NEW THIS YEAR – YQCA

Starting fall of 2017, Wisconsin will replace the MAQA (Meat Animal Quality Assurance) program with the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) national program.  This new and interactive program provides youth a number of options for an annual quality assurance certification.  YQCA was created for youth in the Beef, Dairy, Goat, Poultry, Rabbit, Sheep, and Swine projects.  This new program gives families more flexibility in acquiring this much needed information which trains youth in improving the care of food animals and promoting a higher level of consumer food safety.  The livestock industry and businesses are constantly striving for high quality, wholesome products; therefore, youth in food animal projects should assist in this effort.

**Youth enrolled in beef, sheep and/or swine must be YQCA certified – same as MAQA in previous years**

**Two options:**

**Online training – cost of $12.00 - The online course can be done anytime – year round**

**In person training – cost of $3.00**

**Both MUST pre-register (including payment) through YQCA.org**

Two in-person trainings will be offered in Dane County. May 7 and June 7 both beginning at 6pm at the Dane County UWEX Office, 5201 Fen oak Drive. Registration is limited, so if you want to do an in-person training, register soon (through the web site listed below).

Please go to <https://yqca.learngrow.io/Account/Login> in order to register for either online or instructor led courses.  If you are a 4-H member, please log in through the 4-H Online system on the left.  If you are an FFA member or other organization affiliate, please sign in through the independent system on the right.  You will create an account followed by either completing a sign up for an [instructor led meeting](https://fyi.uwex.edu/youthlivestock/files/2017/12/GettingYourYQCAInstructorLedTrainingCertification.pdf) or [online/web based](https://fyi.uwex.edu/youthlivestock/files/2017/12/GettingYourYQCAWebBasedCertification.pdf) modules.  Upon signing up for a course, you will then pay for that course with a credit card. Please email help@yqca.org for any assistance you need in creating or signing up in the YQCA system.

Of reminder, Wisconsin State Fair and other national exhibitions will require certification in YQCA for participation for 2018 events and beyond.  Wisconsin State Fair will be in contact sometime in January.

Continue to monitor the Wisconsin YQCA website for helpful information: <https://fyi.uwex.edu/youthlivestock/yqca/> and the Wisconsin Youth Livestock Program social media channels; [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/wisconsinyouthlivestock/?ref=bookmarks), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/wiyouthlvstk?lang=en), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/wiyouthlvstk/?hl=en).

Information will also be posted on the Dane County website at: <https://fyi.uwex.edu/dane4hyouth/4-h-projects/livestock/>