

March 2, 2009

TO: Food Animal Fair Exhibitors (Beef, Swine, Sheep, Goat, Poultry, Rabbit, Dairy, and Bucket Calf)

RE: Show-Me Quality Assurance Certification

One of the requirements for exhibitors at fairs throughout Franklin County in 2009 is they must have a valid Show-Me Quality Assurance certification in order to be a member in good standing and to show their animals at the fairs, both market and breeding. This is nothing new to the market swine exhibitors, but is new for everyone else.

The Show-Me Quality (SMQA) Program emphasizes food quality and safety, proper use of animal health products, and encourages exhibitors to review their approach to their herd's health programs. By completing this program, project members demonstrate their commitment to animal production, food safety, and enhancing consumer confidence. The SMQA program will take the place of the Pork Quality Assurance program (PQA) for youth exhibitors. Included with this letter will be a list of dates for activities that will aid you with your project and obtaining your Show-Me Quality Assurance certification.

There are three levels exhibitors will progress through:

1. **SMQA Qualified to Show** – means that the member has participated in the Show-Me Quality Assurance training within the 4-H or FFA program year. Each first time participant will receive a SMQA card that will indicate they are Qualified to Show for that specific year.
2. **SMQA Conditional Certified** – for youth ages 9-13 by January 1 of the program year. This indicates the member has participated in two consecutive years of training. Once they obtain a conditional status they are eligible to show until a refresher course is needed when they turn 14 by January 1 of the program year, (4-H age).
3. **SMQA Certified to Show** – Upon completion of the refresher course after they are 14, they would be SMQA Certified for the remainder of their youth exhibition career in 4-H or FFA.

Please Note:

- If you start your show career after age 14 you must attend two consecutive years of training and will then attain SMQA Certified to Show status.
- Exhibitors will receive a SMQA member card after completing each level of the program. Exhibitors will be assigned an SMQA number that they will keep through the duration of their project (show career). Training will be the same for all species.
- An exhibitor, just due to their age when starting, may need to attend three consecutive years; EXAMPLE: at age 12 to be qualified, age 13 to be conditional, and at age 14 to be certified.
- Your Pork Quality Assurance designation from 2006 is valid until the expiration date. Those who were PQA certified over the age of 14, passed a test, and who attended two years of training, are grandfathered into the SMQA program.
- The SMQA designation will allow you to sell other project animals to terminal markets until you turn 19 when PQA PLUS training will be required.
- Adults will no longer be eligible to be trained at the SMQA programs and if they plan on selling market swine must attend PQA PLUS training, call the Extension Center for dates and times. Adults however are welcome to attend the youth meetings.

Depending upon when the participants begin their SMQA show career, they will receive training on two different presentations.

- The first presentation covers information on daily care and management; animal handling; farm/animal identification; reading feed labels; withdrawal times; and biosecurity (disease prevention).
- The second presentation provides information on HACCP; animal health products; proper injection locations; carcass quality; carcass value and show ring ethics.

Please review the enclosed list of SMQA training sessions and other educational events. Call the Franklin County University of Missouri Extension Center at 636/583-5141 if you have further questions.

Until next time,

Ken Bolte
Agri Business/Livestock Specialist