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Fairfield County**
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Dear 4-H Families,

As you may be aware, the requirements for Quality Assurance (QA) have changed for the 2007 year. Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) now requires exhibitors who take livestock projects to attend a minimum of 60 minutes of training by certified instructors. It was decided by the Junior and Senior Fair Boards that instead of requiring clubs/chapters to provide their own QA sessions, Fairfield County would hold a county-wide clinic to meet this requirement. To clarify any questions you might have, please continue reading this very important information!

Q. What are all animal requirements?

A. **SOME REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIES HAVE CHANGED.** Please refer to the next page for the requirements for all animals. (So, disregard any information you have received up to this point in regards to Quality Assurance & Skill-a-Thons!)

Q. Do exhibitors need to attend both the May and August Quality Assurance Trainings if their specie requires QA?

A. Exhibitors have the option to attend the May 19th (noon-2 p.m.) or August 26th (2-4 p.m.) clinic; it is just required for them to attend one. If an exhibitor desires to attend both clinics, that is acceptable. *Additionally, exhibitors who are carrying a project that does not require QA are encouraged to attend one of the QA clinics.*

Q. ODA Requires 60 minutes worth of training. Can an exhibitor stay for only 60 minutes and leave?

A. No. These are 2 hour training clinics. Exhibitors are required to attend the *entire* 2 hour time period in order to be eligible to exhibit at the 2007 County Fair. This allows for transition time in addition to more educational time.

Q. I show multiple species. Do I need to attend every specie's session in order to be eligible to show at the fair?

A. Exhibitors need to attend only one QA clinic in order to be eligible to exhibit all their species at the County Fair (However, if an exhibitor is carrying another project—horse or dog—s/he must also meet those specie requirements). They have the option to choose which break-out session to attend. (So if Chris Clover is exhibiting Dairy, Beef, and Swine, he can attend the general assembly and then either the Dairy OR Beef OR Swine session and be eligible to exhibit all three at the fair. He does not need to attend all three sessions)

Q. Do Pork (Swine) Exhibitors only need to attend QA once every three years?

A. Swine exhibitors must attend QA EVERY year. Previously, it was stated Swine Exhibitors must attend the special Pork QA once every three years. Because a particular curriculum will be covered at the trainings, they have the option of attending any specie they desire.

Q. What do exhibitors do if they're showing at the State Fair?

A. Exhibitors taking Beef, Dairy, Goats, Sheep, Swine, Poultry, and Rabbits who plan to compete at the State Fair **MUST** attend a QA clinic **prior** to exhibiting at the State Fair. (May 19th is before this date!!!) ☺

Q. It states instructors must be certified. Does that mean only certain people are able to teach QA?

A. Anyone who would like to assist with the Quality Assurance training is able to do so. There is an open book test to complete in order to become a certified instructor. Please contact me if you would like to help!

Over →

- Q. We're doing QA on a county level. Does that mean we aren't allowed to teach QA in our clubs/chapters?
- A. Even though we're having QA training on a county level, clubs/chapters are still encouraged to have more learning opportunities for exhibitors. This can include additional QA activities and checking out Skill-a-Thon kits from the Extension Office. The more youth know about their project, the better! However, youth can only meet their QA requirement by attending one of the approved activities.
- Q. Are there any required County-Wide Skill-a-Thons?
- A. Skill-a-Thons are now only required for horses.
- Q. How are other specie exhibitor's who don't have a Skill-a-Thon going to get points for Premier Exhibitor?
- A. There is an option for completing a test (multiple choice/fill in the blank, etc.) at the conclusion of the QA clinic. Exhibitors are ONLY required to take this test if they wish to compete in the Premier Exhibitor Program. Contestants will then be ranked on scores from the tests. Exhibitors may take the test after the May OR August date. They MAY NOT take the test after both dates. However, an exhibitor has the option to attend the QA clinic in May (without taking the test), and then coming to the August clinic to only take the Premier Exhibitor test. If an exhibitor does not complete a test, s/he is ineligible to compete in that specie's Premier Exhibitor Program.
- Q. I want to compete in multiple Premier Exhibitor Competitions. Do I need to take all the tests?
- A. Yes. Exhibitors will need to take a test for EVERY specie s/he wishes to compete in for Premier Exhibitor. When exhibitors register for QA, s/he will be asked to indicate which species' test they plan to take. An exhibitor has the option of taking some of the species tests at the May date and the remaining tests at the August date, as long as they are not the same specie's test.
- Q. I can't make it to the May or August date. What are my other options?
- A. There are opportunities at different clinics, meetings, and livestock shows around the state that offer quality assurance sessions. Examples of these types of sessions that would fulfill an exhibitor's Quality Assurance requirements are: the Ohio Beef Expo, designated Ohio Cattlemen's Association BEST shows, and other counties county-wide Quality Assurance Clinics. If a club member chooses to attend one of these types of sessions, they need to provide the Extension Office with proof of attendance with documentation of certification so accurate records will be available for verification if necessary. If you would like more information about alternative sessions, please contact the Extension Office. HOWEVER, the majority of these events are prior to the May & August dates (none follow the August date), and pre-registration is often required. If you plan to do this, you MUST decide ahead of time! **IT IS RECOMMENDED FOR ALL EXHIBITORS TO ATTEND THE MAY 19TH DATE TO ENSURE COMPLETION OF QUALITY ASSURANCE TRAINING!!**
- Q. Is there a test-out option for QA?
- A. Yes. Youth who are 12-14 years old and 15-18 years old have this option. All youth must complete at least one Quality Assurance Training prior to taking the test. A youth may test out when reaching the age of 12-14, but must again complete a clinic when reaching the age of 15. Once 15 years old, youth may again test out of Quality Assurance until s/he completes the 4-H/FFA career. For the QA test-out option, contact the Extension Office upon completion of a QA Training.

