

## Youth Pork Quality Assurance Plus - On-line Certification Procedure

The Pork Board has taken some steps to provide youth sign-ups for online training directly through their website. In short, this means that youth enrolled in the swine project now have the option of becoming certified via on-line modules at the Pork Board website. This is the preferred method for Meadowlark District 4-H Swine members to receive YPQA Plus certification. Here are the steps.

1. Go to <http://www.pork.org>. Click on "**Online Training**" found across the top of the webpage.
2. You will be taken to a log-in page. Children under the age of 13 will need to have a parent create the account. You have three options at this point.
  - a. Log into an existing account using your saved user name and password
  - b. Create a new account if you are a first time user
  - c. Retrieve your user name and/or password if you have created an account in the past and can't remember or gain access to that existing account information.
3. Once you are logged into your account, select the "**Online Training**" at the top of the page and "**Manage/Train My Children**" within that drop down menu.
4. You may now select an existing child account (*select the icon that looks like an eye*) or chose the blue button to "**Add Child Account**", if adding a new child to the account for the first time.
5. If adding a new child, you have two options.
  - a. Add a child who has existing certification. This brings up a search screen to find youth who have past YPQA certification. Search for your children and add them to the account if they are not already there. Please do this step if there is old certification, because it "ties" all the data together for youth already in the system.
  - b. Adding a child who has NEVER been certified is the other option and should be utilized for the first time youth are certified. You will be asked to enter personal contact information, including Birthday - VERY IMPORTANT, at this point.
6. After youth are connected to the account, by either selecting an existing member (as in step #4) or adding a child (as in step #5); click on the "**View**" button (*icon looks like an eye*) in "Manage Child Accounts". This brings up the Active Learning Events and/or Expired Learning Events and/or Completed Learning Events. Learning Events equate to online certification. If your child is eligible for re-certification (within 90 days of last certification being expired) an Active Learning Event module should show up. **IF IT DOES NOT, PLEASE CONTACT THE NATIONAL PORK BOARD AT THE NUMBER or EMAIL, DURING THE HOURS LISTED ON THE SCREEN!** They will need to help you fix this issue.
7. Once an Active Learning Event is available to the child, click on the blue "Continue" button to begin the online learning modules. Youth need to view all the modules, found on the "Course" section (*this process may take 1-2 hours, depending on internet speed*) When you click continue, pop-up blockers may not allow the modules to launch, you may have to enable or allow the pop-up to launch course. Make sure Adobe Flash is updated on the machine you using! **Once the youth has signed up for an online training, they will have 30 days to complete the training.**
8. After all modules have been viewed, youth are eligible to take the Exam. Information from the learning modules and PQA Plus Youth Handbook will be covered in the exam. Youth will have three attempts to successfully complete the exam with a passing score. One year certification is granted after three failed attempts.
9. Certificates can be viewed and printed from this site as well. Sharing an emailed copy of this certificate with the Extension Office is appreciated.

## **Age Specific Information - all ages listed are 4-H Age on January 1<sup>st</sup>**

### **7 & 8 year olds:**

Kansas is one of the few states in the nation that allows 7 year olds to participate as full members of the 4-H program. Having said this, it creates an issue with those 4-H members age 7 on January 1 of the current year in terms of YPQA Plus certification. Basically these youth members are not eligible to receive certification through the National Pork Board program. Options for 7 year olds include:

- 1) Participating in certification with an older sibling and utilizing their certification number OR
- 2) Having a parent attend an adult Pork Quality Assurance Plus certification training and using the parent's adult certification number.

Additionally, Meadowlark District is not requiring 8 year olds, who show at local fairs only, to complete YPQA certification, even though they have the OPTION to certify through the steps mentioned above, if 8 on January 1st. The certification process for local fairs will begin at age 9. However, 7 & 8 year olds who intend to show at the Kansas Junior Livestock Show, will need to follow the steps mentioned above, of having a sibling or parent certification number, prior to nominations for KJLS.

### **9 to 11 year olds:**

This age group is the first group required to have YPQA Plus certification to show/sale at local fairs and will complete annual renewal of certification. The certification period runs a calendar year from the month certification was completed. *EXAMPLE:* certification completed online April 15, 2016 - the expiration of the certification certificate would show April 30, 2017.

### **12 to 14 and 15 to 18 year olds:**

*(NOTE: Kansas 4-Hers only participate in 4-H until December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year in which they turn 19)*

This age group is eligible for a test that may provide them with a 2 or 3 year certification.

However, 14 year olds are only eligible to receive a one-year training certificate due to the fact they will move into a different age bracket at 15. If a youth member does not pass their exam online, they will still receive a one year certification. Essentially, youth can "test out" at age 12 and then again at age 15.

Certification expires on December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year. *EXAMPLE:* a youth member "tests out" at age 12 on April 15, 2016 - expiration on the certification certificate would show December 31, 2018.

### **SUMMARY:**

Youth 4-H ages 7 & 8 ARE NOT required to carry YPQA Plus certification for county fair shows, but will need this certification for state level shows. Youth ages 9 to 11 will complete annual certification. Youth can test out for a three year period at age 12 and again at age 15. Essentially youth showing swine at county fairs only will complete this certification process five times in a 4-H career.

### **Implications for Meadowlark Extension District**

This on-line certification does offer a convenience factor to members and families to do Youth Pork Quality Assurance Plus training as your schedule allows. On-line certification will be the method that you need to use to complete certification if you need this. Currently we've asked for all YPQA certification to be completed by **MAY 1<sup>st</sup>** of each year, we still ask that you adhere to this local deadline. We appreciate it when individuals let the Extension Office know when you have completed your YPQA certification. If you do not have YPQA Plus certification, you **WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO SHOW AT FAIR!!!**

We welcome your input and feedback on this important youth education and product quality certification process. Your comments will help direct the training needs locally for the future. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jody Holthaus, District Livestock Agent, 785-364-4125 or [jholthau@ksu.edu](mailto:jholthau@ksu.edu) OR Ross Mosteller, District 4-H Youth Development Agent, 785-336-2184 or [rmostell@ksu.edu](mailto:rmostell@ksu.edu)

*(April 2016)*