

# Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) Youth Plus Certification

This document includes:

- Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) Youth Plus Certification Protocol

Website for more information visit:

[www.pork.org](http://www.pork.org)

Please contact the following by email to acquire access to training site and exam materials:

Brent Jennings ( [bjjennin@ncsu.edu](mailto:bjjennin@ncsu.edu) ) or  
Mark Knauer ( [mtknauer@gmail.com](mailto:mtknauer@gmail.com) )

## Youth Pork Quality Assurance (YPQA) Plus Certification

North Carolina Agricultural Education Courses with content in this certification area include Middle Grades Exploring Agriscience, Agriscience Applications, Agriculture Production I, Agriculture Production II, Animal Science I and Animal Science II.

### The Certifying Agency

The National Pork Board offers a myriad of resources to assist adults and youth to become proficient and industry certified to ensure those in the pork industry provide quality pork products while treating animals in a humane and safe manner. One may go to the website [www.pork.org](http://www.pork.org) to find information on certification, programs, and research along with industry news and resources. If you have questions or are seeking clarification, call 1-800-456-7675 Monday through Friday from 8am – 5 pm central time.

### The Certification for Teachers

Teachers wishing to offer certification for their students must first take online or face-to-face training offered by a certified Youth Pork Quality Assurance Trainer to become certified as a Youth PQA Plus advisor. In our state the Youth Pork Quality Assurance Trainers are Brent Jennings and Mark Knauer both of North Carolina State University. To obtain certification a teacher may choose either of the following:

1. Attend a training session offered by Brent or Mark and take the final exam upon completion of training to obtain a minimum of 90% correct score.
2. Obtain access to online instruction and exam materials by emailing Brent Jennings [bjjennin@ncsu.edu](mailto:bjjennin@ncsu.edu) or Mark Knauer [mtknauer@gmail.com](mailto:mtknauer@gmail.com) to acquire access to the training site and exam materials.
  - a. Email should specify the teacher's name, the teacher's school, and the teacher's goal of becoming a Certified Youth PQA Plus Advisor.
  - b. Pass the exam at the completion of online training with 90% correct score.

Teachers are certified for three years. Teachers who are certified may use [www.pork.org](http://www.pork.org) and the certification tab to find YPQA Plus Program information or to answer other questions that may arise about certification renewal and the certification process.

### The Certification for Students:

Students will obtain certification through the Youth PQA Plus program instructed by a certified Youth PQA Advisor.

Agriculture teachers serving as certified Youth PQA Advisors will use their advisor credentials for [www.pork.org](http://www.pork.org) to access a training powerpoint as well as exams (for test out certification), and to process youth certifications.

- The 2014 version of YPQA Plus training materials includes a powerpoint titled *YPQA GPP Powerpoint*.
- There are 3 age brackets in Youth PQA Plus. Age is determined by the youth's age on Jan 1 of current year.
  - Beginner 8 – 11, class only for a one year certificate
  - Intermediate 12 - 14, either class or can test out
  - Advanced 15 - 19, either class or can test out
- Youth advisors can generate exams for Intermediate and Advanced age youth
  - For youth who test out, the exam is CLOSED BOOK and youth must score 70% or better to earn test out certification.
  - Expiration date depends on where youth is at in their age bracket. See *Minimum Standards* <http://www.pork.org/filelibrary/youthpqaplus/Min%20Standards.pdf> document for more information.
- Upon successful completion of class or test out training, youth advisors will electronically submit youth certifications. National Pork Board will process and send the youth a wallet sized certificate by mail.