

Minimum Standards for the Youth PQA Program Final Copy

- **Age**
 - Age is determined by the youth's age on January 1 of the current year.
 - It is strongly recommended that youth 9 years of age or older have a parent or guardian accompany the child in Youth PQA education classes.
 - Youth under 9 years of age cannot be certified in Youth PQA but may sell a pig under their parent or guardian's PQA Level III certification. When a youth's parent or guardian is not the owner of the pig, the youth may sell a pig under the owner's PQA Level III certification. This option is not available for youth of age's applicable to the Youth PQA program.
 - Youth under 9 years of age are strongly encouraged to attend a Youth PQA education class, but cannot become certified in the Youth PQA program.
 - The parent or guardian cannot become certified by accompanying their child at a Youth PQA education class. Adults must attend an adult PQA Level III education program to become certified.
 - No youth less than 18 years of age may become certified in adult PQA Level III.
 - Youth 19 years of age or older must become certified through the adult PQA Level III education program.

- **Re-certification Period**
 - Youth 9-11 years of age (Beginner) must re-certify annually by attending an approved Youth PQA education program.
 - Youth 12-14 years of age (Intermediate) and 15-19 years of age (Advanced) can certify/re-certify by annually attending an approved Youth PQA education program OR can certify by testing at the appropriate skill level for their age bracket. To certify by test, a minimum of 70% of questions must be correctly answered.
 - Once certified by test, the youth is not required to re-certify in Youth PQA until the next age bracket and skill level is reached. When youth reach the next age bracket they must retest at the new skill level. Certification by test is valid for a minimum of one year.
 - Official tests and scoring procedures are available to verifiers from National Pork Board. Tests are graded by veterinarians, extension personnel or by an agricultural education instructor.
 - Unassisted knowledge of the youth PQA content must be measured; therefore, NO supplemental information (for example, PQA Level III manual, notes, approved state QA material) may be used by the youth to aid him/her during the administration of the test.
 - Youth may attempt to pass a Youth PQA exam a maximum of three times in one sitting. If three tests yield unsuccessful results, the youth must attend another Youth PQA class prior to more attempts at passing a test.

- **Educators**

- States will identify a State Youth Coordinator or State Youth Coordinator team to be certified by National Pork Board in a half-day course.
 - State Youth Coordinators serve as trainers for the state approved local Youth PQA educators.
- State approved Youth PQA educators must be a veterinarian, extension personnel, or a secondary/post-secondary agriculture instructor.
 - Only state approved Youth PQA Educators, are qualified to submit names and contact information of youth to the National Pork Board
 - Approved Youth PQA Educators may assemble training teams at the local level. Team members may include qualified local volunteers and adult leaders. These qualified volunteers must be certified in adult PQA Level III.
 - A minimum of at least one state approved Youth PQA educator must be present during the administration of a Youth PQA exam.
- Approved Youth PQA educators must attend a training session at least once every three years for updates.
- Approved Youth PQA educators are responsible for submitting names and contact information to the National Pork Board for the youth that meet Youth PQA certification requirements.

- **Content**

- National Pork Board youth materials or a NPB approved state quality assurance program must be used to train youth.
- All Good Production Practices are addressed annually.
- A portion of the PQA materials may be taught in depth each year provided that the first nine GPP's are covered in depth over a three-year period. The content of the first nine GPP's must be reviewed every year. Fact sheets, available from the National Pork Board, addressing current issues and complimentary topics can augment and add variety to the annual education program.
- As Good Production Practices are covered in depth, the Key Learning Objectives, as outlined in the National Pork Board Youth PQA training materials, must be addressed.
- Interactive and/or experiential learning activities are strongly encouraged.
- A minimum of one hour of programming, consisting of presentation and activities, is recommended to cover three GPP's annually in the Youth PQA education program.