YQCA Components

Food Safety
- Basics of animal identification
- Herd health plan
- Biosecurity practices

Animal Well-being
- Daily animal care
- Providing high-quality feed
- Animal health product usage

Character Development
- Sharing the story
- Goals to success
- Ethics in the show ring

North Dakota will continue to accept Quality Assurance certifications from PQA and BQA until all currently valid certificates expire in 2018. Only YQCA certifications will be accepted for 2019.

Email questions to: Dr. Leigh Ann Skurupey, State 4-H Youth Development Specialist—Animal Science at LeighAnn.Skurupey@ndsu.edu
Call with questions:
Office: 701-231-6658

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Individuals with disabilities are invited to request reasonable accommodations to participate in NDSU-sponsored programs and events. To request an accommodation, please contact Melvi Munoz at 701-231-5739 by October 24, 2017 to make arrangements.

January 2018

Get Started! Web-based Training

Once you have registered and paid, begin your fun and interactive web-based YQCA certification. Each online course offers audio guidance. Click on the volume button in the top left hand corner.

Instructor-led Training (ILT)

Certified veterinarians, agricultural education instructors and Extension agents can be certified for free to lead an instructor-led training (ILT) course for 4-H’ers. Acquiring the certification through an online module with the YQCA directors takes about two hours. Only YQCA can certify individuals for ILT. Once certified, you will take a short quiz. Once you pass with at least a 70 percent, you will be given a junior slide deck and a mixed slide deck to teach youth attendees. The mixed slide deck is geared toward all 4-H ages. Each deck comes with a script and an activity guide. The slide deck is mandatory to teach. It should last about 60 minutes. The activity guide is optional to use. Once certified, a leader can add additional information if desired.

FAQs

- Is YQCA mandatory for all North Dakota 4-H’ers?
  Although it is strongly recommended, YQCA is only required for those who will show at the North Dakota State Fair (starting in 2018).
- How long has YQCA been operating officially successfully?
  It was launched in March 2017. As of Aug. 1, it has 5,118 registered users and 4,814 certified in 29 states, as well as 12 organizations/states that have signed agreements with YQCA and 139 instructors who have completed webinar-delivered trainings.
- Can someone test out of YQCA?
  Not currently, but it is a priority of YQCA to address.
- Who can be trained for the instructor-led training?
  Only agricultural education instructors, veterinarians and Extension agents approved by the YQCA state representative.
- How much does getting certified cost?
  The online module certification is $12, and the instructor-led training method of certification is $3.
- How is payment made for instructor-led trainings?
  Youth pay the $3 during the registration process.
- How long does getting certified take?
  A minimum of 60 minutes (one hour).
- Does the YQCA certification ID sync with 4Honline?
  As of right now, no. The Extension agent will need to keep track of all 4-H members’ YQCA certification IDs.
- How does the agent get the YQCA certification IDs?
  Because all youth are protected under the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), only the 4-H’er can give the agent his/her YQCA certification ID number.
- As an agent, what do I do with the YQCA certification ID number?
  You can enter the ID and date of certification in the youth’s profile on 4Honline. Login > search for 4-H’er’s name > click on 4-H’er’s record > click on additional information > scroll down to Youth Forms on File (highlighted in yellow) > add YQCA ID date and # to LQA/Ethics training.
- I only show horses. Do I need to be YQCA certified?
  No. The North Dakota 4-H Equine Committee is designing an equine safety, welfare and ethics program that parallels YQCA for our 4-H equine enthusiasts.
- Do 4-H’ers acquire a new YQCA certification number each year?
  Yes they do. New curriculum will be launched every year around March. Youth should re-certify around the same time they tested each year.
- What is the S12 used for?
  The technology partner receives $10, $0.36 for credit card fees and $1.64 goes back to YQCA for new module development for each year.

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) is a national, multispecies quality assurance program for youth ages 8 to 21. This program promotes food safety, animal well-being and character development. With YQCA, you’ll discover what it takes to be an informed producer, consumer and employee of the agriculture and food industries. Best of all, you’ll earn YQCA certification to show in the North Dakota State fair.

The technology partner receives $10, $0.36 for credit card fees and $1.64 goes back to YQCA for new module development for each year.
The YQCA organizational board of directors adopted the following goals for the YQCA training and certification program:

- Ensure safety and well-being of animals produced by youth for showing and for 4-H and FFA projects
- Ensure a safe food supply to consumers
- Maximize the limited development time and budgets of state and national youth program leaders to provide an effective quality assurance program
- Offer livestock shows a valid, national quality assurance certification for youth livestock exhibitors

YQCA promotes the development of a common framework for youth livestock quality assurance programs that will enhance the educational experience of youth, improve the care of animals and provide a higher level of food safety to consumers. This program features:

- Evidence-based content organized by age level
  - Junior: ages 8-11
  - Intermediate: ages 12-14
  - Senior: ages 15-18
  - Young adult: ages 19-21
  *Young adults take the Web-based Training ONLY, and cannot be certified through instructor-led training
- High-quality, clear educational objectives
  In addition to the content at appropriate age levels, each curriculum topic is accompanied by specific educational objectives to guide the learning process.
- Online learning
  The online program focuses on three topics: food safety, animal well-being and character development. Each topic includes a knowledge builder, skills lab and quiz. Each is designed for each age group. To fulfill their year of training, youth will complete the online modules with a pass rate of 80 percent on the quiz. Students are able to repeat the module if needed.

YQCA certification is required for 4-H’ers showing livestock at the North Dakota State Fair. YQCA includes information for youth showing:

- Swine
- Beef cattle
- Dairy cattle
- Sheep
- Goats
- Market rabbits
- Poultry

YQCA is available as an online program for youth everywhere in the U.S. YQCA instructor-led trainings (ILT) also are available in North Dakota. An ILT offers an in-person certification option for 4-H’ers from certified agricultural educators, veterinarians or Extension agents.

### Get YQCA Certified

1. Go to [http://yqca.org](http://yqca.org) (Firefox and Chrome browsers appear to work best)
2. Click on Sign In/Register (top right corner)
3. Log in with 4Hononline by selecting North Dakota 4-H Youth Development
4. Select from the course list the appropriate age level as shown circled in red:

   - Junior: ages 8-11
   - Intermediate: ages 12-14
   - Senior: ages 15-18
   - Young adult: ages 19-21

5. Select Web-Based Training ($12) to be guided through certification on your own. If an instructor-led training is being held in North Dakota, you can register for a session by selecting Instructor-led Training ($3), then North Dakota, and the scheduled training from the dropdown menu.

6. Select add credit card to pay for course training.
7. Allow at least 60 minutes to complete the course.
8. Once completed, contact your Extension agent with your YQCA Certification ID number. This will be added to your 4Hononline profile by your Extension agent.
9. Renew your YQCA Certification annually.