

Dear 4-H Livestock Families:

Again in 2019, all beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, meat goats, dairy goats, poultry, and/or rabbits, 4-H members MUST be certified through the educational Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) program no later than July 5, 2019.

This is an annual education program that can be completed via online modules (\$12) or in-person training programs (\$3). In-person trainings held in Vigo County will be free to Vigo County 4-H Members who completed 4-H enrollment by January 15th. Thank you to local sponsors Farm Credit Mid-America and Rural King for providing coupons for YQCA in Vigo County.

Vigo County trainings will be held:

- Saturday, February 16 from 11:00 AM-noon in the 4-H Meeting Room (Beef & Dairy)
- Friday, March 8 from 6:30-8:00 PM in the 4-H Meeting Room (Poultry)
- Monday, March 18 from 6:30-8:00 PM in the Community Center (Swine)
- Thursday, May 16 from 6:00-8:00 PM in the Community Center (Rabbits)
- Thursday, May 23 from 6:30-8:00 PM in the Community Center (Sheep & Goats)
- All training dates coincide with Vigo County 4-H club meeting dates, but the training is open to any youth.
- Additionally, youth can attend training programs in other counties (at their own expense).

Youth must register for this training online within two weeks following the in-person training! The following information tells you how to register online plus there is step-by-step instructions and a video on our website.

Instructions for Signing up for your YQCA Training in Vigo County at the Fairgrounds:

1. Contact Sara to get an YQCA coupon code for your in-person training. You can receive your coupon code prior to the training or you can get a code at the conclusion of the training.
2. Within two weeks following the training, go to yqca.learnrow.io and select sign in with your **4HOnline account**. You will be prompted to select a state, then enter the login information for your 4HOnline account. After logging in you will be given a list of active family members. Select a family member and start the account creation process.
3. When you see the course list, select the \$3 instructor led training appropriate for the 4-H member's age.
4. Select your payment method and enter the coupon code in all capital letters.
5. Repeat for any additional family members.
6. Once you have attended the training the instructor will mark attendees complete within a week following the training.
7. Return to the course menu and print your certificate for your records. A printed certificate is required for those exhibiting at the Indiana State Fair.

While this is a new requirement, it should not be viewed as just another rule, but rather as an important educational opportunity for 4-H livestock members. Making this an exhibition rule is how Indiana 4-H is ensuring that 4-H members learn about quality assurance (though actually, the program has nothing to do with animal exhibition). Indiana 4-H is requiring this program so youth learn best management practices with their animals. The YQCA program will:

- Ensure that youth livestock exhibitors are better prepared to be ambassadors for animal agriculture.
- Ensure that animals from youth livestock programs are treated with the utmost care.
- Ensure that 4-H members are contributing to a safe, wholesome food supply for consumers.
- Enhance the future of the livestock industry so that today's youth producers can become more informed producers, consumers, and/or employees of the agriculture and food industry.

New for 2019

There is now an online test out option for youth in the intermediate, senior, and young adult categories. This will be an accepted form of certification for Indiana 4-H members. 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), senior (age 15) and young adult (age 19). 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; and young adult – ages 19, 20 and 21.)
- The intermediate and young adult 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.

More information about YQCA is available at <http://yqca.org>. Contact Sara Haag, shaag@purdue.edu or 812-462-3371, with questions or assistance.

FAQ

Q: I exhibit three different types of livestock, do I need to attend three trainings?

A: No, you need one certification done online or in-person to meet your requirement.

Q: Do Mini 4-Her's have to take the training?

A: No, Mini 4-Her's are exempt from the training. YQCA is developed for 8-21 year olds.

Q: My Youth PQA certification is good until December of 2019, do I need to take YQCA training?

A: No, your valid multi-year PQA certification will be grandfathered in until that certification expires. Regardless of the species(s) you are exhibiting.

Sara Haag
Extension Educator
4-H Youth Development
shaag@purdue.edu

Thank you sponsors!

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