

APPENDIX A: FOOD ANIMAL YOUTH QUALITY ASSURANCE MINIMUM STANDARDS

	Ohio Youth Food Animal Quality Assurance
Program	Youth involved in food animal exhibitions, by definition, are food animal producers. Knowledge of the science of genetics, nutrition, management, handling, and environment in relation to the youth's food animal projects plays a critical role in the success of producing safe and wholesome food products for consumers. By participating in learning activities designed to help ensure their food animals are well cared for and that their products are safe for consumers, junior fair exhibitors and their families understand the important linkages among their responsibilities, obligations, public perceptions and consumer confidence in assuring well-cared-for animals and quality products. Because of this, the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) requires all youth exhibiting food animal projects to participate in quality assurance programming. Ohio State University Extension (OSUE) provides leadership for implementing quality assurance programming in partnership with ODA, FFA/agricultural education and agricultural societies.
Description	An educational program developed and/or recommended by OSUE that teaches Ohio's junior fair exhibitors how to responsibly produce and provide food animal products that are safe and wholesome that meets ODA requirements.
Curriculum & Content	OSUE Assuring Quality Care for Animals Youth QA Curriculum is recommended. Content is determined by OSUE and includes at least 1 hands-on activity, best practices for producing quality and safe animal products for consumers, and responsible animal handling, care and welfare practices.
Length of Program	Minimum 1 hour; repeated annually, unless test-out proficiency achieved.
Age & Participation	Minimum: 8 years and third grade, or 9 years as of Jan. 1 of the current year. Maximum: Individuals who are 19 years of age as of Dec. 31 of the current year are not eligible to participate in the following year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Junior fair exhibitors ages 8 to 11 shall annually participate in a face-to-face education session that is taught by an authorized instructor. ▪ Junior fair exhibitors ages 12 to 19 shall either annually complete an educational session or successfully complete the test-out option. Regardless of age, junior fair exhibitors shall successfully complete the educational program not less than 45 days prior to the opening date of the exhibition in which they will participate.
Test Out Option	A test-out option (determined by OSUE) is available for the following age groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 12-14 – valid until age 15 ▪ 15-18 – valid for remainder of their junior fair exhibitor eligibility In both age groups, a 70% correct proficiency level must be demonstrated to achieve the test-out validity period.
Coordinators	Coordinators must attend the OSUE Quality Assurance In-service once every 3 years, or have a current certification from a nationally recognized producer/industry QA program. OSUE maintains the Coordinators database. OSUE Professionals, Ag Educators, Ag Societies coordinate educational session offerings. OSUE professionals and Ag Educators coordinate test-out option opportunities.
Instructors	Instructors must be trained once every 3 years by a qualified coordinator or have a current certification from a nationally recognized industry sanctioned QA program.
Reporting System	County Extension Professionals, Ag Educators, & Ag Societies responsible for youth participants.
Proof of Attendance	Documentation of attendance shall be kept by OSUE and/or Ag Societies.
Monitoring	ODA, OSUE professionals, Ag Educators, Ag Societies.
Contacts	Main Contact: ODA Division of Animal Health, animal@agri.ohio.gov , (614) 728-6220 Secondary Contacts: OSU Extension 4-H Youth Development 4hinformation@osu.edu , (614) 292-4444 Ohio Department of Education, Agricultural & Environmental Systems contact.center@education.ohio.gov , (877) 644-6338