

New YQCA Requirement for 2019 State Fair & KJLS Exhibitors

Hi Kansas Youth Livestock Families~

As we enter a new year, there is a very important announcement for those who plan to participate in the Kansas State Fair Grand Drive and/or KJLS. **ALL exhibitors will be required to complete Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) certification to be eligible for either show in 2019.** This applies to market animal exhibitors, those showing commercial breeding animals, and youth with registered purebred breeding animals (heifers, gilts, ewes).

The YQCA program is a new, national, multi-species youth livestock quality assurance program available for youth 8-21 years of age. The program focuses on food safety, animal well-being, and character development. This is an annual training, as the learning modules change each year. So, the curriculum grows with young people as they advance through the program. Below are some details about the program and how youth can obtain their certification. Families are also encouraged to communicate with their local extension unit regarding course options available in their area.

All families who have youth seeking certification will need to create a user account through the YQCA website and pre-register for training, regardless of the delivery method selected. Being officially registered is the only way a child can be issued a certification number upon completion of the training. Kansas 4-H members will need to visit www.yqca.org, click the "Sign In/Register" tab on the right side of the screen and log in using their 4HOnline credentials to create a user account (option on the left side of the page). FFA members will need to create an independent account (option on the right side of the page). All youth need to use their age as of January 1 and will have to pay for their course during the online registration process.

Certification Options:

- ✓ **Instructor-led Training** - \$3/child – face-to-face class taught by certified instructor. Class will be at least 60-minutes in length.
- ✓ **Online Course** - \$12/child – youth complete age specific knowledge builders, skills labs, and quizzes online at their convenience. Must be completed on a computer with high speed internet access; not compatible with mobile devices.
- ✓ **Test-out Exam** – YQCA just released this option for 2018-2019. It is only available online for 12 and 15-year-olds (first year of the intermediate and senior age divisions). Youth have one opportunity to pass a 50-question exam. Families will still have to pay the annual fee for certification for the entire age bracket, which is \$36 for a 12-year-old and \$48 for a 15-year-old. 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 registering for an instructor-led class or the online course.
- ✓ **National Pork Board Youth PQA + -** both shows will honor YPQA + numbers issued by the National Pork Board until they expire. So, youth who have a current number that will be valid through the end of September 2019 do not need to complete the YQCA certification. Their YPQA+ number will be accepted in lieu of YQCA. The YPQA+ program has been retired by the National Pork Board, and they are no longer offering training or issuing new certification numbers. So, once a child's YPQA+ number expires, they will be expected to complete YQCA training.

- ✓ **7-year-olds** are exempt from YQCA certification. The program is not designed to issue certification numbers to youth under the age of 8. So, these youth are encouraged to attend a face-to-face class but are not expected to submit a number to participate in the 2019 KJLS.

Exhibitors who state nominate animals will provide proof they have met the YQCA certification requirement by attaching a copy of their YQCA or YPQA+ certificate/card to their Declaration Form when they submit their nomination materials. Youth who will only exhibit purebred registered breeding females (which are not nominated), will submit their YQCA number as part of the online entry system when they actually enter each respective show.

Below are abbreviated step-by-step instructions to register for a YQCA class. An informational flyer about this new requirement is attached. A visual resource to guide families through the registration and online certification process is also attached.

YQCA Registration Instructions:

1. Visit www.yqca.org.
2. Click the “Sign In/Register” tab on the upper right hand corner of the page.
3. Members who are enrolled and active **Kansas 4-H members** through 4HOnline need to:
 - a. Choose the blue “**Sign in with 4HOnline**” button on the left side of the page
 - b. Select Kansas 4-H Youth Development
 - c. Use family 4HOnline credentials to log in
 - d. 4-H members skip to step 5
4. **FFA** or other non-4-H youth need to create an independent user account:
 - a. Choose the red “**Sign In**” button on the right side of the page
 - b. Complete the contact information set up, and enter a username/password
5. Once logged in, select the appropriate child to register in a YQCA course from the drop-down menu.
6. Select the appropriate course based on the child’s January 1 age.
7. Choose the course type:
 - a. For a face-to-face class, register for the “Instructor-Led Training” on the right, which is \$3/child. From the “State” drop-down menu, select Kansas, then the class in which the child plans to attend. All classes offered by a Kansas approved certified instructor will appear on the list.
 - b. For the online course, register for the “Web-Based Training” on the left, which is \$12/child.
 - c. The test-out option only appears for 12 and 15-year-old youth who are eligible based on their January 1 age. This option is at the bottom of the general course list.
8. Click the red “**Purchase Course**” button and enter payment information.

Certificate - after youth have completed their training, families need to log back into the YQCA site to access their certification number(s) and certificate(s), using the same procedure they did to register for the class. A red “**Print Certificate**” button will appear under the name of each child in the family’s YQCA user account. The certificate(s) may be printed, as well as saved to any device.

We look forward to this being a great additional educational opportunity for youth involved in livestock projects. Learning to appropriately manage animals while providing a safe, wholesome, and high quality product for consumers is an important aspect of being involved in the livestock industry.