

Meat Quality/Pork Quality Assurance

Who must take MQA? All meat animal project members (even those who have animals that are pets) must participate in a Meat Quality Assurance Program (MQA) once as a Junior Member (ages 8 - 13 years old) and once as a Senior Member (14 - 18 years old).

- .. All new 4-H livestock members
- .. Those who **turned 14** during the 2015 calendar year

Why MQA? It is a Colorado 4-H Requirement and the Larimer County Fair and Jr. Livestock Sale Committee also requires livestock members to complete this program before they can participate in the 2016 Fair and Jr. Livestock Sale.

What is considered a meat animal project? Meat animal projects include all breeding and market livestock in the following species: Beef Cattle, Dairy Cattle, Goats (Pygmy, Dairy Goat, Breeding Meat Goat, Market Goat), Poultry (Geese, Duck, Chicken, Turkey, Pigeon), Rabbit, (including Pet Rabbit), Sheep and Swine.

What if I am taking the Swine project? To meet Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) requirements, you must do the following based on your age group:

- .. Youth 8-11 years of age (Beginner): Attend MQA/PQA training annually
- .. Youth 12-14 years of age (Intermediate) OR 15-18 years of age (Advanced): Certify/re-certify for one year by attending MQA/PQA training OR can certify for the entire age group by completing and passing an examination at the appropriate age level. To certify by examination, a minimum of 70 percent of questions must be correctly answered. Therefore, we will test and score all Swine youth on site following the hands-on MQA/PQA activities this year. This will allow them to be certified until they reach the next age group.

The Larimer County Fair and the Colorado State Fair require swine exhibitors to be PQA certified.

When is MQA/PQA training offered for 2016? Saturday, March 5 at the 4-H Livestock Field Day at The Ranch in the McKee 4-H Building, Exhibit Hall A. MQA will be available to walk through from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Since it is designed as a “come and go at your own pace”, all youth will have to score at least 70% on a test to be certified. This is a joint effort between several other counties! DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!!