**YQCA Components**

**Food Safety**
- Basics of animal identification
- Herb 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(s), please contact Multicultural Affairs at 701-231-7519 by October 24, 2017 to make arrangements.

January 2018

**FAQs**

- **Is YQCA mandatory for all North Dakota 4-H’ers?** Although it is strongly recommended, YQCA is only required for those 4-H’ers who will show at the North Dakota State Fair (starting in 2018). This is for 4-H shows ONLY.

- **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 $33.

- **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?** YES! It sure does!

- **How does the agent get the YQCA certification IDs?** Extension agents can look under the 4-H Online tab > 4-H Online Trainings. Under the 4-H Online Trainings tab > Select Reports on the far right > Select the enrollment reports tab > Select Standard on the left side > scroll down and right click to export the LearnGrow Course Activity to excel.

- **As an agent, what do I do with the YQCA certification IDs?** You can distribute the YQCA certification IDs to the individuals OR they can generate a new ID on 4HOnline. The 4-H Online Enrollment tab > Select Reports on the far right > Select the enrollment reports tab > Select Standard on the left side > scroll down and right click to export the LearnGrow Course Activity to excel.

- **I only show horses. Do I need to be YQCA certified?** No. YQCA is synchronized with 4HOnline and thus the 4-H’ers YQCA certification is transferred into “Trainings” under their record.

- **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 each year.

- **What is the $12 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.

**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 takes about one hour. 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 (PowerPoint Presentation). 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. Your ILT YQCA certification should last about 60 minutes. The activity guide is optional to use. Once certified, a leader can add additional information if desired. Send an email to Dr. Skurupey if interested and she will put you on the approved list for ND.
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 4Honline by selecting North Dakota 4-H Youth Development
4. Select from the course list the appropriate age level as shown circled in red:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Web-Based Training</th>
<th>Instructor-Led Training</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age 09-11</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age 12-14</td>
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<td>Age 15-18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age 19-21</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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 4Honline profile by your Extension agent.
9. Renew your YQCA Certification annually.