

## **MAQA Certification Training & Testing '17**

MAQA training is conducted to help youth livestock exhibitors learn how to produce a safe, wholesome product. MAQA meets Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) requirements, which are required of all SWINE project members. Consequently, **all 4-H SWINE project members must be MAQA certified**, either by training or testing, in order to show at the county fair. 4-H members in the BEEF and SHEEP projects are not required to be MAQA certified. However, their participation in training (especially as 8-11 years olds) is encouraged and does fulfill mandatory meeting expectations for BEEF and SHEEP.

Because Wisconsin is transitioning to a new certification program (YQCA) for 2018, youth who train or test in 2017 to achieve certification will only receive 1-year certifications.

- Youth, ages 8-11 (by 1/1 of the current 4-H year) must TRAIN. That is the only option.
- Youth, ages 12+ (by 1/1 of the current 4-H year) may TRAIN or TEST.
- 4-H & FFA members who reach their 20th birthday while still eligible to show must complete and pass the adult PQA Plus program.

Youth who remain certified from testing during the past couple of years (when certifications were good for up to three years) do not have to train or test this year. Call Debbie or Sue at the UW-Extension office, 262-741-4951, to find out if your certification is good through this year if you are not sure.

### ***Want to Train?***

All Walworth County training will be done in the County Government Center in downtown Elkhorn at the times specified below. If you cannot attend one of these sessions, you will need to attend a session being conducted in a nearby county. Those options are available at: <http://fyi.uwex.edu/maqa/maqa-meetings/>.

#### **Wednesday, February 8, 2017**

MAQA Training, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Two sections: grades 3-7 and grades 8-13

#### **Thursday, April 6**

MAQA Training, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Two sections: grades 3-7 and grades 8-13

### ***Want to Test?***

Youth wishing to test may access a study guide to prepare at: <http://fyi.uwex.edu/maqa/>. Individuals can take the test for their age level (intermediate or advanced) up to 3 times this year in an effort to pass. Youth, ages 12+ (by 1/1) who wish to test may contact the UW-Extension office (262-741-4951) to set-up a time to do so.