

Swine, breeding beef, market beef, bucket bottle, dairy, sheep, poultry exhibitors

Dear 4-H Livestock Producer Families,

Iowa 4-H Food Safety and Quality Assurance Program

Have you ever thought about what happens to your 4-H animals after the county fair? Most 4-H members don't. However, Iowa 4-Hers produce over 13 million pounds of meat each year, which all goes into the American food supply. And that doesn't include all the milk and eggs produced by Iowa 4-Hers!

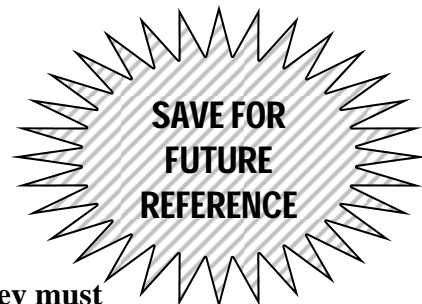
Because you are producing food, not just showing animals, 4-Hers should be expected to follow the same rules and regulations as all other food producers. That includes knowing the food production rules and following them exactly. Consumers expect a safe, high quality food product and it's your job to produce that. This has been made even more evident after the recent BSE incident.

The Iowa 4-H Food Safety and Quality Assurance (FSQA) program is a program taught by Extension staff and trained volunteers. It focuses on seven Good Production Practices that help ensure the safety of the food you produce. It includes a reference manual with additional information that you can add to over time. Each year it will include a new section on Current Issues in Animal Agriculture to help inform 4-Hers and their families about the most current changes, rules, or new products available for animals. These workshops will take on many different forms, but will be designed to include plenty of hands-on activities to make the learning process fun and exciting.

Continuing and future years, all youth exhibiting swine, breeding beef, market beef, bucket bottle beef, sheep, dairy and poultry at the Webster County Fair must be certified in the 4-H FSQA program. (This will meet the qualifications for all youth exhibiting swine, sheep, dairy and beef at the Iowa State Fair.)

This is because all livestock has the potential to be introduced into our food chain. When 4-H members meet the 4-H FSQA certification; they have also met the Beef Quality Assurance and Pork Quality Assurance certification as well.





The FSQA Program guidelines are as follows:

- ☼ Youth 9-18 years of age only
- ☼ Parents may attend, but will not to be certified.
- ☼ **4-H member's can NOT just go to the local veterinarian any more—they must attend an approved YOUTH training program.**
- ☼ Recertify annually – ages as of January 1st
 - Ages 9-11 by workshop only – MUST ATTEND
 - Ages 12-14 by workshop or test-out (test out good for three years to age 15)
 - Ages 15-18 by workshop or test out (test out good until age 19 – then adult certify)

Webster County's FSQA trainings will be held:

Friday, December 29th	9:30-11:30 am	<u>Test Out</u>	Extension Office, Fort Dodge
Friday, December 29th	1:30-3:30 pm	<u>Test Out</u>	Extension Office, Fort Dodge
Thursday, April 5	1:30-3:30 pm	<u>Test Out</u>	Extension Office, Fort Dodge
Monday, April 9	9:30-11:30 am	Workshop	Callender Community Center
Monday, April 9	1:30-3:30 pm	<u>Test Out</u>	Extension Office, Fort Dodge
Monday, April 9	6:30-8:30 pm	Workshop	Extension Office, Fort Dodge

- ☼ Members attending the workshop only need to attend one of the sessions; the sessions will be the same each time.
- ☼ Those wanting to test out may attend the test out sessions and will be given three opportunities to pass each day. A passing score is 70% or better.
- ☼ A good study guide for the test out is the Pork Quality Assurance Level III Handbooks or the FSQA training manual, which may be picked up at the Extension Office.
- ☼ The National FSQA training manual will be used for certification. In many cases one manual per family will suffice. The manual cost is \$3.00 each, payable to Webster County Extension and will be available the day of the workshop.

It is the intent that all Webster County 4-H'ers be completed with their test out or have attended a workshop by April 20th. If you have conflicts with the above dates, feel free to contact the office so we are able to provide you a listing of neighboring counties' FSQA dates and locations.

To find out more about the FSQA program, please visit with Linda at 515-576-2119.

James L. Patton
Webster County Extension Education Director

Linda Cline
Webster County Youth Coordinator