

News from Youth PQA Plus



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Greetings Youth PQA Plus Advisors!

Thank you for your time and assistance with the Youth PQA Plus program in Michigan. Because of your work and dedication to this educational opportunity, the state of Michigan ranks second in the number of youth currently enrolled in Youth PQA Plus. Currently there are 5487 youth involved in Youth PQA Plus, making up over 17% of youth participating in PQA Plus nationally.

Continuing for 2013 is the support of the Michigan Pork Producers Association (MPPA), who will continue to provide a resource for the Youth PQA Plus Program. MPPA has hired Megan Sprague as the Program Director for the association. A part of Megan’s role will be to work with the Youth PQA Plus program:

- To be first contact regarding program information, suggestions and issues for all advisors, youth and parents.
- Work to update educational information,

along with providing materials and trainings for advisors to incorporate into their programming.

- Deliver programming for youth throughout the state on a limited basis.

Please join us for a virtual meet and greet with Megan during an Adobe Connect session on **January 24, 2013 at 4 p.m.** During this session you will hear about updates to the program, have access to newly developed educational materials and learn about scheduling a Youth PQA Plus session with Megan in your area.

Once again thank you for your involvement with the Youth PQA Plus program in Michigan. It is because of dedicated advisors like you that we have been able to build a successful program, offer educational programming for youth involved in pork production and promote good production practices for exhibition swine.

Get to Know Your Program Director

Please join us for a virtual meet and greet with Megan Sprague, Michigan Pork Producers Association Program Director. We will be hosting an Adobe Connect session on January 24, 2013 at 4:00 pm. During this session program updates will be given, locations for various meetings throughout the state will be discussed, new training materials will be presented and you will be introduced to the newest member of the Youth PQA Plus team. Please plan on attending January 24, 2013 at 4:00 pm, by going to the link below:

<http://breeze.msu.edu/bethferry/>

Due to a decrease in available Youth PQA Plus Advisors in Michigan we have partnered with National Pork Board to provide the youth in Michigan an alternative method to complete the Youth PQA Plus program. Starting in March 2013, youth will be able to access an online tutorial hosted by National Pork Board. Michigan will be the first state to have access to the online program, which is still in the exploratory phase. At this time only a handful of people have completed the program online. Details on how the system will work are described below, however we are still working to finalize this process.

New Online Youth PQA Plus Option Available

In order for youth to access the online system they will need to contact the Pork Checkoff Service Center by calling 800-456-7675. Representatives at the service center will then proceed to register the youth for the online PQA Plus program. It may take the system up to 3 days to update the registration; once the registration is completed and the database is updated, an email will be sent to the youth with instructions on how to enter the online system. When the youth has received access to the system they will need to complete an online training module. If the youth leaves the training module at any time they can return to where they left off and finish the program. Once the training module is complete, if the youth is eligible to test out, they will be prompted to do this by the program. Once a youth begins the testing process they must complete the entire test at that time. The system will automatically update the database with the youth's new expiration date and the youth will be able to print their PQA Plus number and expiration date once the process is completed. Advisors will be able to search the system to find current information for the youth, however it may take up to a week for the system to update after the online program is completed.

The online option is in an exploratory phase and Michigan will be the first state to incorporate this option into our program delivery. Please be assured that as we work through the online option every effort will be made to note where improvements can be made and streamlining the online system is a goal for the future.

Tips on Troubleshooting the Youth PQA Plus Online System

- Youth MUST access the system and complete the training modules and testing options at least one month prior to their PQA Plus number expiring or needing a new number. This will ensure that they will receive a current number in a timely fashion.
- The producer PQA Plus program will also be available online for the first time this year, this may cause an influx of requests at the Pork Checkoff Service Center, requests for system access will be done on a first come, first serve basis, however a delay in system access could result
- Each youth that registers with the system must provide a unique email address for the system to complete registration. This means that each family member must have an email address or utilize a parent's/responsible adult's email. Once an email has been used in the system, it cannot be repeated for another youth.



Hello Michigan pig aficionados! My name is Megan Sprague, and as of the first of July I was hired on at Michigan Pork Producers Association (MPPA) as the Program Director.

**Let's
Meet
Megan**

As Program Director I am responsible for educational programs like PQA Plus and Youth PQA Plus. I am very excited to begin working with both programs more closely. I am an advisor and will be doing some PQA Plus training sessions, contingent on distance from Lansing and size of group. You can contact me at Sprague@mipork.org or call the MPPA's office at (517) 853-3782.



Now, to tell you a little about myself, I grew up on a dairy farm in Prescott, Michigan, and have always had a passion for and desire to work within agriculture. I participated in 4-H for over ten years, and was involved in FFA for two years of high school, and graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in Communications.

I began my venture into the pork industry when I was hired on at the MSU Swine Farm as a student employee. This exposure was crucial in allowing me to not only gain first-hand experience with pigs, but also to help me better understand the perspective of pork producers. I have learned a lot in my short time at MPPA, and I am excited to get to know you and become an asset for the state's pork producers!

**How do I
become or
renew as an
Advisor for
the Youth
PQA Plus
program?**

In order to become an Advisor for the Youth PQA Plus program you must contact your Youth PQA Plus State Trainer and submit your name for consideration. The State Trainer is then responsible for submitting the qualified candidate's name and contact information to National Pork Board. They will also set up either an online or face-to-face training session for the candidate. In order to be considered as a candidate for the Youth PQA Plus program you must meet at least one of the following credentials:

- Certified veterinarian
- Extension personnel
- Secondary/post-secondary agriculture instructor

Once you have been identified as a possible Advisor for the Youth PQA Plus program your State Trainer will set up your training session. This may be provided via face-to-face with the State Trainer or through online modules supported by National Pork Board. Once you have completed your training you will be required to take and pass an exam to gain your Youth PQA Plus Advisor certification. This exam can be taken up to three times before re-training is required.

If you are a current Youth PQA Plus Advisor you are obligated to renew your certification every three years with the State Trainer. This can also be completed via face-to-face training or through the online modules. In order to remain a certified Advisor you will need to complete and pass the exam following the training.

All resource information that has been developed by Michigan State University Extension Educators is available for Youth PQA Plus Advisors. These materials will be housed on the Michigan State University Pork Team website <http://pork.msue.msu.edu/>.

The exams that coordinate with the 2013 PowerPoint will not be accessible online, as these will be used for multiple sites and years. In order to access the Youth PQA Plus exams that coordinate with the 2013 PowerPoint you must contact Megan Sprague, Program Director at the Michigan Pork Producers Association (517) 853-3782 or by email: Sprague@mipork.org. Answer keys are also available by request for advisors.

The Youth PQA Plus program curriculum is currently in the works of being updated by National Pork Board for 2014. Therefore, for 2013 all information developed in past years may still be utilized in Youth PQA Plus programs. This includes the voiceover PPT that was made available in 2011 and can be found on the Michigan State University Pork Website. Other resource information is available from National Pork Board and is housed at www.pork.org.

2013 Youth PQA Plus Resource Materials

An effort will be made to maintain information on Youth PQA Plus training dates throughout the state for 2013. This is to ensure that youth have access to all of the sessions being held. For 2013 the training date information will be housed on the Pork Team website <http://pork.msue.msu.edu/>. If you have scheduled a Youth PQA Plus class in your area please email the following information to the Pork Team website administrator, Katie Sollman, kt.sollman@gmail.com.

- Date and time of training
- Location, including address
- Contact person and number
- Program fee information

2013 Youth PQA Plus Trainings: Date and Location Information



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