

Colorado 4-H Meat Quality Assurance Program

4-H members enrolling in any market and/or breeding livestock projects for the first time regardless of age, must attend a Colorado 4-H Meat Quality Assurance (MQA) program. A Colorado 4-H Meat Quality Assurance (MQA) program is considered to be either a training conducted using a Colorado 4-H MQA trailer or the Colorado 4-H MQA Power Point. All Colorado 4-H MQA programs must be conducted by the County 4-H Agent or approved designee.

The Colorado 4-H Meat Quality Assurance (MQA) program is for 4-H members enrolled in market and/or breeding livestock projects. Members must attend an official Colorado 4-H Meat Quality Assurance (MQA) program twice during the course of their 4-H career, once during their first year of 4-H and once upon becoming a senior age member. It is required that the Colorado 4-H MQA training be completed at least 45 days prior to exhibition of animals. Counties themselves may implement additional requirements at their own discretion.

Scheduling for the eastern slope Colorado 4-H MQA trailer will be coordinated by the 4-H Agent in Kit Carson County, Scott Stinnett Scott.Stinnett@colostate.edu Scheduling for the western slope Colorado 4-H MQA trailer will be coordinated by the Delta County 4-H Agent, Jackie Shea jackie.shea@colostate.edu The updated Colorado 4-H MQA Power Point is available to 4-H Agents only via the Colorado State 4-H website <http://co4h.colostate.edu/> under "Agent Resources". Do not distribute the MQA power point file. This power point is for Agent or Agent assigned designee use only.

Additional quality assurance certifications may be required by fairs, shows and sales. It is the sole responsibility of each individual exhibitor to review fair, show and sale rules for events they plan to participate in or attend, and to comply with any additional certifications at their own expense.

For Example: Certifications such as the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) may be required by fairs, shows or sales. In such a situation, The Colorado 4-H MQA certification is not a substitute for any fair, show or sale's additional certification requirement.

Youth needing to take the YQCA training may do so online or in person at their own expense. For more information visit the YQCA website at the following link <http://yqca.org/> For more information regarding in person YQCA training please contact one of the following County Extension Agents who are currently certified YQCA trainers. Kindra Plumb Kindra.Plumb@colostate.edu , Scott Stinnett Scott.Stinnett@colostate.edu , Jamie Jo Axtell Jamie.Axtell@colostate.edu , JoLynn Midcap JoLynn.Midcap@colostate.edu , Travis Taylor Travis.Taylor@colostate.edu , Christine Schinzel Christine.Schinzel@colostate.edu , Amy Kelley Amy.Kelley@colostate.edu

For the Counties that have Fairs / Sale Committees that sell livestock to packers, you will want to contact your packer very soon to verify what type of certification they will require. Many of the large packers are requiring YQCA and will not accept the Colorado 4-H MQA program certification. If your county's packer is going to require YQCA we recommend you contact your County 4-H Youth who are in need of the YQCA certification to make them aware of the requirement. For face to face YQCA trainings instructors may require additional payment to help with travel expenses.