What is it?

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) is a new, national, multi-species youth livestock quality assurance program that covers food safety, animal well-being and character development through age-appropriate educational curriculum.

Who needs to get certified?

Any youth 7 years of age and older who will be exhibiting a market or breeding animal in the Ford County Fair (market only), Kansas State Fair Grand Drive or Kansas Junior Livestock Show (KJLS) is required to obtain certification. YQCA certification numbers will be submitted through the nomination process for market animals, and at the time of entry for exhibitors who only have registered purebred breeding animals. All youth should complete the training by June 15, 2020. *Seven-year-olds need to call the office prior to registering.

How do youth get certified?

Youth may earn their certification in one of the following ways:
- Instructor-Led Training ($3 per child)
- Online Course ($12 per child)
- Test-Out Exam (12 & 15-year-olds only; online course only; cost varies based on age.)

Instructor-led sessions may be offered at the local level by certified instructors. Visit www.yqca.org for more details and to register for a class. All youth must pre-register through the YQCA website and pay the appropriate fee, regardless of the type of training they select, in order to obtain a certification number. Families should use their 4HOnline credentials to log in, create an user account and register for training. Each individual must have a separate e-mail address when registering. At completion of course, certificate should be printed off by individual and turned into the Extension Office.

How do youth test-out?

There is no test-out option for juniors. The online test-out is available only for 12 and 15-year-olds (first year intermediate and senior age divisions). Youth have one opportunity to pass a 50-question exam, with a score of 80% or better, for certification. Families will still have to pay the annual fee for certification. However, eligible youth do not have to pay the fee to attempt the exam. If a young person passes the exam and subsequently submits the appropriate payment, they will receive a multi-year certification. A young person who does not pass will be prompted to complete the annual training, either through instructor-led class or online course.

For more information:

More information may be found on the KSU Youth Livestock Website, under Youth Livestock Quality Assurance at http://www.asi.k-state.edu/research-and-extension/youth-programs/YQCA.html.