

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

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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, pigs, 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 food-producing animals (beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep, meat goats, dairy goats, swine, poultry, and rabbits) a youth exhibits in a year; youth must complete one certification each year or complete the test out option for their age level. 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.

### 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.

### 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 YOUTH standards for YQCA in South Dakota 4-H include:

- Youth ages 8 to 21 exhibiting beef cattle, dairy cattle, dairy goats, meat goats, sheep, swine, poultry, and rabbits at county-level fairs or State Fair are required to become YQCA certified for the 2018-19 4-H year.

- Youth ages 8 to 18 (4-H age as of January 1st) should complete an instructor led YQCA training with a YQCA Instructor. Ages 19 to 21 should complete the online certification training per national YQCA guidelines. Please check with your county or surrounding counties for class dates.
- Youth are permitted to utilize the online course or test-out option to complete certification. Instructor led certification should be the primary method to certify.
- YQCA certification needs to be completed and uploaded to 4-H Online by July 1, 2019.

## Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Why should I become YQCA certified?** The YQCA certification program offers education to youth 8-21 years of age promoting food safety, animal well-being, and character development. South Dakota 4-H believes the YQCA certification adds educational value to the livestock projects youth participate in and helps ensure a positive image of the livestock industries with our public consumers and fair attendees. We desire to positively impact the livestock caregivers and community members of the future. Meat and dairy processors are also requiring producers to have quality assurance certifications before purchasing their animals for the food supply, this includes animals raised by youth.
2. **When and where are YQCA certification trainings offered in South Dakota?** YQCA certification trainings will be offered annually (November 1 - July 1). Dates and locations for all trainings will be compiled and made available via [extension.sdstate.edu](http://extension.sdstate.edu). Talk with your county 4-H advisor for specific details for upcoming dates and locations if you don't see a listing for your local area.
3. **When are YQCA certifications due for State Fair exhibits?** YQCA certifications are due by July 1 of each year and must be uploaded into 4HOnline.
4. **Do I need YQCA certification if I am only exhibiting in my county?** Yes, YQCA certification is required for youth 8-21 years of age exhibiting at a county fair or State Fair in 2019. Participation in the YQCA program strengthens youth understanding of food safety, animal well-being, and character development through their animal project and maintains the positive image of the livestock industries with our public consumers.
5. **Do I need YQCA certification if I am only showing horses, companion animals, dogs, or cats?** No, YQCA certification is designed for food animals including: beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep, meat goats, dairy goats, swine, poultry, and rabbits. Certification is required for these animals being shown at county and state fairs.
6. **Will all ages be in the same course for instructor led trainings?** Some counties may host one training for all ages (8-18), but two separate age-level presentations (8-13 Junior only and 8-18 mixed ages) are available through YQCA for instructor led trainings. Contact your county's SDSU Extension 4-H Youth Program Advisor for clarification.
7. **What do I need to bring to the training site?** Youth may bring note-taking materials if desired. Other required supplies are provided by instructors. Pre-registration confirmation may also be brought to the training. Discuss payment options with your county 4-H advisor or the YQCA Instructor if you need assistance with the registration process or are having difficulty registering youth for a course.
8. **What does YQCA cost?** Instructor led YQCA trainings cost \$3 per person annually, regardless of age or number of animals being shown. Youth completing YQCA online costs \$12 per person annually. NOTE: Youth ages 8-18 should complete an instructor led YQCA certification training for 2019; ages 19-21 must complete the online certification option.
9. **How do I register and pay for a training?** Registration is completed online via secure login through the [yqcaprogram.org](http://yqcaprogram.org) website. Payment will be collected at the time of registration. Stepwise instructions are provided in the "Getting Your YQCA Certification" handout available from YQCA Trainers.

10. *Is there a family discount for multiple children?*

No, family discounts are not available for multiple children. YQCA is a nationally managed program with set fees that go right back for the continued review and development of the curriculum.

Contact regarding YQCA implementation in South Dakota:

State 4-H Office

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Brookings, SD 57007

[SDSU.4h@sdstate.edu](mailto:SDSU.4h@sdstate.edu); (605) 688-4167

If you would like to learn more about YQCA, please visit their website at [yqcaprogram.org](http://yqcaprogram.org).