

PLEASE NOTE: The requirement for YQCA certification and administration of the program are not part of the University of California 4-H Youth Development Program.

There are no requirements for 4-H staff or 4-H adult volunteers. 4-H staff are not responsible for the administration of the program in any way, including notifying those who need to complete the training, leading in-person trainings, or verifying certificates. 4-H staff do not have access to enroll a 4-H exhibitor in the trainings, and cannot accept payment for the program, check a member's registration status, verify completion, or provide technical or administrative help.

Questions regarding the program, including its requirements and administration, should be directed to the relevant fair office and YQCA.



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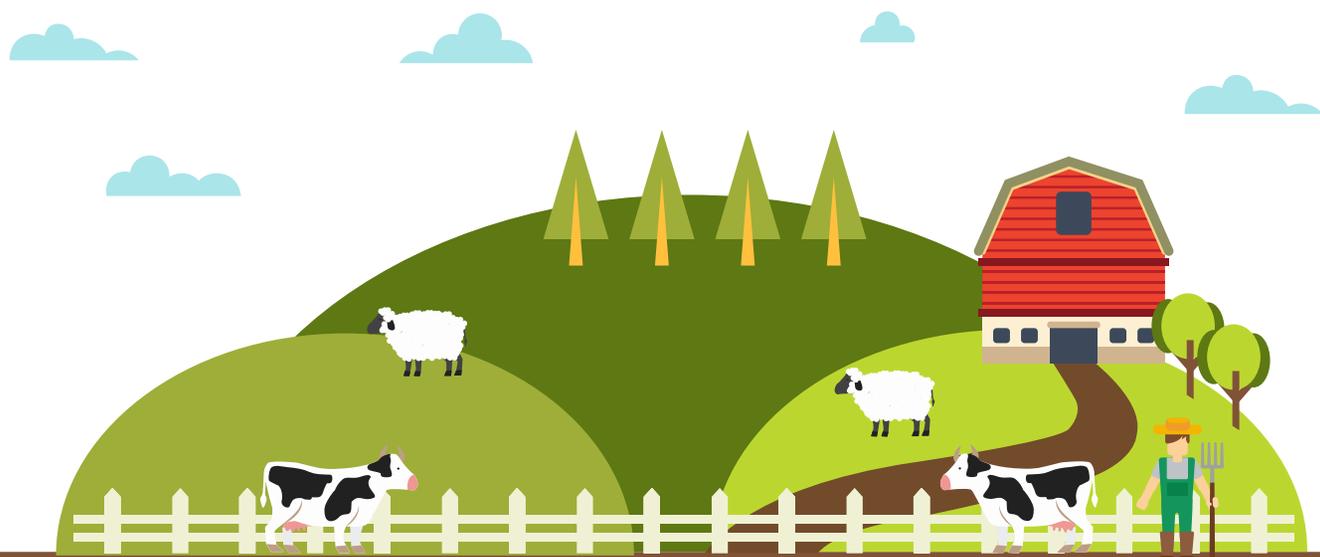
Effective 2019, the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Fairs & Expositions (F&E) Division, requires all junior livestock exhibitors in all district, citrus, and county fairs in California to participate annually in quality assurance and ethics training. The F&E has approved the **Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA)** program to fulfill this requirement. The goal of YQCA is to help youth and their parents better understand what they can do to produce the safest food possible.

For more information on YQCA, to register for trainings, or to find training sites in your area, please visit www.yqca.org.

NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR 2019

YOUTH QUALITY & ETHICS TRAINING FOR CALIFORNIA FAIRS

INFORMATION FOR 4-H MEMBERS



In today's world, food safety is one of animal producers' biggest responsibilities. With over 24,000 California 4-H'ers enrolled in livestock projects, you are an important part of the food and agriculture industry.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

▶ WHAT IS YQCA TRAINING?

YQCA is designed as an annual education and certification program focused on food safety, animal well-being and character awareness for youth producing and/or showing pigs, beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep, goats, rabbits, and poultry. The training is mainly geared toward those exhibitors 9 years and older with market projects, but is required by all small and large livestock exhibitors, which includes those with only breeding projects. If an exhibitor is 8 years old in the beginning of the 4-H program year but will be turning 9 before December 31st and plans to show at the following year's fair according to 4-H rules regarding age and membership, they can take the training any time during that program year.

The YQCA curriculum is broken into four levels that vary from the 4-H divisions: Junior (ages 9-11), Intermediate (ages 12-14), Senior (ages 15-18) and Young Adult (ages 19-21). Each level consists of three to four levels of content focused on food safety, animal well-being, and character.

▶ WHO NEEDS TO GET THE TRAINING?

Any youth in 4-H, FFA, or independent exhibitor who wishes to show small or large livestock at all district, citrus, and county fairs in California will need to have the YQCA or other approved training.

The Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) program has been approved to fulfill the annual requirement for quality assurance and ethics training for junior livestock participants in California fairs. The goal of this program is to help youth and their parents better understand what they can do to produce the safest food possible.

▶ IS THIS TRAINING REQUIRED BY MY FAIR?

You should check the YQCA website www.yqca.org to see if your local fair is requiring this training. It is possible a fair or show is not on the list but may still accept the YQCA certification or will conduct their own ethics training program. Youth exhibitors should review the entry forms of the fair or show they wish to enter to see how the fair is requesting their proof of certification (typically via a copy of the certificate or a certificate number). If there is no information on the entry form regarding ethics training requirements you should contact the fair office.

▶ HOW DO I REGISTER FOR THE TRAINING?

Youth members must purchase the online training or reserve their spot in an in-person training through the YQCA website. Current 4-H members have the option of creating a YQCA account using their 4HOnline account. This will allow their YQCA certification to show on their 4HOnline profile. On 4HOnline, members will be able to see their certificate number and expiration date.

▶ HOW CAN I TAKE THE TRAINING?

Trainings are offered either online or in-person.* In-person trainings will vary by location and availability. In-person trainers must be certified by YQCA and can only be certified agriculture educators, UC Cooperative Extension staff, or licensed veterinarians who choose to become YQCA certified. For this reason, available trainers for in-person sessions will vary by location.

Online Training

Cost: \$12

Availability:

Any time

In-Person Training

Cost: \$3

Availability:

Restricted to dates, times, and locations of registered courses and local trainers.

*See YQCA website for full list of available trainings in your area and the options for payment of fees.

▶ HOW OFTEN DO I NEED TO TAKE THE TRAINING?

The certificate of completion is typically required when youth submit their entry to a YQCA participating livestock show or fair. The certification lasts for one year from the date of completion (365 days). 4-H youth should expect to repeat the program each year they plan to show livestock.

▶ WHO DO I CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION?
For more information on the YQCA program, please visit www.yqca.org or email info@yqca.org.

