

2009 Pork Quality Assurance *Plus* (PQA *Plus*) UPDATE

Many of you have questions regarding Youth PQA *Plus* certification. Current age requirements, determined by the youth's age on January 1 of the current year, for the Youth PQA and PQA *Plus* programs are 8-18 years of age. Youth within this age range must be certified by certified Youth PQA Trainers or Advisors under the Youth PQA *Plus* program. Youth cannot be instructed or certified through the Youth PQA *Plus* program by a past Youth PQA Advisor or Educator. The Advisor must be PQA *Plus* certified. Dr. Brian Faris is currently the only Youth PQA *Plus* Trainer for Kansas. If you are interested in becoming a Youth PQA *Plus* Advisor, which will allow you to teach the Youth PQA *Plus* education course, you will need to contact him in order to schedule an online or face-to-face training session. Contact Dr. Brian Faris at 785-532-1255 or brfaris@ksu.edu.

Youth under 8 years of age cannot be certified in the Youth PQA *Plus* programs, but are strongly encouraged to attend a Youth PQA *Plus* education class along with their parents. However, the parent or guardian cannot become certified at a Youth PQA *Plus* education class. Adults must attend an Adult PQA *Plus* education program to become certified. A PQA number must accompany the swine nomination form for it to be complete. If you have a child that is less than 8 years old, KJLS officials have suggested the youth may submit the number of an immediate family member be it a sibling who has completed the Youth PQA *Plus* course or that of a parent/guardian that has completed the Adult PQA *Plus* course.

You will find some websites listed below, that may offer more information related to the current Youth PQA *Plus* programs.

Youth Pork Quality Assurance *Plus*TM:

<http://www.pork.org/Producers/YPOAP.aspx?c=YPOAP>

Youth PQA *Plus*TM Frequently Asked Questions:

<http://www.pork.org/Producers/YPOAP.aspx?c=FAQ>

Minimum Standards for the Youth PQA *Plus*TM Program:

<http://www.pork.org/Producers/YouthPQAPlus/Forms%20and%20Documents/Min%20Standards.pdf>

Youth PQA *Plus*TM Manual:

<http://www.pork.org/Producers/YouthPQAPlus/YPOAmanual.pdf>

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. The Texas Quality Counts program is applying for approval for Youth PQA *Plus* which will have to occur prior to June 2009. If anything regarding an LQA program requirement is implemented by either the Kansas State Fair and/or the Kansas Junior Livestock Show, we will notify you as soon as possible.

Do you have to use PQA *Plus* materials to train pork quality assurance?

PQA *Plus* materials can be used to train youth in pork quality assurance. You can also use the current Quality Counts material until June 1, 2009 to do the training. The Texas Quality Counts material is approved to be used to train in quality assurance up to June 1, 2009. Dr. Sterle has made the requested changes and meets with the Pork Board in mid-April. She fully expects the Texas Quality Counts program to receive approval to continue being used after June 1, 2009. When this approval comes, we will conduct trainings in Kansas for those interested in becoming certified to use this program.