Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) is a national multi-species quality assurance program for youth ages 8 to 21 with a focus on three core pillars: **food safety, animal well-being, and character development.** YQCA includes information for youth showing the following food animals: Beef Cattle, Dairy Cattle, Goats, Sheep, Swine, Market Rabbits & Poultry. The YQCA curriculum is broken into four levels: Junior ages 8-11, Intermediate ages 12-14, Senior ages 15-18 and Young Adult ages 19-21. Three or four levels of content focused on food safety, animal well-being and character are outlined for each level.

Meadowlark Extension District has made YQCA a part of the animal ownership requirements for the market AND breeding sides of the species listed above (*Rabbits and Poultry are meat animals only*). Additionally, the YQCA education component is part of the Premium Sale Requirement for any eligible livestock species. Youth wishing to enter animals at fair and sell eligible animals in Premium sales within the District must complete this process ANNUALLY before July 1st. This is an annual certification that offers new topics based upon exhibitor 4-H age as of January 1st.

There are two options for training, 1) face to face or 2) online modules. Registration for either option needs to happen BEFORE the event, online. Log in at: https://yqca.learngrow.io and choose to use the 4HOnline Sign In Option, selecting "Kansas 4-H Youth Development" and using your family 4HOnline log in email and password. The document "*Getting Your YQCA Instructor-Led Web Based Training Certification"* has step by step instructions, with screenshots, to assist you with this process. Youth need to sign up for the training that corresponds to their appropriate 4H age and learning delivery. EXAMPLE: Age 09: Junior, Web-Based Training, $12, OR Age 16: Senior, Instructor-Led Training, $3. Please note that you will be able to see ALL trainings offered in the State of Kansas.

**Face to Face Training** will cost $3, which can be paid for online with a credit card as you sign up for the training event, or you may enter a coupon code (available from the Extension office for $3) if you need to pay by check or cash. Scheduled events can be found as you log into the account and will be advertised in the 4-H Newsletter, 4-H website events calendar, Facebook group and email. Ross Mosteller is the trained instructor for Meadowlark District. Face to face training will be a mix of presentation of material and hands-on activities based upon the approved curriculum. These sessions will be at least one hour in length. Complete attendance is the requirement for certification.

**Online Courses** will cost $12, which should be paid for with a credit card online. The online program includes three components for each topic *(food safety, animal well-being, and character development*): 1) knowledge builder, 2) skills lab and 3) quiz for each content topic, and are designed specifically for each age group. To fulfill their year of training, youth will complete three of these online modules.

1) The knowledge builder allows students to learn new information in an engaging, age-appropriate and interactive format. Students can read content, watch videos, analyze pictures, and practice skills while progressing through a series of interactive content components.
2) Skills labs offer realistic situational opportunities for youth to apply the new knowledge gained in the knowledge builder. These labs take students through a comprehensive journey of the content, requiring them to apply skills and make decisions resembling those they will face in real life.
3) The quiz is the final piece of the online learning experience, testing student's overall knowledge of the content. Students can receive immediate feedback or see their results at the conclusion of the quiz. A pass rate of 80% is required, with students being able to repeat the module if needed.
4) Test-out Exam – YQCA just released this option for 2018-2019. It is only available online for 12 and 15-year-olds (first year of the intermediate and senior age divisions). Youth have one opportunity to pass a 50-question exam. Families will still have to pay the annual fee for certification for the entire age bracket, which is $36 for a 12-year-old and $48 for a 15-year-old. However, eligible youth do not have to pay the fee to attempt the exam. If a young person passes the exam and subsequently submits the appropriate payment, they will receive a multi-year certification. A young person who does not pass will be prompted to complete the annual training, either through registering for an instructor-led class or the online course