MEMO

Date: March 1, 2024

To: Kansas Youth Livestock Families

From: Lexie Hayes, KSU Youth Livestock Program Coordinator

RE: YQCA Requirement for Kansas State Fair Grand Drive & KJLS

As we enter a new year, it is important to understand one of the requirements for those who plan to participate in the Kansas State Fair Grand Drive and/or KJLS. **ALL exhibitors are required to complete Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) certification to be eligible for either show in 2024.** The requirement was initiated in 2019 and will be continued for the foreseeable future. This applies to market animal exhibitors, those showing commercial breeding animals, and youth showing registered purebred breeding animals (papered heifers, gilts, ewes).

The YQCA program is a national, multi-species youth livestock quality assurance program available for youth 8-21 years of age. The program focuses on food safety, animal well-being, and character development. _This is an **annual** training_, as the learning modules change each year. The curriculum grows with young people as they advance through the program. Below are some details about the program and how youth can obtain their certification. Families are also encouraged to communicate with their local extension unit regarding course options available at the local level.

The program transitioned to a new platform, including a new website, in March of 2022. It is independent of 4HOnline. All families who have youth seeking certification will need to login to their user account through the new YQCA website to register for training, regardless of the delivery method selected. Those who will be certifying for the first time need to navigate to the new website and create an account. Being officially registered through the website is the only way a child can be issued a certification number and official certificate upon completion of the training. All Kansas families with youth who need certification should navigate to the new YQCA website, click the blue "Sign In/Register" button on the right side of the screen to create a user account or sign in if an account was created in 2022 or 2023. Those who register youth in a course need to make sure they select the 4-H or FFA member's name from the drop-down menu. Otherwise, the correct child's name may not appear on their certificate and extension agents, FFA advisors, and show officials may not be able to validate certification status. **All youth need to use their age as of January 1** and will have to pay for their course during the online registration process.

Certification Options:

✓ **Instructor-led Training** - $3/child – face-to-face class taught by certified instructor. Class will be at least 60-minutes in length.

✓ **Online Course** - $12/child – youth complete age specific knowledge builders, skills labs, and quizzes online at their convenience. Must be completed on a computer with high speed internet access; Google Chrome is encouraged for best compatibility.

✓ **Test-out Exam** – It is only available online for 12 and 15-year-olds (first year of the intermediate and senior age divisions). Youth have one opportunity to pass a 50-question exam.

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Families will still have to pay the annual fee for certification for the entire age bracket if the child tests out, which is $36 for a 12-year-old and $48 for a 15-year-old. A young person who does not pass will be prompted to complete the annual training through registering for an instructor-led class or the online course.

✓ **7-year-olds** – the YQCA board has provided an option for 7-year-old exhibitors to obtain certification. They should attend an instructor-led course with a parent/guardian. Youth who need a web-based option should contact their local extension unit. Participating in a training via Zoom, Skype, Teams, or other virtual means is not acceptable. The YQCA requirement for 7-year-olds exhibiting at KJLS went into effect in 2021 and will continue in the future.

Exhibitors who state nominate animals will provide proof they have met the YQCA certification requirement by uploading a copy of their YQCA certificate into ShoWorks when they submit their nominations. A valid number will be required by at least one child in the family to place an order for DNA envelopes. Youth who will only exhibit purebred registered breeding females (which are not nominated), will submit their YQCA number as part of the online entry process when they actually enter each respective show.

Abbreviated step-by-step instructions to register for a YQCA class are provided at the end of this memo. An informational flyer about this requirement may be found on the KSU Youth Livestock Program website, under the YQCA tab. The YQCA staff has also released Help Docs and instructional videos to guide families through creating an account, registering youth, completing the training, and downloading their certificate(s). These resources are all shared on the KSU YLP website, linked above.

Certificate - after youth have completed their training, families need to log back into the YQCA site to access their certification number(s) and certificate(s), using the same procedure they did to register for the class. The certificate(s) may be printed, as well as downloaded to any device. Saving it to multiple devices will ensure families are prepared to upload each child's certificate during the online nomination submission process. Families will be responsible for managing their own YQCA certification and certificate(s) – a child's number and expiration date may be found on the certificate.

We look forward to this continuing to being a great additional educational opportunity for youth involved in livestock projects. Learning to appropriately manage animals while providing a safe, wholesome, and high quality product for consumers is an important aspect of being involved in the livestock industry.

If you have questions about youth completing the YQCA training, please contact your local extension office, or myself at adhayes@ksu.edu or 785-532-1264.

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YQCA Registration Instructions:

1. Visit https://yqcaprogram.org/.
2. Click the blue "Register/Sign In" button in the upper right hand corner of the page.
3. Validate account and review data sharing information.
   a. closely review data sharing information as this impacts how a child's name appears on certificates and verification reports than may be requested by extension professionals, FFA advisors, or show/fair officials.
4. Parents/Guardians need to put in their DOB and information to set up a family account.
5. Create user account.
6. Select the blue "Add Child" button to add youth to the user (family) account.
7. Confirm data sharing consent options for each child.
8. Select course (listed by age in course list).
9. Choose the blue "Add to Cart" button for course type in which the child should be enrolled.
   a. Web-Based is top option ($12) in age-specific course selection box.
      • Select the yellow "Proceed to Buy" button.
      • Enter payment information.
      • From purchased courses, select green "Take Course" button.
      • Confirm appropriate child from drop-down list.
      • Youth should complete pre-course survey prior to completing course.
   b. Instructor-Led is bottom option ($3) of age-specific course selection box.
      • Select appropriate child's name as "participant" under drop-down list.
      • Chose "Kansas" under state list.
      • Click white "Select Training" button to view all trainings offered in the state of Kansas.
      • Chose the blue "Select" button for the appropriate course.
      • Click the blue "Add" button at the bottom of the window.
      • Add more trainings for additional children, or complete payment information.
      • Youth must complete pre-course survey prior to attending in-person class (located under User > Enrolled Trainings).
   c. Test-out options are listed at the bottom of the course list for those who are eligible. Youth must be in the first year of the age division to be eligible (only 12 and 15-year olds).
10. Families will return to the YQCA website, sign in, and have youth complete post-course survey to access course certificate(s).

Sincerely,

Lexie Hayes

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