2017 Pork Quality Assurance Certification (PQA)

All Junior Market Hog Exhibitors are required to have a current PQA certification in order to exhibit a market hog at the Delaware State Fair. There are currently three options for obtaining PQA certification. The 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 as national program guidelines do not permit a child under 8 to hold their own certification. Certification received through the classroom option is valid for one year.

Youth over the age of 12 (computed as of Jan 1 of the current year) have the option of taking a multiple choice test in lieu of attending classroom training. The benefit of the testing option is that certification may last for longer than one year, depending on the age of the youth at test time. Youth must score 70% or better to pass the test and can take versions of the test up to three times in one sitting to pass.

There is an online training, testing, and certification option for youth ages 8-19. Delivered in the form of an engaging, interactive online module, the new online option allows participants to learn, test, and become certified in Youth PQA Plus. For youth age 12 and under, a parent login for security is required. Youth only need to complete one of these three options for obtaining certification. Online certification is not an option for parents if it is their first time receiving a PQA certification.

In 2017, for all youth who receive their PQA certification this year, certification will only last through 2017 as the new national Youth for the Quality Care of Animals program will become the single, national certification program for all livestock species beginning in 2018. For more information and to complete your certification online, please visit http://www.pork.org/youth-pqa-plus/

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

May 2, 2017- NCC PQA Classroom Training- New Castle County Extension Office 6:30-8:30 pm
May 4, 2017 – Sussex County PQA Classroom Training- Carvel Center 6:30-8:30 pm
June 6, 2017- FINAL PQA Classroom Training- Kent County Extension Office- 6:30-8:30 pm

The following PQA testing dates have been scheduled for this spring (walk in any time):

May 22, 2017- NCC PQA Open Testing- New Castle County Extension office- 4:00-6:00 pm
May 25, 2017- Sussex PQA Open Testing- Carvel Center- 4:00-6:00 pm
June 27, 2017- Kent PQA Open Testing- Kent County Extension Office- 4:00-6:00 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 certification needs.