

Dear 4-H Livestock Families:

All beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, meat goats, dairy goats, poultry, and/or rabbits, 4-H members exhibiting at the Vigo County Fair and/or Indiana State Fair MUST be certified through the Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care OR Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) by July 7, 2023. Mini 4-Her's are exempt from the training.

Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care is an annual program that will include an in-person session presented by an Extension Educator. Once a 4-Her has attended the entirety of a session and participated in course activities, completion of the training will be documented in 4-H Online by the Educator. Trainings held in Vigo County will be free to Vigo County 4-H Members who completed 4-H enrollment by January 15th. Thank you to Effingham Equity for sponsoring the \$3 fee! Those exhibiting at State Fair will need to request a completion certificate.

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals can be completed via online modules for \$12 per member at <http://yqcaprogram.org>. Some national shows (especially swine) still require YQCA. There are a limited number of YQCA coupons left from previous years that can be used for online training. Contact Sara to receive a coupon code. Those completing YQCA MUST email a copy of the completion certificate to shaag@purdue.edu.

Vigo County trainings will be held:

- Friday, February 3rd from 6:30-7:30 PM in the 4-H Meeting Room (Poultry Meeting)
- Tuesday, March 7 from 7:30-8:30 PM in the 4-H Meeting Room
- Monday, May 15 from 6:00-7:00 PM in the 4-H Meeting Room (Rabbit Meeting)
- Tuesday, June 20 from 5:00-6:00 PM in the Community Center

Some training dates coincide with Vigo County 4-H club meeting dates, but the training is open to any youth. 4-Her's only attend one training, even if exhibiting multiple species.

This is an important educational opportunity for 4-H livestock members. Making this an exhibition rule is how Indiana 4-H is ensuring that 4-H members learn about quality assurance. Indiana 4-H is requiring this program so youth learn best management practices with their animals. These programs will:

- Ensure that youth livestock exhibitors are better prepared to be ambassadors for animal agriculture.
- Ensure that animals from youth livestock programs are treated with the utmost care.
- Ensure that 4-H members are contributing to a safe, wholesome food supply for consumers.
- Enhance the future of the livestock industry so that today's youth producers can become more informed producers, consumers, and/or employees of the agriculture and food industry.

Contact Sara Haag, shaag@purdue.edu or 812-462-3371, with questions or assistance.

Sara Haag
Extension Educator
4-H Youth Development