

Food Safety & Quality Assurance (FSQA) —2009 Mills County Guidelines—

Why FSQA?

- Iowa 4-H'ers produce over 13 million pounds of meat each year, which all goes into the American food supply.
- Consumers expect a safe, high quality product.
- 4-H'ers need to know the food production rules and follow them exactly.

What is FSQA?

- The Iowa 4-H Food Safety and Quality Assurance (FSQA) program focuses on seven Good Production Practices that help ensure the safety of the food you produce.
- When 4-H'ers meet the FSQA certification they also meet the Beef Quality Assurance and Pork Quality Assurance certification.

Who needs FSQA certification?

- All youth exhibiting SWINE at the Mills County Fair, Clay County Fair, Iowa State Fair and Ak-Sar-Ben.
- All youth exhibiting BEEF at the Mills County Fair, Clay County Fair, and Iowa State Fair.
- All youth exhibiting SHEEP at the Mills County Fair, Clay County Fair, and Iowa State Fair.
- All youth exhibiting DAIRY at the Mills County Fair and Iowa State Fair.
- All youth exhibiting GOATS at the Mills County Fair and Iowa State Fair.
- All youth exhibiting POULTRY at the Mills County Fair and Iowa State Fair.
- All youth exhibiting MEAT RABBITS at the Mills County Fair and Iowa State Fair.
- Please note that youth can no longer be certified by veterinarians and must be certified through a 4-H Youth FSQA training program. Adults are welcome to attend, but CANNOT be certified by attending a 4-H training session.

How do I Certify for FSQA?

- Ages are based upon the 4-H'ers age as of January 1, 2009.
- 4-H'ers age 9 to 11 years must attend a certification training program each year to be FSQA certified.
- 4-H'ers age 12 to 14 years can either attend a workshop every year OR take a test. Those who pass the test, will not need to attend a training or take another test until they turn 15.
- 4-H'ers age 15 to 18 years can either attend a workshop every year OR take a test. Those who pass the test, will not need to attend a training or take another test until they turn 19.
- Those taking the test will only be allowed three tests per sitting and need at least 70% correct to pass and be certified.
- Youth who are 19 years of age before January 1, 2009, and a senior in high school should contact the Extension Office as specific guidelines apply.

What is the Test Content Based On?

- Exam questions are based upon information in the National Pork Board PQAIII manual. If you need a copy of this manual, please contact the Extension Office.

When and Where do I Certify for FSQA?

- Mills County FSQA training will be held on Thursday, March 12th, at 7:00 PM at the Malvern Community Building. NOTE: If you are not able to attend on this date, you must contact the Extension Office by Friday, March 6th, to make alternate arrangements.

NOTE: If you choose the testing option, you must notify the Extension Office by Noon on Wednesday, March 11th, of your intent to take the test. If you have a conflict, please contact the Extension Office to make alternate arrangements.

Questions?

Please contact the Mills County Extension Office (712-624-8616).