

## **Meat Animal Quality Assurance (MAQA)**

MAQA was developed in 2002 as the Quality Assurance program for Wisconsin. This is a quality assurance program that expands upon and replaces the Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) program that has been in existence since the early 1990's and introduces youth that are enrolled in beef and sheep projects to a quality assurance program.

Meat Animal Quality Assurance (MAQA) training is **required** each year for **swine project members**. Beef and sheep project members are encouraged to attend training but are not required.

### **Swine Project Members**

The youth MAQA program for swine members is for youth 8-19 years of age, based upon age as of January 1 of the exhibit year.

Youth 8-11 years of age (Beginner) must certify annually by attending an approved Youth MAQA education program.

Youth 12-14 years of age (Intermediate) and youth 15-19 years of age (Advanced) can certify or re-certify annually by attending an approved Youth MAQA education program OR the youth can certify by testing at the appropriate skill level for their age bracket (Intermediate or Advanced). To certify by test, a minimum of 70% of questions must be correctly answered.

**Once certified by test**, the youth is not required to re-certify in Youth MAQA until the next age bracket and skill level is reached. When youth reach the next age bracket, **they must retest at the new skill level**. Certification by test is valid for a minimum of one year.