



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. **PLEASE NOTE THAT 4-H AGE 7 MEMBERS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR JUNIOR CERTIFICATION AND ARE EXEMPT FROM THE REQUIREMENT FOR LOCAL COUNTY FAIRS.** Please visit with Ross if you need 7 year old certification for the Kansas Junior Livestock Show (KJLS).

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 1<sup>st</sup>**. This is an annual certification that offers new topics based upon exhibitor 4-H age as of January 1<sup>st</sup>.

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://yqcaprogram.org/> The document “*Getting Your YQCA Certification Help Document*” 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 **4-H age** and learning delivery. EXAMPLE: Age 09: Junior, Web-Based Training, \$12, OR Age 16: Senior, Instructor-Led Training, \$3. **ADDITIONALLY**, youth 4-H ages 12 and 15 may “Test Out” for the next age level, via online modules & quizzes.

**Face to Face Training** will cost \$3, which can be paid for online with a credit/debit 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/debt card online or with coupon codes. 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 all three of these online modules and quizzes for the age level.