



Oconto County

301 Washington Street
Oconto, WI 54153-1699
PHONE (920) 834-6845
FAX (920) 834-6853
TDD Relay 711

University of Wisconsin-Extension
Oconto County

January 11, 2019

Sarah Mills-Lloyd

Agriculture Agent
sarah.millsloyd@ces.uwex.edu

Dale Mohr

Community Resource Development
Agent
dale.mohr@ces.uwex.edu

Ben Hoppe

4-H Program Coordinator
benjamin.hoppe@ces.uwex.edu

Jill Cholewa

Family Living Agent
jill.cholewa@ces.uwex.edu

Sarah Ferdon

FoodWise Nutrition Coordinator
sarah.ferdon@ces.uwex.edu

Sarah Schindel

FoodWise Nutrition Educator
sarah.schindel@ces.uwex.edu

Support Staff

Jenny Tyczkowski

jenny.tyczkowski@co.oconto.wi.us

Dear Livestock Animal Exhibitors,

Wisconsin has replaced the MAQA (Meat Animal Quality Assurance) program with the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) national program. This interactive program provides youth options for annual quality assurance certification.

Exhibitors of the following species in Oconto County must complete Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) national program: **beef, dairy, dairy goat(s), meat goat(s), poultry, rabbit, sheep and swine and poultry** in order to be eligible to sell in the 2019 Oconto County Youth Fair Sale of Champions. In addition, it will count as one of your educational points for the Oconto County Fair, and be required for those who intend to show beef, sheep, swine, goats, dairy, poultry and rabbits at the 2019 Wisconsin State Fair.

The YQCA training provides a common framework for food animal quality assurance programs, which will strengthen the youth educational experience, improve the care of food animals, and promote a higher level of consumer food safety. In addition, youth will learn about other species of animals; not just the species they show. Each year, youth will complete one new module in each the following categories: Animal Welfare (basic needs, proper animal handling, biosecurity, etc.), Food Safety (medications, medicated feeds, withdrawal times, avoiding residue, etc.), and Character Education (ethics, goal setting, career exploration, etc.).

The YQCA program was peer-reviewed for content and age appropriateness. It is supported by Wisconsin 4-H and FFA leaders. Youth for the Quality Care of Animals training content and modules will demonstrate a progression of topic knowledge in designated age categories (age as of January 1):

- Junior (8-11 years old) • Intermediate (12-14 years old)
- Senior (15-18 years old) • Young Adult (19-21 years old)

The YQCA training is an effort to provide flexibility to accommodate busy seasonal schedules, while providing relevant age-specific food animal quality assurance training. There are three options to become YQCA certified:

- In-person instructor led training—available for juniors (8-11 year olds only)
- Online modules
- Online test-out (**NEW for 2019!**)

The online test-out option is only available for youth 12, 15, and 19 years old. Online fees associated with the test-out option will only be collected if the test is passed. On average, it will take approximately 60 minutes per year to complete all the required online training modules or in-person training—depending on age and familiarity with presented information.



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Maintaining current information, and developing creative modules on an online learning platform costs a significant amount of money. Youth exhibitors will pay depending on the training option. Youth completing the online modules will pay \$12/person/year, and face-to-face trainings offered for juniors (youth age 8-11) only will pay \$3/person/year. The fee for the test-out option is pro-rated depending on the age of the youth.

To complete the YQCA online training or register for face-to-face training, log into <http://yqca.org>. Follow the step-by-step instructions to create a user identity and password. All payments for either the online or in-person training will be made using the YQCA website.

Two in-person trainings will be offered for juniors (8-11 year olds). The dates and locations of the trainings are listed below. Space will be limited, and registration will be taken only through the YQCA website (<http://yqca.org>).

2019 YQCA In-Person Trainings for Juniors (8-11 year olds) ONLY:

Thursday, April 11—Pound Town Hall, Coleman 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Saturday, May 4—Gillett Community Center, 204 E Main Street, Gillett 10:30 am - Noon

If you complete your YQCA training online, it is recommended to print the completion certificate at the end of the online session. Access to the in-person YQCA completion certificate will be available approximately one week following the completing of the instructor led training. The certificate and ten-digit certificate number can only be accessed through your account at <http://yqca.org>. The certificate with the corresponding ten-digit certificate number will be requested by the Oconto County Fair at the time of fair entries for training verification.

Effective January 1, 2019, several large packers and processors will only purchase from Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) farms. Buyers and stockyards will be confirming compliance at the point of sale. Youth for the Quality Care of Animals is equivalent to certification in Beef Quality Assurance (BQA). No additional certification or training by youth will need to be completed, if they have successfully completed their annual YQCA certification.

If you are not YQCA certified, you will not be eligible to sell in the Sale of Champions at the 2019 Oconto County Fair. Training must be renewed every year for YQCA. Exhibitors must complete all online modules, attend the entire in-person training, or successfully test-out to be certified. Please choose the option that works best for you!

If you have any questions about the YQCA training, please contact Sarah at (920) 834-6845. You may also visit the UW-Extension Wisconsin Youth Livestock Program website (<https://fyi.uwex.edu/youthlivestock/yqca/>) for additional YQCA information.

Thank you,

Sarah Mills-Lloyd, DVM
Agriculture Agent—Specializing in Dairy and Livestock
Oconto County UW-Extension