

## 2012 Meat and Pork Quality Assurance

**Who must take MQA?** All meat animal project members (even those who have animals that are pets) must participate in a Meat Quality Assurance Program (MQA) once as a Junior Member (ages 8 - 13 years old) and once as a Senior Member (14 - 18 years old).

- All new 4-H livestock members
- Those who **turned 14** during the 2011 calendar

**Why MQA?** It is a Colorado 4-H Requirement and the Larimer County Fair and Jr. Livestock Sale Committee also require livestock members to complete this program before they can participate in the 2012 Fair and Jr. Livestock Sale.

**What is considered a meat animal project?** Meat animal projects include all breeding and market livestock in the following species: Beef Cattle, Dairy Cattle, Goats (Pygmy, Dairy Goat, Breeding Meat Goat, Market Goat), Poultry (Geese, Duck, Chicken, Turkey, Pigeon), Rabbit, Sheep and Swine.

**What if I am taking the Swine project?** To meet Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) requirements, you must do the following based on your age group:

- Youth 8-11 years of age (Beginner): Attend MQA/PQA training annually
- Youth 12-14 years of age (Intermediate) OR 15-18 years of age (Advanced): Certify/re-certify for one year by attending MQA/PQA training OR can certify for the entire age group by completing and passing an examination at the appropriate age level. To certify by examination, a minimum of 70 percent of questions must be correctly answered. Therefore, we will test and score all Swine youth on site following the hands-on MQA/PQA activities this year. This will allow them to be certified until they reach the next age group.  
The Larimer County Fair and the Colorado State Fair require swine exhibitors to be PQA certified.

### **When is MQA/PQA training offered for 2012?**

The remaining nearby dates for MQA/PQA training are:

- Wednesday May 16, Weld County, Greeley
- **Friday, May 18, McKee 4-H Building Exhibit hall, The Ranch from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.**
- Monday, May 21, Boulder County, Longmont
- Tuesday, May 22, Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Golden