

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) in South Dakota 4-H: 4-H Advisor Expectations

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About YQCA – the national program

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) is a national multi-species quality assurance program for youth ages 8 to 21 with a focus on three core pillars: food safety, animal well-being, and character development. The YQCA program is an annual certification created for youth producing and/or showing beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep, meat goats, dairy goats, swine, poultry, and rabbits. The program has been designed by extension specialists and national livestock program managers to ensure it is accurate, current and relevant to the needs of the animal industry and shows, and is appropriate for youth learning levels.

The registration fee for instructor led (only ages 8 to 18 may attend) YQCA trainings is \$3 per person and the registration fee for the online training (open to all ages) is \$12 per person. Certification is good for all species (beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep, meat goats, dairy goats, swine, poultry, and rabbits) a youth exhibits in a year; youth must complete certification each year, or complete the test-out option, in order to be eligible to show at either the county or state level fairs.

About the YQCA Team

YQCA is a nonprofit organization with a volunteer board of directors. The purpose of YQCA is to continually provide a current, peer-reviewed, quality curriculum for youth quality assurance training and certification. Revenues collected from fees are used for ongoing program improvement and promotion.

About YQCA Trainers

Anyone seeking to become a qualified YQCA Trainer for South Dakota 4-H should first contact SDSU Extension's 4-H Youth Development Program or the YQCA designee, whom will assist you with the annual training process

through YQCA. Trainer certification must be re-certified annually. This web-based training is FREE and has a short quiz following approximately 1.5 hours of instruction. A person must be one of the following to qualify as an YQCA Trainer:

- SDSU Extension 4-H/youth offices (SDSU Extension 4-H Youth Program Advisor or statewide 4-H Professional; within own state only)
- State Ag Ed/FFA offices (within own state only)
- National or state species groups including, but not limited to
 - National Pork Board in place of Youth PQA
 - Beef Quality Assurance trainers (if a state BQA trainer chooses to offer YQCA)
 - National Dairy Farmers Assuring Responsible Management (FARM) Program trainers
 - Sheep Safety & Quality Assurance (SSQA) trainers
- National or state level junior livestock/animal associations

South Dakota 4-H Standards for YQCA Certification – effective October, 2018 through September, 2019

Following review of the program and having discussions with YQCA, South Dakota 4-H believes that the YQCA program provides a great educational opportunity to our youth participating in food-producing animal projects. For the 2018-2019 4-H year, South Dakota 4-H is requiring the certification of all youth showing animals, at both the county and state level fairs, for beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep, meat goats, dairy goats, pigs, poultry, and rabbits. The YQCA program has replaced the national Youth Pork Quality Assurance (YPQA+) certification.

The 4-H advisor expectations for YQCA in South Dakota

4-H include:

- All 4-H advisors are asked to re-certify as YQCA Trainers each year. This will help create a unified understanding of the program, so everyone can be comfortable answering parent or youth questions during the transition to this new program.
- The instructor led YQCA certification trainings for youth ages 8-18 (4-H age as of January 1st) will be conducted between November 1, 2018 and July 1, 2019. Please communicate to families with youth planning to show animal projects that they should attend. Youth ages 19-21 are not eligible for instructor led YQCA certification trainings, and must participate through the online program.
- YQCA Trainers are responsible for completing a sign-in sheet and approving youth registrations online for their instructor led trainings. This completes the youth's certification process and will then generate each youth's certificate and valid YQCA certification number.
- Assist families with and verify that certification information is uploaded to 4HOnline by July 1. It is ultimately each youth's responsibility to insure their certification is uploaded.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **How do I become a certified YQCA Trainer?** Contact SDSU Extension's 4-H Youth Development Program or the YQCA designee to assist you with the annual training process through YQCA. He/She will connect you with YQCA to complete the webinar and quiz process. Following successful completion of the quiz, access to YQCA instructor led materials will be granted by YQCA.
2. **What is the cost of the YQCA Trainer training and how often do I need to re-certify?** The YQCA Trainer certification is FREE. YQCA Trainers need to re-certify annually to conduct instructor led trainings in their state.
3. **How do YQCA Trainers setup an online registration for an instructor led youth training?** Sign-in to your YQCA instructor account via yqcaprogram.org. Provide a name for the training (ex. Brookings County YQCA training ages 8-18), location, time, notes to attendees, and other pertinent details requested on the submission form. Complete all requested fields

and click "submit".

