

Tennessee Youth Quality Assurance Program

September 17, 2021

Program Overview

- Implementation will begin with 2022 state swine show
 - Certification event (more below) will open November 1, 2021
- The Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) requirement will be waived for 2021 sheep and dairy shows
 - YQCA is still important and is recommended for youth in these shows, but in-person trainings will not be possible due to not signing new YQCA contract
- This new QA program is designed for in-person instruction, but in times where in-person meetings are not possible (the year 2020) it is permissible for Agents to host trainings via Zoom or other web-based technology
 - At this time, we do not plan to develop online modules for asynchronous instruction
- The minimum requirement for this program is 60-minutes of quality assurance instruction, which is achieved through traditional classroom instruction and hands-on activities
 - Teaching material will be provided
 - Includes PowerPoint presentation and hands-on activities
- This program focuses on 6 core principles
 - Biosecurity, Ethics, Identification, Health, Nutrition, Welfare
 - Each year will focus on 2 of the core principles with a brief summary of the other 4
 - This is done so the presentation will be different each year and will cover all 6 over three years
 - 2022 will focus on Identification and Health
- Will always accept current YQCA certifications for youth in place of this program
 - Some national shows require YQCA, so if a youth decides to do that to be able to show at a national show it will be accepted as meeting this requirement

Agent Training

- At least one Agent from each county should attend an in-person or online training for this new QA program
 - At this point, it is only open to Extension Agents but could be expanded in the future
- An FAQ/How-To document about the mechanics of program will be developed for Agents and families
- In-person Agent training will be held at Joint Animal Science in-service on October 12 and 13, 2021, at MTREC
 - Specific details are still being worked out, but it will be duplicated the morning of both days
 - Thus, an Agent can attend either morning for training (not necessary to attend both)
 - There will be other related topics at this in-service, so it would be beneficial to attend the entire in-service if schedule allows
- Web-based training will be offered (and recorded) in late October/early November and as needed for new Agents

Payment/Tracking

- \$5 fee for annual certification
 - Counties are free to:
 - Collect payment via cash, check or credit card (if available) and then transfer funds to Department of Animal Science
 - OR
 - Direct families to Ag Store payment link (will be provided)
 - An email will be sent to you when a youth from your county completes this payment option
- Once an Agent has completed the training with a group of youth and those youth have paid the \$5 fee, the Agent will enter youth into the appropriate Super2 event for the year
 - Youth should not be entered into Super2 event until they have attended the QA session and have paid the fee
 - Once youth have been entered into Super2 event, they will be sent a certificate for the current year
 - Youth are considered currently certified for one year after their training date and are certified for all species during a particular year
 - For right now, there will be a new event created for each year
 - Each year the event will open on November 1 so youth can be entered that are certified for the swine show in January and will close following the last show in October
- Youth that are Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) certified and plan to use that certification to meet this requirement must submit a copy of their certificate prior to the show in which they plan to exhibit
 - There is no other way to track these youth other than them providing a copy of their YQCA certificate