NOTE TO ADVISORS: This letter is only being sent to youth who were enrolled in the 2006 year. Please make sure to share this information with new members in your club.

Thank you for your patience and support as we begin this new program! If you have any questions regarding the Quality Assurance Requirements, please contact me at kohler.61@osu.edu or 740-653-5419 x19. I look forward to an exciting year!

Sincerely,

Hannah Kohler
Extension Educator
4-H Youth Development

SPECIE REQUIREMENTS

Beef (Breeding & Market)

QA Training required. Exhibitors may choose to attend the May 19th or August 26th date. See the front of the letter for more information. Skill-a-Thons are not required.

Dairy Cattle (Breeding & Market)

QA Training required. Exhibitors may choose to attend the May 19th or August 26th date. See the front of the letter for more information. Skill-a-Thons are not required.

Goats (Includes Meat, Market, Dairy, Angora, and Pygmy)

QA Training required. Exhibitors may choose to attend the May 19th or August 26th date. See the front of the letter for more information. Skill-a-Thons are not required.

Sheep (Breeding & Market)

QA Training required. Exhibitors may choose to attend the May 19th or August 26th date. See the front of the letter for more information. Skill-a-Thons are not required.

Swine (Breeding & Market)

QA Training required. Exhibitors may choose to attend the May 19th or August 26th date. Because the QA clinic will follow a particular curriculum, Swine Exhibitors may choose to attend whichever break out session s/he desires. (They are still required to attend QA training every year.) See the front of the letter for more information. Skill-a-Thons are not required.

Rabbits (Breeding & Market)

QA training & Skill-a-Thons are not required. However, exhibitors are encouraged to attend a QA clinic and participate in the general session & break out session of choice. A county-wide rabbit clinic is also being offered on May 19th from 2-3:30 p.m. for rabbit exhibitors to attend. If a rabbit exhibitor wishes to compete in the Premier Exhibitor Rabbit Program, s/he MUST attend the rabbit clinic and take the test at the clinic. IF A RABBIT EXHIBITOR WISHES TO COMPETE AT THE STATE FAIR, S/HE MUST STILL COMPLETE A QA TRAINING PRIOR TO THE STATE FAIR (This is a state fair requirement.)

Poultry

QA training & Skill-a-Thons are not required. However, exhibitors are encouraged to attend a QA clinic and participate in the general session & break out session of choice. IF A POULTRY EXHIBITOR WISHES TO COMPETE AT THE STATE FAIR, S/HE MUST STILL COMPLETE A QA TRAINING PRIOR TO THE STATE FAIR (This is a state fair requirement.)

Horse

Horse Exhibitors are required to attend the Horse Skill-a-Thon Sunday, August 26 from 12noon-3 p.m. This will be set up similar to last year. Waivers are also available if an exhibitor cannot make the Skill-a-Thon date **and** participates in an alternative event. QA training is not required. However, exhibitors are encouraged to attend a QA clinic and participate in the general session & break out session of choice.

Dogs

Dog Exhibitors are required to attend Check-In Day Sunday, September 23 from 2-4 p.m. at the Fairgrounds Show Arena. Exhibitors are required to bring 2007 Ohio State Fair Dog Project Identification Form and Vaccination Certificate, (signed by a licensed, accredited veterinarian), License Registration Paper and Tag. This will be a day to check in all required paper work, practice going through the show rings, an opportunity to ask questions, and **will certify entries**. Vaccinations are to be given by July 1 of the current year. QA training & Skill-a-Thons are not required. However, exhibitors are encouraged to attend a QA clinic and participate in the general session & break out session of choice.

Small Animals & Llamas

QA training & Skill-a-Thons are not required. However, exhibitors are encouraged to attend a QA clinic and participate in the general session & break out session of choice.