4. **What equipment and supplies do I need to conduct a YQCA instructor led training?** The standard YQCA training requires a computer with PowerPoint presentation, projector, projector screen, Internet connection (if doing registration on-site) and computer speakers. Print a sign-in sheet to collect the participants' names to verify attendees when you complete the online certification process. Supplemental activities are provided in the YQCA Trainer materials and may require extra supplies or printing activity pages, please check the supplemental activity directions prior to holding your training to determine any additional materials.
5. **What does the 4-H advisor need to do after conducting an instructor led training to complete youth certifications?** The YQCA Trainer will log-in to their YQCA instructor account via yqcaprogram.org and go into the training course they created. The YQCA Trainer will see who has signed up for the training and can cross-check their sign-in sheet with the list of registered individuals. The default status once a user has signed up for the training is "Registered". After the training, the Trainer changes the youth's status to "Complete". This completes the certification process for youth attending an instructor led YQCA training. Checking that the certification transferred into the youth's 4HOnline account is also advised.
6. **What is the youth registration process for an instructor led training?** Stepwise instructions are provided in the "Getting Your YQCA Certification" handout and are elaborated on within the YQCA Trainer training. Direct youth and parents to yqcaprogram.org to start the registration process. They will log-in using either their 4-H Online credentials or create a separate account if they do not have a 4HOnline account (for youth in FFA or only showing at national livestock shows requiring YQCA certification). The YQCA Trainer should direct his/her counties' youth to register for the specific name of the instructor led training that he/she created for his/her training. Please note that all instructor led trainings offered in South Dakota will likely appear to youth registering, so please be clear in naming your training and effectively communicating the name of that training to your youth/parents.

7. ***How can I verify a youth's YQCA certification status?***
A YQCA Trainer (YPA) should check 4HOnline to verify if a youth from their county has uploaded his/her completed certificate. Additionally, there is a public-facing site through the YQCA account that allows trainers to upload an Excel file with youth's name, birthdate, and/or YQCA certification number and provides an output telling the trainer if the certification numbers are valid.
8. ***What do I do when youth from outside my county attend a training?*** Youth (ages 8-18) may attend any state-offered YQCA instructor led training regardless of county the training is being offered. If you have a youth from another county participate in your instructor led training, please notify your fellow 4-H advisor in the youth's county. A quick email or phone call is always appreciated and will help ensure a smooth transition to the YQCA certification program in South Dakota.
9. ***Can I do YQCA trainings outside my county or outside South Dakota?*** You may hold YQCA instructor led trainings outside your county if invited by another county's 4-H advisor. Complete the YQCA certification process for all attendees as usual. Please plan to serve your counties first and work together to ensure all South Dakota youth (ages 8-18) have the opportunity to participate in a YQCA instructor led training. YQCA Trainers in South Dakota may NOT host trainings outside of South Dakota – please follow the national YQCA guidelines as a Trainer.
10. ***If a youth desires to show at a national livestock show, do they need YQCA certification?*** Some national livestock shows (National Western Stock Show; World Pork Expo) require YQCA certification for their livestock exhibitors. Please encourage youth to check the "Fairs & Shows" page at yqcaprogram.org AND check each show's rules to verify show's expectations.
11. ***For State Fair entry, how do I verify or generate a report for my county's animal exhibitors needing YQCA certifications?*** This is ultimately the responsibility of the county to gather the names and certificate numbers from the youth that have participated in an instructor led YQCA training. In the chance a youth completes an online YQCA certification, the youth is still responsible for uploading his/her certificate to 4HOnline. Though a 4-H advisor may create an Excel document with names of individuals they have not received a valid YQCA certificate number from (or that did not attend their instructor led training) and submit it to YQCA for verification to determine if a youth completed an online YQCA certification or participated in another county's training.
12. ***Do I need to do any in-state or federal reporting for hosting YQCA trainings?*** Yes, all state and national Civil Rights Reports should be completed for YQCA instructor led trainings.
13. ***How does a youth pay for an instructor led YQCA training?*** Payment (\$3) for an instructor led YQCA training will be collected during the online registration process – parents will enter either their credit card information or use a coupon code. Coupons may be purchased at YQCA.org and distributed prior to or during YQCA instructor led training. Check with the State 4-H Office regarding potential availability of any coupons purchased for South Dakota youth.
14. ***Can youth in South Dakota still go online and complete the YQCA certification modules?*** Yes, all youth (ages 8-21) still have the opportunity to register for the online modules during the registration process. For the 2018-2019 4-H year, please request that youth (ages 8-18) attend instructor led trainings as we would like the opportunity to answer questions and engage youth and their family in-person in this new program. Youth that are 19 to 21 years old must take the online certification program. Youth completing YQCA certification online will pay \$12. Please inform the South Dakota State 4-H Office if a youth intends to certify online and forego the instructor led training.
15. ***Is there a test-out option for South Dakota youth?*** Yes. The national YQCA certification program released the new test-out option in October 2018. Beginning October 1st, 2018, South Dakota youth are permitted to utilize the test-out option of YQCA to complete their certification. The test-out option is only available to youth in the first year of the following age levels: intermediate (age 12), senior (age 15), or young adult (age 19). There is no test-out option for juniors. The test for this option

consists of 50 questions and youth must pass with an 80% or better to be eligible for certification. If passed, this certification will last through the end of the individual's age level (intermediate – ages 12, 13 and 14, senior – ages 15, 16, 17, and 18, and young adult – ages 19, 20, and 21). Youth are only allowed one chance to pass the test-out course. Cost for the course is \$36 for intermediate and young adult and \$48 for seniors. The certification fee is paid after successful completion of the test and the payment process is the same as other YQCA course registrations.

Contact regarding YQCA implementation in South Dakota:

State 4-H Office

Berg Agricultural Hall 109, Box 2207E,

Brookings, SD 57007

SDSU.4h@sdsu.edu; (605) 688-4167

If you would like to learn more about YQCA, please visit the website at yqcaprogram.org.