

December 23, 2019

Dear Junior Fair Livestock Exhibitor and Advisors:

This letter contains important information regarding Livestock Quality Assurance training mandated by the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Please take the time to read the entire letter over closely; we do not want an exhibitor to be unable to exhibit their livestock project for not meeting regulations.

According to our records, you enrolled in a Junior Fair livestock project in 2019. Because we do not have the complete 4-H enrollment records collected for the county at the time of this mailing – I am notifying the **2019** livestock members who currently need the required livestock Quality Assurance training. If you are not taking a Junior Fair livestock project in 2020 – please notify the Extension Office so we can remove your name from the Quality Assurance list. If you would like to check your Quality Assurance status or other family members, please check the list on our website <https://go.osu.edu/mercercqa>.

Members exhibiting market steers, hogs, lambs, goats, rabbits, turkeys, broilers, lactating goats and dairy cattle must participate in a Quality Assurance program or test out of the program **prior to June 14, 2020.** **Quality Assurance Certification must be completed 45 days prior to the start of exhibition for the fair; this includes those members that exhibit at the Ohio State Fair. The June 14, 2020 date will cover the “45 days prior to opening day” for both State Fair and Mercer County Fair. Members not completing this requirement will not be allowed to participate in the Junior Fair.**

Members, ages 8 to 11 (as of January 1 of the current year), must attend a Quality Assurance program. There is not a test out option at this age. **Members enrolled for the first time in a Quality Assurance required project, must have a parent attend a Quality Assurance program with them.**

Training Meetings:

The training meeting will last approximately 60 minutes. You can come to the meeting that best fits your schedule. You need to only attend one session. There will be no other options in Mercer County. If none of these fit your schedule, it will be up to you to find a county to fulfill the Quality Assurance requirement.

QA Training & Test Out Options Testing 6:00 PM - Kenn Feld Training 7:00 PM-8:00pm JFB	Tuesday, January 21 - Fairgrounds Thursday, January 23 - Fairgrounds
QA Training ONLY 7:00-8:00 PM	Monday, May 4 - JFB, Fairgrounds Wednesday May 6 - JFB, Fairgrounds

(OVER)

Testing Option:

Taking the test is completely optional. Members may choose to simply attend Quality Assurance training every year rather than taking the test. The test is 50 multiple choice questions and you need 35 correct to pass. A member must take the test at the scheduled time and achieve a score of 70% or higher to test out of the program.

Because members need to have some basic Quality Assurance knowledge, a member who is taking livestock for the first time is NOT ELIGIBLE to test out of their Quality Assurance requirement – regardless of their age.

Members, ages 12-14 (as of January 1 of the current year), can test out of Quality Assurance for up to three years. This means a child who passes the Quality Assurance test would not have to take the test again until they reach the 15-18 age division. Members, ages 15-18 (as of January 1 of the current year), can test out of Quality Assurance permanently.

The test will be administered an hour before the training sessions. **Member must arrive at 6pm to start the testing. Members who do not arrive by 6pm are not eligible to take the test that evening. Members who do not pass the test on the FIRST attempt, will need to stay for the training session or attend a training session another evening.** They may attempt to test out of the program again the following year.

If members choose to take the test, they should read through the Quality Assurance section of their Resource Handbook, the Caring for Animals chapter and review the Pillars of Character section. There is also a review guide available on our website <https://go.osu.edu/mercercqa>.

Anyone requiring assistance in reading the test:

Any person with accommodations specified on an IEP or 504 may choose to have a reader assist them in reading the test. Please notify the Extension Office one week before schedule testing date.

Out of County Training:

Members may attend a production animal Quality Assurance Program outside of our county (example – Beef Expo). A certificate must be issued in the Junior Fair member's name. A copy of this certificate must be filed with the Extension Office by **June 14**. If a parent is required to attend they must submit proof of attendance as well. Youth taking an on-line Quality Assurance certification such as the YQCA or Ohio BEST Show on-line course does not meet the requirements of the Ohio Quality Assurance certification.

Cancellation policy:

4-H county meetings and events that need to be canceled will be announced on WCSM radio and on the Mercer County 4-H Facebook page. Emails will be sent out if applicable to that specific event. **Do not assume events are canceled due to weather or school closings.**

If you have any questions about the Quality Assurance requirement or your current status, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



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