certification will be World Pork Expo this coming June 2017. Livestock shows held on or after June 2017 can make completion of the YQCA program mandatory for their exhibitors.

The Goals of YQCA:

- 1. Ensure safety and well-being of animals produced by youth for showing and for 4-H and FFA projects.*
- 2. Ensure safe food supply to consumers.*
- 3. Enhance the future of livestock industry by educating youth on these very important issues so they can become more informed producers, consumers and/or employees in the agriculture and food industry.*
- 4. Maximize the limited development time and budgets of state and national youth program leaders to provide an effective quality assurance program.*
- 5. Offer livestock shows a valid, national quality assurance certification for youth livestock exhibitors.*

Please note, YPQA will no longer be administering by the end of 2017. The National Pork Board will fully be utilizing the YQCA program as the youth quality assurance program. Those who are not expired are still certified and will not need to earn YQCA certification until their expiration.

If you have more questions, you can visit the YQCA website at <http://yqca.org> or email sales@yqca.org

Online Certifications

With all the changes that are going on to transition from the last year of YPQA to the new Youth for the Quality Care of Animals Program, we know there will be a lot of questions.

One of these big changes is online certifications.

Youth can currently take the online class and receive their certification for YPQA. However, this will only be available until the end of December 2017.

Beginning in March, there will also be the opportunity to become trained through the YQCA course. There will a charge to take this course of a minimum of \$12.

With this option, students complete three online modules that are tailored for different age groups. Each topic begins with an e-book knowledge builder, continues with a skills lab and ends with a quiz.

There are still a lot of questions that we as a state have regarding this transition. We will work to get these answers to you as soon as possible.



Become an Advisor



In order to become an Advisor for the Youth PQA Plus program you must contact your Youth PQA Plus State Trainer (Emily Schmitt 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. The certification as a Youth PQA Plus Advisor will only be good for this year, as we are transitioning into YQCA.

For those interested in becoming certified to train youth in face to face certifications for YQCA, there will be an online Advisor certification similar to how the Youth PQA Plus Advisor certification program runs. To become a YQCA Advisors, individuals will have to meet the following requirements, which are the current Youth PQA Plus Advisor requirements: must be a veterinarian, extension personnel, or a secondary/post-secondary agriculture instructor.

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. MSU Extension will update the page with pertinent information for swine exhibitors in Michigan as it comes in.

In order to access the 2017 exams and the 2017 Power-Point you must contact Emily Schmitt, at schmitt@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 2016. Other resource information is available from National Pork Board and is housed at www.pork.org.



Class Info

An effort will be made to maintain information on Youth PQA Plus training dates throughout the state for 2017 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. If you are having troubles, or are not associated with MSUE, please email Julie Thelen, 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:

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