



2025 Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA)

Van Buren County

For more information
related to YQCA
contact:

Janice Zerbe
Extension Educator
269-657-8213
rajzerj@msu.edu

For more information
related to PQA Plus
contact:

Beth Ferry
Extension Educator
269-927-5674 ext.
4012
269-876-2745
franzeli@msu.edu

Cost:

\$3.00 for YQCA On-site
\$12.00 for YQCA Online
FREE for PQA Plus and
BQA



WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

All youth exhibiting an animal at the Van Buren Youth Fair are required to complete YQCA or PQA Plus and/or BQA depending on age no later than **June 15, 2025** and submit the certificate to **Janice Zerbe, rajzerj@msu.edu** by this date.

YQCA/PQA Plus /BQA Age Group Breakdown:

- Age is determined by January 1, same as the fair and 4-H.
- 6 years old- Must attend YQCA in Van Buren County, no charge as they will not receive certification, contact Janice to register.
- 7-18 years old- Must be YQCA certified. 7 years old may not complete YQCA online. Youth must complete the pre-test prior to attending an in-person class.
- 19 years old- Must complete YQCA online.
- Parent of 6 years old- Must complete PQA Plus if child is exhibiting swine and/or BQA if child is exhibiting bovine. Certifications are good for 3 years.

All certifications must be valid through Sunday, July 20, 2025.

DESCRIPTION:

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) is a national multi-species quality assurance program for youth ages 7 to 21. YQCA is designed as an annual education and certification program focused on food safety, animal well-being and character awareness.

PQA Plus provides participants with an educational foundation that includes but not limited to best practices and standards of food safety, animal well-being, environmental stewardship, and record keeping.

BQA courses teach methods for raising your cattle in accordance with BQA fundamentals. Topics involve cattle health, stockmanship, marketing, emergency planning, and meat quality.

Van Buren County YQCA Dates and Locations:

Friday, January 3, 2025

- ◆ Time: 10:00 a.m.
- ◆ Location: Van Buren MSU Extension office

Friday, January 3, 2025

- ◆ Time: 1:30 p.m.
- ◆ Location: Van Buren MSU Extension office

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

- ◆ Time: 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ Location: Van Buren ISD Conference Center

Monday, February 24, 2025

- ◆ Time: 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ Location: Van Buren ISD Conference Center

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

- ◆ Time: 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ Location: Van Buren ISD Conference Center

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

- ◆ Time: 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ Location: Van Buren ISD Conference Center

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

- ◆ Time: 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ Location: Van Buren ISD Conference Center

Youth must register online at least two days prior to the selected workshop. Workshops are on a first come, first serve basis until full. No walk-ins will be accepted on site. All payments must be made in advance through the YQCA website. *Youth must complete the pre-test prior to attending the class.*

YQCA classes are designed for MARKET animals. If youth attend an online class the focus will be on only market animals. Youth may also attend a face to face class in any county they choose. If youth attend an in-person Van Buren County class the instructor will relate topics to non-market animals and Van Buren Youth Fair.

Step to receiving YQCA certificate:

1. Register and pay for a class
2. Take the pre-test
3. Attend the class
4. Take the post-test
5. Download your certificate
6. Send certificate to rajzerj@msu.edu, preferably right away, no later than June 15.

Pre-test - Log into your YQCA account. Click on the blue box that has your user name, in the drop down click Enrolled ILT trainings, there will then be a button for pre-test. Make sure the pre-test is completed prior to attending an in-person YQCA. (There are no right or wrong answers!)

YQCA FAQ:

<https://yqcaprogram.org/local/pdf/UserFAQ.pdf>

Video to help with registering for in-person class

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZHW2qtMI0c>

YQCA In-Person Certification:

Youth Quality Care Assurance certification can be completed in-person. Please note the following details:

Cost: \$3.00

Who: Open to youth exhibitors ages 7-18 years of age.

Time: 60-80 minutes

Certification Expiration: Certification is good one (1) year from the date of passing exam.

How to register for in-person trainings: Go to <http://yqcaprogram.org>. If you created an account last year, log into your account, select a child, select the age and instructor led training. Search Michigan and select the training you wish to register for. If you are new to YQCA, you will need to first create an account in YQCA. **Youth must complete the pre-test prior to attending the class.**

YQCA Online Certification:

Youth Quality Care Assurance certification can be completed online as well. Please note the following details:

Cost: \$12.00

Who: Open to youth exhibitors ages 8-19 years of age.

Time: Youth can complete the course at their convenience online at any point. Each module takes 15-20 minutes with there being a total of five (5) modules.

Certification Expiration: Certification is good one (1) year from the date of passing exam.

How to register for online trainings: Go to <https://yqcaprogram.org/> and log in using the account you created last year. If you are new to YQCA you will need to create an account. After logging in, you will need to select the correct YQCA class depending on age.

PQA Plus Online Certification:

Pork Quality Assurance Plus certification can be completed online as well. Please note the following details:

Cost: Free

Who: Open to youth exhibitors over the age of 18 and Parents of Exhibitors 6 year old.

Time: Individuals can complete the course at their convenience online at any point. The course takes 3 hours to complete with an exam.

Certification Expiration: Certification is good for three (3) years from the month of passing exam.

How to register for online trainings: Email Beth Ferry, Extension Educator, franzeli@msu.edu to receive login information. The following information is required when requesting certification: name, birthday, address, phone number, and farm name (if applicable).

BQA Online Certification:

Beef Quality Assurance certification can be completed online as well. Please note the following details need to complete the Cow-Calf certification:

Cost: Free

Who: Open to youth exhibitors over the age of 18 and Parents of Exhibitors 6 year old.

Time: Individuals can complete the course at their convenience online at any point. The course takes 3 hours to complete with an exam.

Certification Expiration: Certification is good for three (3) years from the month of passing exam.

How to register for online trainings: Go to https://www.bqa.org/beef-quality-assurance-certification/online-certifications?qclid=EAAlQobChMIho-LnqHE8AlVnP7jBx217qttEAAYASABEgKwQvD_BwE

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