

What is Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA)?

Beginning in 2019-2020 Illinois 4-H, requires all youth ages 8-18, enrolled in livestock projects complete annual quality assurance certification through the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) program. YQCA is a national multi-species quality assurance program. The goals of this program are to ensure safety and well-being of animals produced by youth for showing 4-H projects, ensure a safe food supply to consumers, enhance the future of the livestock industry by educating youth on these very important issues so they can become more informed producers and consumers in agriculture and food industry, and offer livestock shows a valid, national quality assurance certification for youth livestock exhibitors.

When do I need to complete YQCA training?

Youth **MUST** take this training prior to making their county 4-H show entries. (Entries will NOT be approved unless training is complete.)

This does not apply to youth exhibiting animal or veterinary science poster/display projects.

How do I complete the training and what is fee?

Youth have two options to be certified. You may attend a certification program hosted by the Extension Office (cost \$3) or you may complete the training online (cost \$12). Each county will be offering an in-person training opportunity. You may attend the training that works best for your schedule.

The in-person training opportunities will be held:

March 17, 2020	6:00-7:30pm	Logan County Extension Office
April 2, 2020	6:00-7:30pm	Menard County Extension Office
April 27, 2020	6:00-7:30pm	Sangamon County Extension Office

Youth who choose to attend an in-person instructor-led training will need to register online through the YQCA website. Youth MUST pre-register and pay online; no walk-in registrations or money can be taken the day of the training.

To complete the YQCA requirement, follow these steps:

- 1) Visit <http://yqca.org/>
- 2) Sign in through your 4-H Online account
- 3) Select 4-H member (if you have more than one 4-H member needing to complete certification, you will need to sign in and out for each individual member)
- 4) Follow instructions to Complete Your Account
- 5) Choose a Course from the course list by member's age of last calendar year.
- 6) Two Certification Options:
 - a. Online/Web-based – Completed at home by the member - \$12
 - b. Instructor-Led Training - \$3
 - i. Search by State
 - ii. Select Training - example: University of Illinois Extension Sangamon, Logan or Menard County
 - iii. Purchase Course (enter credit card information to complete payment option)

If you have questions about this new training requirement, please contact 4-H Extension Educator Carissa Davis at 217-732-8289 or akpore@illinois.edu