

## **2013 Youth Pork Quality Assurance *Plus*<sup>®</sup> (YPQA *Plus*<sup>®</sup>) UPDATE**

Youth PQA *Plus*<sup>®</sup> is required by many shows, but more specifically the Kansas State Fair and Kansas Junior Livestock Show. All youth exhibiting animals at one or both events must have a valid YPQA+ number.

Current age requirements, determined by the youth's age on January 1 of the current year, for the Youth PQA *Plus*<sup>®</sup> programs are 8-19 years of age. Youth within this age range must be certified by a certified Youth PQA *Plus*<sup>®</sup> Trainer or Advisor under the Youth PQA *Plus*<sup>®</sup> program. Youth cannot be instructed or certified through the Youth PQA *Plus*<sup>®</sup> program by a Youth PQA Advisor or Educator trained in the old Youth PQA program. The Advisor must be Youth PQA *Plus*<sup>®</sup> certified. Dr. Brian Faris is currently the only Youth PQA *Plus*<sup>®</sup> Trainer for Kansas. If you are interested in becoming a Youth PQA *Plus*<sup>®</sup> Advisor, which will allow you to teach the Youth PQA *Plus*<sup>®</sup> education course, you will need to contact him in order to schedule an online or face-to-face training session. You must be an extension agent, secondary/post-secondary agriculture instructor, or veterinarian to become certified as an Advisor. Contact Dr. Brian Faris at 785-532-1255 or [brfaris@ksu.edu](mailto:brfaris@ksu.edu).

Youth under 8 years of age cannot be certified in the Youth PQA *Plus*<sup>®</sup> programs, but are strongly encouraged to attend a Youth PQA *Plus*<sup>®</sup> education class along with their parents. However, the parent or guardian cannot become certified at a Youth PQA *Plus*<sup>®</sup> education class. Adults must attend an Adult PQA *Plus*<sup>®</sup> education program to become certified. Therefore, if you have a child that is less than 8 years old, a PQA *Plus*<sup>®</sup> number must accompany the swine nomination form for it to be complete. KJLS officials have suggested that youth less than 8 years of age may submit the number of an immediate family member be it a sibling who has completed the Youth PQA *Plus*<sup>®</sup> course or that of a parent/guardian that has completed the Adult PQA *Plus*<sup>®</sup> course. Contact Dr. Joel DeRouchey at 785-532-2280 or [jderouch@ksu.edu](mailto:jderouch@ksu.edu) if you need an Adult course.

You will find some websites listed below that may offer more information related to the current Youth PQA *Plus*<sup>®</sup> programs.

Youth Pork Quality Assurance *Plus*<sup>®</sup>:

<http://www.pork.org/Certification/2344/youthPqaPlus.aspx#.UOcY8KxQ- Q>

Youth PQA *Plus*<sup>®</sup> Frequently Asked Questions:

<http://www.pork.org/Certification/2346/youthPqaPlusFAQ.aspx#.UOcRh6xQ- Q>

Minimum Standards for the Youth PQA *Plus*<sup>®</sup> Program:

<http://www.pork.org/filelibrary/youthpqaplus/Min%20Standards.pdf>

Youth PQA *Plus*<sup>®</sup> Manual:

<http://www.pork.org/filelibrary/YouthPQAPlus/YPQAManual.pdf>

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### **Livestock Quality Assurance (LQA)**

Some folks have questions concerning the potential of a Livestock Quality Assurance (LQA) program in Kansas. At this point in time there is nothing in place that requires LQA certification to participate in the Kansas State Fair or Kansas Junior Livestock Show. Some shows are currently looking at the Quality Counts curriculum, developed by the Texas Cooperative Extension, to serve as a method of quality assurance training for all livestock species.

#### **Do you have to use Youth PQA *Plus*<sup>®</sup> materials to train in Pork Quality Assurance?**

No. You may also use the current Quality Counts material to conduct the training. The Texas Quality Counts material is approved to be used to train in quality assurance. There is no certification/training required to teach the Quality Counts materials. However, you must be a certified Youth PQA *Plus*<sup>®</sup> Advisor to submit names of youth to the National Pork Board for certification.

Youth PQA *Plus*<sup>®</sup> State Program Equivalency Process:

<http://www.pork.org/filelibrary/youthpqaplus/StateEquivalencyProcess.pdf>

Note: Contact Dr. Brian Faris, if you have questions, in the event the Kansas contact information is not up-to-date.