



## MD and WV 4-H and FFA On-Line Animal Husbandry & Quality Assurance (AH&QA) Program

### About the AH&QA Program

The Maryland and West Virginia 4-H and FFA Animal Husbandry & Quality Assurance (AH&QA) Program is an on-line training program which enables youth to fulfill the Quality Assurance training requirement via internet from their home, school or local library. This program is offered to help youth who participate in 4-H and FFA animal projects in Maryland and West Virginia learn about the importance of caring for, grooming and showing their animals in safe and ethical ways. The program has two levels based on the member's age as of January 1, 2026; a Junior Level is presented for members who are ages 8-10 and an Intermediate/Senior Level is presented for members who are ages 11-18.

### 2026 Program Requirements for Maryland 4-H Exhibitors

- All 4-H members enrolled in alpacas, beef, dairy, goats, horse and pony, llamas, poultry, sheep, swine and rabbits are required to complete the training to be eligible to exhibit their project animals in 2026 Maryland County 4-H and State 4-H Shows.
- 4-Hers are required to complete the on-line training program when 1) it is their first year as an animal project participant from the projects listed above, regardless of age; 2) they reach each 4-H age division (Juniors (ages 8-10), Intermediates (ages 11-13), Seniors (ages 14-18) – all as of January 1 of the current year); OR 3) when as Intermediates and Seniors, they are new to an animal science project listed above. Thus, each time a member enters a new age division, they will be required to complete the training OR if an Intermediate or Senior 4-H member chooses to show a new species since last completing the program within their current age division they must return to the program and complete the program for the new species area.
  - In summary, they must complete the online AH&QA training if:
    - 1) This is their first year with a livestock project in MD (regardless of their age); OR
    - 2) This is their first year at the Intermediate age division (they are 11 as of January 1, 2026) OR this is your first year at the Senior age division; (they are 14 as of January 1, 2026); OR
    - 3) They are an Intermediate or Senior that added a new (or changed to a different) livestock species to show and/or sell since last completing AH&QA.
- There are two different Levels to the program. Members will be automatically taken to the appropriate Level according to the birthdate entered on the registration screen:
  - Junior AH&QA Level
    - There is one part to the Junior Level.
    - There are no species-specific information sections as with the Intermediate /Senior Level of the program.
  - Intermediate and Senior AH&QA Level
    - There are two parts to the Intermediate/Senior Level:
      - Part 1 is completed by all intermediate and senior members.



- Part 2 contains specific information for each animal species - members will need to complete Part 2 of the program for each species project they are enrolled in and wish to exhibit.
- The AH&QA program will open about May 1st and close on August 10th, 2026. **Members MUST complete the AH&QA training no later than August 10th.** NOTE: Some Maryland counties may set a completion deadline earlier than August 10th to meet the needs of the local youth livestock events and program. Be sure to verify the AH&QA completion deadline for your county.
- Upon registering for the program members are assigned a PASSCODE. Members who previously completed the program should use their previously assigned passcode. Passcodes may be retrieved by clicking on the “Forgot Your Passcode” link on the AH&QA homepage.

### About the Online 4-H and FFA AH&QA Program

- The Online AH&QA program will take about 50-55 minutes for Juniors to complete and 75 to 85 minutes for Intermediates and Seniors to complete. If a member needs to stop the AH&QA training in the middle of the program, he or she may return to the program where they left off by entering their Passcode on the Home Page of the program.
- The AH&QA program has voice narration. The material is shared in both written and verbal formats.
- **A member must be LOGGED IN** for the system to track their progress and record their completion of the program.
- Members will be asked to respond to questions to evaluate knowledge in “Check Your Knowledge” and “What I Learned” quizzes at different points during the program.
- Parents and volunteers may view the program as a “Guest”. **Guests do not have their progress recorded by the AH&QA program.**

### Information to Help You Successfully Complete the 4-H and FFA AH&QA Program

#### **Getting Started:**

- **The program must be completed using Chrome, Edge, Firefox, or Safari web browsers. The program is NOT supported by Internet Explorer.**
- Members may access the AH&QA program at: <https://ahqa.umd.edu/> or via a link on the Animal Science Program Resources page of the Maryland 4-H website at <https://extension.umd.edu/programs/4-h-youth-development/program-areas/animal-sciences>

#### **Program Access:**

- When members register for the program, they will be provided a unique Passcode. **Members should write their Passcode down and keep it in a safe place!** They will be asked to enter their passcode when responding to the “Check Your Knowledge” and “What I Learned” quizzes.
- **A member must be LOGGED IN** for the system to track their progress and record their completion of the program. There is a message at the top right-hand corner of the screen indicating the member’s status. When logged in, the message will read “Logged in: [Member’s Name]”. If the member is not logged in correctly, the message will not identify them by name; it will identify them as a “Guest Account”. Progress will NOT be recorded using a “Guest Account”.
- A member may LOG OUT of the program at any point and return to the program at a later time to the place at which they logged out. Their passcode is required to return.

- The AH&QA program will automatically “LOG OUT” a member after a period of inactivity during the session. When this occurs, the member should return to the home screen and log back in to the program. Watch for the message at the top of the screen indicating the member’s login status.
- A member may review sections of the AH&QA program which they have completed at any time they are logged in by using the drop-down menu at the upper left-hand corner of the screen. The menu will not permit a member to “jump forward” in the program.

### **Completion Certificate:**

- Upon completion of the Junior Level program or the Intermediate/Senior Level individual species sections, members will have an opportunity to print a **Certificate of Completion** for their records. It is suggested that members keep the Certificate of Completion with their animal health papers, registration papers and other important animal records.
- When logged in, a member may use the menu in the upper left-hand corner of the screen to reprint past completion certificates.
- When a member is correctly logged in, the Certificate of Completion will automatically fill in the member’s name and date of completion. A Certificate of Completion with “Guest” for the member’s name would indicate that the member was not correctly logged in.
- Each member’s progress will be kept in a statewide database. Their County 4-H Office will have access to records showing that they have completed the AH&QA training.

### **AH&QA Pre/Post Quiz Assessment/Study**

To help us understand what participants learn when they complete the AH&QA training program, we are conducting a Pre/Post Quiz Study of AH&QA participant responses to the required “Check Your Knowledge” and “What I Learned” quizzes.

While the quizzes are a mandatory component for the successful completion of the course, participation in the Study is voluntary. Participants names will not be collected on the AH&QA quizzes and participants who agree to allow their quizzes to be used in the Study will not have their names associated with their quiz responses in the Study. The *Parent Letter* containing details about this study may viewed at the Animal Science Program Resources page of the University of Maryland Extension 4-H website at:

[https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/2024-](https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/2024-04/Parent%20Consent%20for%20AHQA%20Pre-Post%20Test-24.pdf)

[04/Parent Consent for AHQA Pre-Post Test-24.pdf](https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/2024-04/Parent%20Consent%20for%20AHQA%20Pre-Post%20Test-24.pdf) OR on the AH&QA page of the West Virginia Extension website at: <https://extension.wvu.edu/youth-family/youth-education/youth-agriculture/animal-husbandry-quality-assurance>.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE AH&QA PROGRAM CONTACT:**

Chris Anderson

University of Maryland Extension, 4-H Youth Development Specialist, Animal Science

Maryland 4-H Center, 8020 Greenmead Drive, College Park, MD 20740

Phone: 301-314-7187

FAX: 301-314-7146

Email: [canders2@umd.edu](mailto:canders2@umd.edu)

