

Meat Quality Assurance Training Requirements

1. All new and current 4-H members advancing to intermediate (11 years old) or senior (14 years old) 4-H members must complete a Meat Quality Assurance (MQA) workshop if enrolled in any goat, beef, sheep, swine, poultry or rabbit project(s). This must be done at least 45 days prior to the Arapahoe County Fair in order to be eligible to exhibit at the county and/or state fair(s). Proof of compliance must be submitted to the Arapahoe County Extension Office.
2. All 4-H members are required to attend a MQA training during their first year in a livestock project regardless of their age.
3. 4-H members advancing to a new age group (intermediate and senior) must also attend an MQA training that year.
4. If the 4-H member is unable to attend an MQA workshop in Arapahoe County, the 4-H member may attend an MQA workshop in another county **OR** they may obtain a Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) certification online or in person at their own expense. YQCA certification is only valid for 1 year and therefore the member will need to attend a Colorado MQA training the following year. A member cannot do YQCA in back to back years to satisfy MQA requirements at this time.
5. 4-H members enrolled in market and/or breeding livestock projects will complete and sign the Wholesome Meat Act Agreement at the Arapahoe County Fair. By signing the agreement, 4-H members indicate their understanding of and compliance with the Wholesome Meat Act and the Ten Good Production Practices; i.e., taught during MQA. Additionally, the consequences of failing to comply with the Wholesome Meat Act Agreement may result in removal from all 4-H livestock projects for the 4-H member /family. This agreement must be completed for each livestock project the 4-H member is enrolled in.

YQCA formerly Pork Quality Assurance (Market and Breeding Swine Project Members Only)

and/or National Show Requirements for ALL SPECIES

PQA certification has been replaced with YQCA (Youth for the Quality Care of Animals) which now includes all species. Members exhibiting mkt hog projects at state or national shows will be required to obtain an YQCA certification (each show will have their own requirements). This certification is only valid for 1 year. YQCA is available as an online program for youth everywhere in the United States and covers all species. YQCA in-person workshops may be available to youth where organizations have partnered with YQCA to have qualified trainers offer in-person workshops. YQCA certification is the responsibility of each individual exhibitor. YQCA may be required of all species at various national and regional shows. Please check individual show requirements if you plan to exhibit at the show. Meeting those requirements for YQCA will be the exhibitor's responsibility.