2018 Quality Assurance Certification (PQA)/Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) Training

All Junior Market Hog Exhibitors are required to have a current PQA/YQCA certification in order to exhibit a market hog at the Delaware State Fair. The national Youth Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) training is a program that was put together by the National Pork Producers Association. Commercial hog producers across the county have been required to have this certification since 1999 in order to market their hogs. This program is currently in transition to a new Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) program which will cover all livestock species for all youth ages 8-21 nationwide. After June 1, the old Youth PQA program will cease to exist and the YQCA program will be the only option for certification. The adult PQA certification program will continue.

For 2018, the Delaware State Fair Swine Department will accept either the PQA or YQCA certification. There are currently two options for obtaining YQCA certification. The in person class certification option is open to any age but youth under the age of 8 (computed as of Jan 1 of the current year) must have a parent attend the class with them. Youth YQCA certification received through the classroom option is valid for one year. **Youth ages 8-21 as of January must register through the YQCA website [http://yqca.org](http://yqca.org) and pay a $3.00 fee online that goes directly to YQCA even if you are attending an in person training. This must be completed prior to coming to the training.**

In addition, there is an online YQCA training and certification option for youth ages 8-21. You must pay a $12.00 fee online that goes directly to the YQCA program in order to complete the online training. For youth age 12 and under, parents are required to register their youth on the YQCA website. Youth should take the online module that corresponds to their age as of January 1 of the current year. Online Adult PQA certification is now an option for parents of youth 5-7 as of January 1 if it is a parent’s first time receiving a PQA certification. There is no charge for this certification. Please contact Susan Garey if you would like to be granted access to the online Adult PQA certification training to cover youth ages 5-7.

The following local YQCA class training dates have been scheduled for this spring:

April 16, 2018- NCC YQCA Classroom Training- New Castle County Extension Office 6:30-8:00 pm
May 10, 2018 – Sussex County YQCA Classroom Training– Carvel Center 6:30-8:00 pm
June 4, 2018- FINAL YQCA Classroom Training- Kent County Extension Office- 6:30-8:00 pm

You may attend class or testing in any of the locations. If you plan on attending any of these sessions, please RSVP to Susan Garey (302)730-4000 or truehart@udel.edu at least three days prior so that there will be adequate materials. If there are no registrations in advance, the class will be canceled. Please contact Susan Garey if you have any questions or concerns in regards to PQA/YQCA certification needs as we transition to this one uniform national program.