

2026 Livestock Quality Assurance

What is QA? The QA program is intended to provide information and knowledge surrounding the quality and care of livestock for 4-H and FFA members. It is mandated by OSU and ODA and is a Jr. Fair requirement.

Who needs to attend? All livestock members exhibiting a market and/or breeding animal (large and small) must attend a training or test out option if age eligible. If you received this letter and your name is on the outside of the envelope, our records show you must attend QA for 2026.

Members age 8-11 as of 1/1/2026

Must attend a training session – there is no test out option.

First year livestock members must attend a training session regardless of age - there is no test out option.

Members age 12-14 as of 1/1/2026

Must attend a training session or test out option.

If choosing the test out option – a member who passes will not have to train or test again until age 15.

Members age 15 and up as of 1/1/2026

Must attend a training session or test out option.

If choosing the test out option – a member who passes will test out of QA permanently.

Test Out Options – Jr. Fair Building

Tuesday, March 17 @ 6:00 PM
Wednesday, March 18 @ 6:00 PM

You can arrive starting at 5:45
Test must be started by 6 PM

Planning to test? Be sure to check out the next page for more information.

Training Options – Jr. Fair Building

Tuesday, March 17 @ 7:00 PM
Wednesday, March 18 @ 7:00 PM
Monday, April 13 @ 7:00 PM
Tuesday, April 14 @ 7:00 PM

Please think ahead with busy spring schedules of sports, work, and banquets. Plan accordingly to complete the QA requirement.

General QA Rules & Information

- QA certification must be completed by June 1, 2026.
- We ask that parents attend the meeting if this is a first time a member is completing QA. If there are older siblings who have completed – parents do not need to attend.
- Members may attend an allowable QA session outside of our county. A certificate must be issued in the members name and filed with the Extension Office by June 1.
- If inclement weather or unplanned circumstances cause the class to be canceled – please be sure to check your email and the Mercer County 4-H Facebook for updates.

Planning to test? Please read the following information if you choose this option:

- The test is 50 multiple choice questions based on your 4-H age and animal type (large or small). You will need 35 correct answers or a score of 70% or higher to pass the test.
- 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.
- Members who do not pass the test on the FIRST attempt, will need to sign up for a later scheduled Quality Assurance training.
- 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/mercerqa>.
- 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 at least one week before the scheduled testing date.**

Additional Options:

- Beef Expo and other events may offer some kind of QA- please verify it is 4-H approved event. Not all PQA and BQA events qualify.
- There is a testing option available by YQCA for one year certification. The other online courses do not meet the QA certification requirements (i.e. BQA, PQA, BEST, etc.). Youth can go to the following website to take the age-appropriate on-line module for \$12: <https://yqcaprogram.org/>

More Information:

For Quality Assurance study guide visit <https://go.osu.edu/mercerqa>.

Unsure of your Quality Assurance Status? A complete list of livestock members and their QA status is available on our website <https://go.osu.edu/mercerqa>.

Have more questions? Give us a call at the Extension Office – 419-586-2179 – or email Beth Guggenbiller guggenbiller.23@osu.edu or Erica Bowers bowers.360@osu.edu.



<https://go.osu.edu/mercerqa>