

Extra

A special Newsline

Food Safety and Quality Assurance (FSQA) Training/Testing Dates Set

Iowa 4-H'ers and FFA members produce over 13 million pounds of meat each year, all of which goes into the American food supply. And that doesn't include all the milk and eggs produced by these youth! Because 4-H'ers and FFA members are producing food, not just showing animals, they should be expected to follow the same rules and regulations as all other food producers. That includes knowing the food production rules and following them exactly to produce what consumers expect—a safe, high quality food product.

FSQA certification is required for 4-H or FFA exhibitors showing Market and/or Breeding Beef, Swine, Sheep, Dairy Cattle and Dairy Goats at the 2005 State Fair. At the 2006 State Fair, FSQA certification will be required for exhibitors showing all meat animals, including poultry and rabbits. FSQA certification is required for exhibitors showing Swine, Market and/or Breeding Beef, Sheep, Dairy Cattle, Dairy Goats, Rabbit and Poultry at the 2010 Howard County Fair.

There are two ways that 4-H'ers and FFA members can become FSQA certified:

- 1) Attend an FSQA Training for Youth session.** If youth attend an FSQA training session, their certification is good for one year, no matter what their age. Exhibitors aged 9-11 must attend the face to face training each year. **or**
- 2) Pass an FSQA certification test.** Exhibitors aged 12-18 may go to a training session each year or use the test out option. If youth pass the FSQA certification test, their certification is good until they reach the next age category. If youth are 12-14 years old and pass the test, their certification is good until they are 15 years old. If youth are 15-18 years old and pass the test, their certification is good until they are 19 years old.

Youth will be trained through one of these two methods provided by the ISU Extension Service. Although veterinarians

are partners in this process and may assist with the training sessions, veterinarians can no longer sign individual certification cards for youth.

FSQA Training will be held on Tuesday, May 25 from 5-7:30 p.m. at Cresco Bank and Trust in Cresco, Iowa for all youth planning to exhibit swine, dairy, sheep, rabbit, beef, poultry/novelty, goats, horses or dogs. **All livestock project members ages 9, 10 & 11 are required to attend the certification training annually until age 12**, at that time youth can choose a test option or continue attending the annual FSQA class. Youth ages 12, 13 or 14 who test out and pass with 70% accuracy will not be expected to test again until age 15.

Members and parents planning to attend training need to RSVP the Howard County Extension Office by May 20 as we will be serving a light meal of pizza and beverage. Parents attending will not be certified as this is a youth oriented program, but we encourage parents to attend as supporters of their child(ren). manual or check at

www.porkboard.org/PQAManual_online/PQAManual.pdf.

FSQA testing dates for youth ages 12 - 19 are scheduled by making an appointment at the Howard County Extension Office at 563-547-3001 to make a reservation for a testing date of their choice.