

Minimum Standards
Wisconsin Meat Animal Quality Assurance (MAQA) Program

- ✓ Age:
 - Age as of January 1 of the current year, youth ages 8-19. **Age 8 (grades 3-13), no less than grade 3. Not open to Cloverbuds.**
 - This is an Annual Certification. Testing allows for additional years of certification.
 - Youth 8-11 have only one option. Attend a training program each year.
 - Youth 12-14 can either: attend a training each year or test out using the Intermediate level test. If successful they need not complete another program or test until they turn 15. If they fail, they need to attend a training. Passing is 70%.
 - Youth 15-19 can either: attend a training each year or test out using the Advanced level test. If successful they need not complete another program unless they continue to produce swine or continuing showing after age 19. They would then need to complete the Adult PQA Plus program if they are swine exhibitors. Passing is 70%.
 - **Was new 2009-2010: Once certified by examination, the youth is not required to recertify in Youth PQA Plus until the next age level is reached. However, certification by examination is not to exceed three years. In the Advanced group, a 15-year old who passes an examination would need to recertify after a period of three years, despite not having reached another age level. When youth reach the next age level or exceed the certification period of three years, they can either attend a Youth PQA Plus training class or take the appropriate examination at their new age level. Certification by examination is valid for a minimum of one year, but will not exceed three years.**
 - Tests are administered & graded by advisors, **NO** supplemental material allowed.
 - **It is highly encouraged that parents attend these programs with their youth, however adults cannot be certified at a Youth certification class, they must attend an adult program.**
- ✓ Curriculum/Content:
 - The only curriculum for use is the Wisconsin Meat Animal Quality Assurance and the current year should be taught. This is the approved curriculum from the National Pork Board and has followed their key learning objectives. For example: a county meeting on selection or how to feed your animal, or farm calls, etc.. are not considered certification meetings. The curriculum for the year must be taught.
 - There is a new topic each year so there is no redundancy of information.
 - It must be interactive and hands-on.
 - A minimum of one hour of programming (presentation and activities) is needed to cover the required GPP's each year.
 - All GPP's are stated each year to the youth.
- ✓ Advisor Training Requirements:
 - Advisors must be veterinarians, Extension personnel or secondary/post secondary agriculture instructors.
 - Must attend a statewide train the advisor session (usually in Jan, Feb, or March) once every 3 years. Conducted by Extension Youth Livestock Specialist.
 - Advisor candidates must also complete and pass an examination to become a certified advisor. The examination may be attempted 3 times at a single session. If the exam is not passed within 3 attempts the candidate must attend another training session before attempting to pass the exam again.
 - Certified advisors may assemble training teams at the local level. Team members may include qualified local volunteers and adult leaders. A certified advisor must be involved in the planning and oversight of the program delivered to youth. It is preferred to have a training team made up of many backgrounds from your county to conduct trainings. **Volunteers/Project Leaders etc. can assist with trainings only in a close working relationship of trained advisors in the county, NOT independently.**

- At least one state approved advisor must be present during training and the administration of an exam.
- ✓ Handouts throughout the curriculum can be used at your own discretion. There may be many handouts to assist in teaching/demonstrating a point.
- ✓ Testing Procedures: See Testing Procedures for standards on presentation of the test.

Any Questions contact: Bernie O'Rourke, Extension Youth Livestock Specialist, 608-263-4304, borourke2@ansci.wisc