

YQCA Fees Information Sheet

Version 11.11.2016



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

Breakdown – where do they go?

The following is a breakdown of where the fees collected are distributed for utilization.

\$15.00 fee for online program

- \$0.45 = credit card fees (typically)
- \$5.00 = technical/user support, email and phone support, based in U.S.
- \$5.00 = online system hosting, maintenance, ongoing development, security and privacy assurance
- \$4.55 = stays with YQCA to invest in ongoing curriculum development and revision, program management, and promotion

\$12.00 fee for online program

- \$0.36 = credit card fees (typically)
- \$5.00 = technical/user support, email and phone support, based in U.S.
- \$5.00 = online system hosting, maintenance, ongoing development, security and privacy assurance
- \$1.64 = stays with YQCA to invest in ongoing curriculum development and revision, program management, and promotion

\$3 fee for in-person

- \$0.09 = credit card fees (typically)
- \$1.50 = technical/user support, email and phone support, based in U.S.
- \$1.41 = online system hosting, maintenance, ongoing development, security and privacy assurance

Refunds are allowed on a very limited, case-by-case basis (e.g., instructor-led workshop cancelled due to extreme weather)

How were these fees established?

The fee structure was established by the YQCA Board of Directors. As a not-for-profit established for the sole purpose of providing quality and effective youth quality assurance training, the fees are intended to cover the costs of offering the program. The YQCA Board projected two major costs: 1) the initial cost to develop the new curriculum and to develop an online system that would integrate with 4-H Online, was safe and secure for minors, was stable, and met current data and web standards, and 2) the ongoing costs of keeping the curriculum revised, managing and promoting the program, and keeping the online system secure, safe and up-to-date. T

The YQCA Board had to make estimates on number of users to establish a price point that would cover both the remaining costs of development and ongoing costs. The goal of the YQCA Board was to establish a fee structure that would not have to increase for at least 5 years so that all users would have a known cost to use for future planning. The YQCA Board also heard from state leaders that there was little capacity in state offices to provide user technical support, especially over holidays and weekends. The decision was made to have YQCA offer this support to all users and include this cost in the fee structure.

Are these fees comparable to other programs?

- Nebraska Extension offered an online quality assurance training program for a cost of \$10 per user. This program did not include materials for an instructor-led workshop, nor did the program offer to provide integration into 4-HOnline. Nebraska Extension will be discontinuing their program upon the availability of YQCA. A representative of YQCA is on the YQCA Board of Directors.
- The Youth PQA Plus program is offered for free to youth but only includes information for pigs and the National Pork Board allocated funds to revise the materials every three years. Local educators delivering the instructor-led workshop may have charged a fee for their time and materials, but there was no fee for the online program. The National Pork Board did allocate checkoff funds to support the development of the YQCA program and has a representative on the YQCA Board to ensure the program meets the standards established to qualify as an equivalent replacement for Youth PQA Plus. No other livestock organization offers and youth quality assurance training program.
- Many states maintained their own programs that require staff and educator time to develop, edit, design and maintain the program materials. Some states charged fees for quality assurance workshops while others offered them at no cost.
- Many states have not offered a youth quality assurance program but expressed interest in utilizing YQCA once developed and available.
- Texas Agrilife offers Quality Counts, a training and certification for youth quality assurance that includes resources for instructor-led workshops and an online program called Texas Trail. Fee information for this program was not readily available.

How do YQCA coupon codes work?

The YQCA system offers the ability for anyone to purchase coupon codes that can be applied to YQCA registration expenses. A few details about the coupons:

- Codes do not expire; treat them like cash
- Each code is unique and once used it cannot be used again
- Coupons can be any amount (up to \$15)
- Users can apply multiple coupon codes to a registration fee
- Whoever purchases the coupon codes is responsible for distributing them to designated users; YQCA cannot be held liable for misuse of coupon codes

Here are a couple of suggestions on how to utilize coupon codes:

- Find sponsor(s) interested in supporting youth livestock projects and have them help offset all or some of the cost of YQCA for youth in a club, a county, or the entire state
- Use coupon codes for families that do not want to use credit cards for online purchases. Find another family or adult that will accept payment from this family and will purchase coupon codes to use for youth registration.

What if my state needs to charge more for instructor-led workshops to recoup costs for materials and staff time?

The YQCA system is not capable of establishing different price points based on delivery location. There are two options to consider for this situation:

1. Require participants to make two payments: one for the \$3 online registration fee to YQCA and another payment for local costs.
2. For convenience to youth and their families, you could have them write you one check that includes the \$3 YQCA online fee. Your instructor could go online and purchase \$3 coupon codes at yqca.org and distribute these codes to the families that included the payment in their check.