



YQCA Background Information Sheet

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This information sheet is provided as a resource. For additional questions, please email sales@yqca.org.

How did YQCA get started?

The National Pork Board (NPB) program manager for the Youth PQA Plus program called a meeting in 2013 to discuss the feasibility and interest in a national, multi-species youth quality assurance (QA) program. Attending the meeting were representatives of other livestock organizations and state leaders from states where a statewide multi-species QA program has been approved by NPB as a Youth PQA Plus equivalent. The consensus among the 15 attendees was that the burden of each state and group maintaining a unique QA program was growing burdensome and that a collective, national effort would be worth investigating.

The next year, this same group conducted a series of three meetings to explore the feasibility of a national program that would replace Youth PQA Plus and the need for states to develop and maintain their own programs. The group gathered input from stakeholders and others to arrive a decision to move forward with fundraising efforts to initiate the launch of YQCA.

With initial funding secured, this informal task force established committees to determine program requirements, to establish evaluation priorities, to define the scope and sequence of the curriculum and to seek and secure additional funding for program sustainability. This work began in 2015 and was managed by Vivayic, a firm contracted to facilitate the development process and to build the elearning modules for the online program. This group made integration with 4HOnline a high priority and established an agreement with RegistrationMax, the developer of 4HOnline to build the platform to host and deliver YQCA to achieve this integration. YQCA was officially incorporated as a not-for profit in September 2016 and is currently seeking federal 501c(3) tax exempt status.

Who established and reviewed the content and curriculum for YQCA?

The initial planning group of YQCA established a curriculum committee. The committee was comprised of state youth livestock extension specialists. This group established the overall curriculum framework and objectives for each module in the 14 years of YQCA programming. A weeklong content writing workshop was held in November 2015 with 12 state university extension specialists. The resulting content source documents were then sent out for a blind peer review with topic experts (animal wellbeing, food safety, and youth life skills). With final revisions made, these content source documents were used to create the storyboards for the online modules and the instructor-led workshop designed and developed by Vivayic. Drafts of the modules and instructor-led materials have been reviewed by YQCA committee members, experts from livestock organizations, and others. The online materials are preparing for a field test in late December 2016 for final edits and release for the March 2017 launch of YQCA.

Are livestock organizations involved and supportive of YQCA?

Livestock organizations have provided both financial support and technical expertise to the YQCA program. The National Pork Board plans to discontinue the Youth PQA Plus program after 2017 and provide ongoing support to YQCA. Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) program specialists have been involved in the development of the YQCA program and are ready to support state efforts to promote YQCA for youth producers. Representatives of sheep, dairy, and rabbit industries were involved in the planning and review of materials and plan to promote the use of YQCA to young producers as well. The National Pork Board, National Cattlemen's Beef Association and the American Sheep Industry Council contributed financially to the development costs for YQCA.

Who is the Current YQCA Board of Directors?

- State Representatives
 - IA - Mike Anderson
 - NE - Karna Dam
 - MO – Marcia Shannon
 - WA - Paul Kuber (Vice President)
 - WI – Bernadette O’Rourke (Secretary)
 - OH - Nancy Snook
 - SD – Heidi Carroll
 - NV - Lindsey Chichester
 - CO - Steve LeValley
- Industry Representatives
 - Livestock Organizations
 - Chase DeCoite, National Cattlemen’s Beef Association
 - Dinah Peebles – National Pork Board (Treasurer)
 - Emily Stepp – National Milk Producers Federation
 - Peter Orwick – American Sheep Industry Association
 - Mike Avesing – American Rabbit Breeders Association
 - Livestock Shows
 - Erin Dorsey, National Western Livestock Show
 - Allied Industry
 - Brett Kaysen, Zoetis
 - University Livestock Specialists
 - Jodi Sterle, Iowa State University (President)

Standing Committees:

- Curriculum
- Research/Evaluation
- Promotion/Fundraising
- Program & Policy