

February 3, 2020

Dear 4-H Livestock Families,

The March Clover Connection Newsletters discussed the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) program for 2021. We are excited that we have the opportunity to offer this critical educational piece to our youth. This program will allow the 4-H member to learn about the importance of animal-wellbeing, quality assurance practices, and their part in the food production system. Quality Assurance programs are a great way to ensure our youth producers are creating a product we can be proud to consume.

This is an annual program that can be completed via online modules (\$12) or in-person trainings (\$3). In-person trainings in Starke County will be free with a coupon for all Starke County 4-H members. Read below to learn how to obtain your coupon code from the Extension Office. The third option is the **online test out option** for youth in the intermediate and senior categories. This program is ensuring 4-H members learn about quality assurance and best management with their animals.

Who has to participate in the YQCA program?

- All 4-H members who are enrolled in the following projects need to complete the program in order to show at the Starke County 4-H Fair and/or the Indiana State Fair: Beef, Goat, Poultry, Rabbit, Sheep, Starter Calf, or Swine. This is a multi-species quality assurance program used nationally

When does the YQCA program need to be completed by?

- It would be most beneficial for 4-H members to complete the training during one of the three in-person trainings or online training by May 15th. That will allow for 4-H members to put into practice what they learn. 4-H members in Starke County **need to complete the training for the 2021 Starke County 4-H Fair, by July 1, 2021.**

How do I complete the YQCA program and what does it cost?

- There are three ways to complete:
 - Online - \$12.00
 - In-person training - \$3.00
 - **Test-Out Option (See information below)**
 - The cost of these trainings will need to be **paid online** (for an online training or an instructor led training) to the YQCA Company. The fee covers the cost of the training materials, which are updated each year and the maintenance of the database.
 - All Starke County 4-H members can complete the in-person training (\$3) for free. Coupons were donated by the Starke County 4-H Council.
 - Contact the Extension Office at 574-772-9141 or email Julia at jwickert@purdue.edu to receive your coupon code needed when registering for an in-person training. Each coupon code is unique.

Those individuals wishing to **test out must meet the following criteria:**

- This is only available to youth in the first year of intermediate (age 12) and senior (age 15). There is no test-out option for juniors. At the bottom of the "Course List" page are the test-out options for these age levels.
- The test consists of 50 questions and requires a pass rate of 80% or better for certification.
- If passed, the certification will last through the end of a user's age level (intermediate – ages 12, 13 and 14; senior – ages 15, 16, 17 and 18).
- The intermediate test-out course will cost \$36 (\$12 x 3 years of certification) and the senior test-out course will cost \$48 (\$12 x 4 years of certification.) If passed, users will receive access to online modules that correspond with the age levels indicated above, found on the user's "My Library" page.

- Users will have one chance to take the test-out option. If they fail, they will not be provided another opportunity for that level of certification. If the youth passes, payment for the completed test out course will be required after the completion of the test. No payment is required to attempt the test.
- Participants attempting and not passing will be prompted to take the instructor-led training or web-based training annually.

How do I sign up for YQCA?

- Registration for both Online and In-person training will need to be completed at <http://yqca.org>
- Click on the “Sign In/Registration” Button on the top Right hand side of the screen.
- **Use the “4HOnline Sign In” blue button.** Select Indiana 4-H Youth Development as your Organization. You will then enter your 4HOnline account information.
 - **By using the 4HOnline log in this information will show up in our database. Do not create a new account.** If you have lost your password click the forgot password button.
- The next menu will ask you to select a 4-H member. Click “select member”, then the consent screen will pop up.
- On the next screen, you will select a course. Please pay attention as this is by the child’s age.
- Select the appropriate course based on the 4-Her’s Age. The next screen will ask you to select the type of training you prefer (Online or Instructor Led). 4-Her’s Age is their age as of January 1, 2021.
- For the instructor-led training: Select “Indiana” as the state. In the Training Box, select the training you wish to register. Note that all of the trainings in Starke County will start with Starke County.
- Select purchase course.
- You will then follow the prompts and add your credit card information or coupon code.

Note about Instructor Led Training:

- You **must be preregistered** to participate. Sign up early because classes will fill up.
- **Payment with coupon has to be completed online before you can come to training.**
- Please show up early for check in.
- Classes are limited in size due to space and COVID-19 guidelines.
 - Masks will be worn by everyone.
 - Parents are asked to leave after registration due to meeting capacity guidelines.

Dates for Instructor Led Trainings in Starke County:

Date:	Time:	Location:
Saturday, April 17, 2021	10:00 AM	4-H Exhibit Bldg., Starke County 4-H Fairgrounds
Thursday, April 22, 2021	6:00 PM	4-H Exhibit Bldg., Starke County 4-H Fairgrounds
Tuesday, May 11, 2021	6:00 PM	4-H Exhibit Bldg., Starke County 4-H Fairgrounds

We know that this program will have many great benefits for the 4-H members. If you have any questions please contact Julia Miller, jwickert@purdue.edu or by calling 574-772-9141

Sincerely,

Julia K. Miller,
Extension Educator
CED/4-H Youth Development