



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Colorado 4-H Meat Quality Assurance

Colorado 4-H MQA Program Requirements

4-H members enrolling in any market and/or breeding livestock projects for the first time regardless of age, must attend a Colorado 4-H Meat Quality Assurance (MQA) program. A Colorado 4-H Meat Quality Assurance (MQA) program is considered to be either a training conducted using a Colorado 4-H MQA trailer or the Colorado 4-H MQA Power Point. All Colorado 4-H MQA programs must be conducted by the County 4-H Agent or approved designee.

4-H members will be required to attend a Colorado 4-H MQA program a minimum of twice during the course of their 4-H career – once as a junior and once again within one year after becoming a senior 4-H member. Members are encouraged to review the information and best practices found in the Colorado 4-H Meat Quality Assurance program annually.

It is highly recommended that Colorado 4-H MQA training be completed at least 45 days prior to exhibition of project animals.

4-H members enrolled in market and/or breeding livestock projects will sign the Animal Care & Housing form, indicating their understanding of and compliance with the good production practices taught in the Colorado 4-H Meat Quality Assurance program. Consequences for failing to comply with the Animal Care & Housing standards/Rules of Competition/4-H Code of Conduct/Colorado 4-H Youth Development Policies may result in removal from all 4-H livestock projects for the member/family. The Animal Care & Housing form must be filed every time the member signs up for any market and/or breeding livestock project. The Colorado 4-H MQA program suggests that records be kept on file for twelve months following the sale of any project livestock.

The above-mentioned guidelines are minimum standards, and 4-H Agents or 4-H livestock committees may require more Colorado 4-H MQA trainings as needed.

Additional quality assurance certifications may be required by fairs, shows and sales. It is the sole responsibility of each individual exhibitor to review fair, show and sale rules for events they plan to participate in or attend, and to comply with any additional certifications at their own expense.

For Example: Certifications such as the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) may be required by fairs, shows or sales. In such a situation, The Colorado 4-H MQA certification is not a substitute for any fair, show or sale's additional certification requirement.