



# Youth for the Quality Care of Animals Information Sheet

*Haley Chappell and Esther Turner*

## What does YQCA stand for?

YQCA stands for Youth for the Quality Care of Animals and is a training helps youth develop the knowledge and skills needed to care for their livestock projects. YQCA promotes responsible and ethical practices for animal well-being. By learning best practices in feeding, handling, and herd/health management, youth ensure their market animal projects are safe for the food chain and of high quality. In addition to animal care, YQCA helps build valuable life skills such as responsibility, professionalism, and decision-making.

## Who needs to complete the YQCA Training?

YQCA is required for youth ages 8 to 21 who are exhibiting livestock at fairs or other shows that require a YQCA certificate. It is important to check with your county extension office and review your fair's specific rules to ensure all YQCA training requirements are met

## How long does my YQCA certificate last?

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## A YQCA training is being offered in my county, how do I register?

To register, go to <https://yqcaprogram.org>.

1. **First-time members** will need to create an account, while returning members can log in to their existing account.
2. Select **"Instructor-Led Training"** if you are attending an in-person session.

3. **Search for the training offered in your county** and complete the registration.
4. Pay the **\$3.00** in-person fee when you arrive at the training.

## Is there an online option?

Yes, there is an online option. To register for the "Web-Based Training," follow these steps:

1. Go to <https://yqcaprogram.org> and select **"Web-Based Training"** during registration.
2. Pay the **\$12** online course fee.
3. **Complete** the interactive **lessons** and **quizzes** at your own pace.

The **certificate is valid for one year** from the date of completion.

## How does the "Test-Out" option work?

The "Test-Out" option is available to youth who are exactly 12, 15, or 19 years old as of January 1 of the current year. This option allows eligible youth to test out of the annual YQCA training for their specific age division. To pass, participants must score 80% or higher. If successful, the certification is valid for three years covering ages 12 to 15, 15 to 19, and 19 to 21. Youth who are between these ages do not qualify for the "Test-Out" option. If the test is not passed, it cannot be retaken for that age division. The test must be completed in one sitting and is only available online through the YQCA website. For more information on registration and completing the "Test-Out option", visit the "Youth and Parents" page on the YQCA site.

## What is the Pre-test?

All youth (in-person and online) must complete the Pre-test before accessing the rest of the course content. Even if all required lessons are completed, your certificate will not be available until the Pre-test is submitted. Follow the instructions below to access the Pre-test.

1. **Log in** to your account at <https://yqcaprogram.org/>
2. **Select** the course you are registered for.
3. **Click** into the course module.
4. The **Pretest will appear as one of the first activities** in the course

## After the training, how do I access the Post-Test?

All youth (in-person and online) must also complete the Post-Test to receive their certificate. This test will only appear after all the required lessons are finished. Follow the instructions below to access the Post-Test.

1. **Log in** to your account at <https://yqcaprogram.org/>.
2. Go to your **Dashboard**.
3. Click on the **course** you are enrolled in (the one you just completed).
4. **Make** sure you've completed:
  - The **Pre-Test**
  - All **lesson modules**
  - Any interactive activities or **videos**
5. Once all lessons are marked **Complete**, the **Post-Test** will automatically **unlock**.
6. Click on the **Post-Test** to begin.

## How do I access my certificate?

After completing the pre- and post-tests, you can access your certificate on the YQCA website by following these steps:

1. **Log in** to your account at <https://yqcaprogram.org/>
2. Navigate to your **dashboard**.
3. Find **course certificates**.
4. From there, you can view, **download**, or **print** your certificate.

## What happens if I do not complete the YQCA training?

If you do not complete the YQCA training and it is required for your event or fair, you may not be allowed to exhibit your animal and could be disqualified from the competition. Always check with your local fair board or extension office to confirm specific deadlines and requirements.

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This information has been reviewed by University faculty.

[extension.arizona.edu/pubs/az2211-2026.pdf](https://extension.arizona.edu/pubs/az2211-2026.pdf)

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