

**Meat Animal Quality Assurance has been made a mandatory requirement for all exhibitors showing any livestock Beef, Sheep, Swine, Goats, Dairy, Poultry and Rabbits that are housed at the Eau Claire County Fair for 2017.**

This email states the plan for Quality Assurance education for 2016-2017. Please read thoroughly!

The Eau Claire County Fair Committee has chosen to make MAQA a mandatory requirement for 2017. Because our exhibitors and animal exhibits are on public display, and because the treatment and care is a reflection on our fair, it is critical that exhibitors have a good understanding of the expectations of the public's view of how animals are cared for and these expectations should be implemented not only during the fair, but practiced at home and on our farms as well.

This year's MAQA topic will be: *Animal Health Products, coupled with VFD & Veterinary Feed Directive.*

1. The MAQA meetings for Eau Claire County have been scheduled.  
Saturday, February 18, 2017 – 9:30AM at the Eau Claire County Extension Office, Altoona  
Monday, April 10, 2017 – 6:30PM at Augusta High School, Augusta  
(ADDITIONAL MEETINGS MAY BE SCHEDULED)
2. There will be an option to test out by taking an exam; however this year the exam will have a **1 year certification ONLY**. It will NOT serve for more than one year as in previous years. Youth already in the system that have certifications that are current because they took the exam will be grandfathered in. PLEASE NOTE: you will need to contact the Extension Office to set up a time to take the exam. To pass, you must score at least 75%. Exhibitors who do not pass the test may opt to take the test again, but must schedule a different time and day to retest.
3. ***Meat Animal Quality Assurance (MAQA) meetings in other counties.***  
If you are not able to attend one of the meetings offered in Eau Claire County, families may visit the link below to find a meeting that is relatively close and can work in their schedule  
Weblink: <http://fyi.uwex.edu/maqa/maqa-meetings/>
4. PLEASE NOTE that this requirement **MUST** be completed by **JULY 1, 2017** to show at the 2017 fair. Please plan ahead and attend a meeting or test out before July 1! NO exceptions will be made!

**For 2017-2018 and beyond:** MAQA will be known as YQCA (youth for the quality care of animals) and will continue to be implemented in Eau Claire County. Beef, Sheep, Swine, Goats, Dairy, Poultry and Rabbits will all be included in presentation information regarding the importance of animal care.

**In 2018 Wisconsin State Fair will require YQCA for all junior show exhibitors in Beef, Sheep, Swine, Dairy, Goats, Poultry and Rabbits.** The National Western stock show will start requiring YQCA from all youth exhibitors starting in 2018.

We know that this is a transition year with many exhibitors involved in livestock projects with different youth memberships and leaders. To ensure that nobody is missed or not made aware of the new requirements, we are asking leaders, advisors and other exhibitors to pass along the information.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Lisa Vetsch 715-271-5015. (FINAL 11/18/2016)