

## **YMQA QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

### ***What is Youth Meat Quality Assurance (YMQA)?***

The Youth Meat Quality Assurance Program is a program designed to teach youth the basics of animal husbandry and general management practices in raising a project animal. This program provides a foundation of animal management for youth of all ages. The mission of this youth meat quality assurance program is to maximize consumer confidence and acceptance of the food products produced via youth livestock projects. Quality assurance for livestock producers means making a promise to the consumers, or the people who consume the products that come from livestock. The promise made is that products from livestock will be the highest possible quality and producers will do everything possible to make these products safe to eat.

### ***What comprises the YMQA Program?***

The Youth Meat Quality Assurance Program (YMQA) is comprised of the Youth Pork Quality Assurance (YPQA), Beef Quality Assurance (BQA), Sheep Quality Assurance and Goat Quality Assurance Programs. The Youth Meat Quality Assurance Program fully certifies youth in the Youth Pork Quality Assurance Plus Program and the classroom-portion of the Beef Quality Assurance Program. Youth can also attend a chuteside BQA training to become fully certified in Beef Quality Assurance.

### ***Why do we need to complete a Youth Meat Quality Assurance Training?***

Youth Meat Quality Assurance ensures consumer confidence in the products (projects) that you are raising. It is assuring the consumer that your project animal was raised using best management practices to ensure a safe and wholesome product. In addition, there are many packers that require the owner of swine to be Youth PQA Plus certified before their animals are allowed to be harvested at their facility. By completing the YMQA program, you are opening up additional marketing opportunities for your projects.

### ***Is a YMQA training required to show at the State Fair of Virginia?***

Yes, all youth interested in showing at the State Fair of Virginia are required to attend a YMQA training.

### ***When do I need to be trained to be eligible to show at the State Fair of Virginia?***

All youth must attend a YMQA training by the August 15th entry deadline.

### ***Do I need to complete a chuteside BQA training, in order to show at the State Fair of Virginia?***

No, you do not need to complete the chuteside training portion of BQA in order to show at the SFVA.

### ***Is YMQA required for the Junior Beef Roundup?***

No, it is not required for the 2015 Junior Beef Roundup, but it may be required for the 2016 Junior Beef Roundup.

### ***Do I need Youth Quality Meat Assurance for the Youth Cattle Working Contests?***

We strongly suggest that you attend a YMQA training, but do not require a YMQA training to compete in the Youth Cattle Working Contests. However, in order to compete

## **YMQA QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

in the Youth Cattle Working Contests, you must be fully BQA certified (must attend both a classroom and chuteside training).

### ***Do I have to attend a training every year?***

Yes, you have to attend a training every year until you successfully test out of all the modules for Youth Pork Quality Assurance Plus. For more information regarding testing out please contact your local county Extension agent.

### ***Can my parents or 4-H Leader train me?***

No, only trained extension agents, FFA advisors and extension specialists can train youth for the YMQA program.

### ***Can I go to a YMQA training in another county?***

You must check with the local extension agent to see if you can attend another county's training.

### ***How do I know if my agent is a trainer for YMQA?***

You need to call your local extension office to see if either the 4-H agent or ANR agent is certified to train youth for YMQA. If there is not a local agent trained, please check the calendar for a local training or contact Dr. Paige Pratt.

### ***What if I became certified during school with my agricultural teacher?***

You need to make sure that you have completed both the Youth Pork Quality Assurance Plus training and the Beef Quality Assurance classroom training to be certified in Youth Meat Quality Assurance and fully eligible to compete at the State Fair of Virginia.