



Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA)

Public Value Statement

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) is a national multi-species quality assurance program focusing on: food safety, animal well-being, and character development. The YQCA program empowers youth with the knowledge to be future leaders who positively contribute our agricultural industry.

The Situation

The Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) program is based on integrity and thoughtful, responsible management of animals. North Dakota 4-H'ers hold the responsibility to ensure production of safe, high-quality, meat from raising market animals for consumers and their families. When our future leaders of agriculture learn the ideals of quality assurance, they understand the importance and are driven to provide a food animal product preferred by consumers and to ensure a safe, wholesome food animal product. Food animals being those whose products (meat, milk and eggs) have the potential to become part of the food chain. Food safety is paramount to animal agriculture, assuring consumer acceptance and confidence in a market. Furthermore, where animal welfare in agricultural livestock production is a huge concern, quality assurance can help educate our youth on the importance of animal well-being. These leaders then contribute to the future of North Dakota's agricultural industry not only by being empowered with science-based knowledge for their own development, but to also learn how to communicate this knowledge as they become informed producers, consumers, and/or employees in the agriculture and food industry.

Extension Response

North Dakota 4-H partnered with YQCA in 2017 to offer a certification in YQCA for youth in the state of North Dakota. The YQCA program encourages young people to practice and develop responsibility of caring for animals, leadership roles and community involvement, as well as becoming educated on issues that affect the agriculture and food industry. 4-H youth that show livestock at the North Dakota State Fair 4-H shows are required to be YQCA certified. To date, 19 counties have deemed YQCA a requirement for their County Fair or Achievement Days.

NORTH DAKOTA

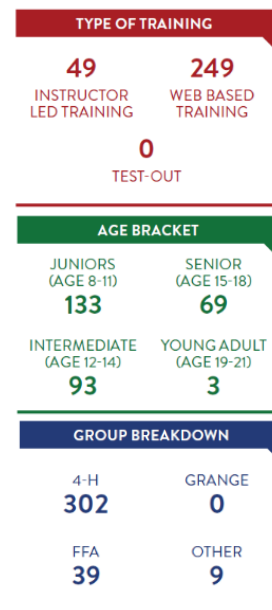
Impacts

298 youth were officially YQCA certified in 2020.



Feedback

- "I appreciated they gave us a discount on the web-based certificate during the COVID-19 pandemic" – 15-year-old 4-Her
- "I like the fun stuff to do, like moving things around and finding the sick animals." – 10-year-old 4-Her
- "I learned about some things I need to look for if my sheep is feeling not good. I think it was very helpful." – 12-year-old 4-Her



Certified by Species

BEEF	DAIRY CATTLE	DAIRY GOAT	MEAT GOAT	POULTRY
138	16	35	56	75
RABBIT	SHEEP	SWINE	OTHER	NO ASSOC.
74	79	63	45	10

24 CERTIFIED YQCA INSTRUCTORS IN	20 INSTRUCTOR-LED TRAININGS COMPLETED IN 2020
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Demographics

187 FEMALES YQCA CERTIFIED IN 2020	RESIDENCE FARM >> 226 TOWN >> 49 CITY >> 13
111 MALES YQCA CERTIFIED IN 2020	

Primary Contact

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Resource Links

ND 4-H YQCA:
www.ndsu.edu/4h/member_information/programs_events/yqca/
YQCA: <http://yqca.org/>