

Assuring Quality Care for Animals Signature Program Annual Report- 2014
Dr. Paul S. Kuber and Dr. Lucinda B. Miller, Co-Leaders

Introduction:

Assuring Quality Care for Animals merges Ohio's mandated Youth Food Animal Quality Assurance program with animal handling, care and welfare, expanding the scope of curriculum already in place to address the critical issues of quality assurance, food safety, and animal welfare. Components of this program raise public awareness of the importance of animal handling, care, and welfare in not only farm animal production, but also in the companion and performance animal industry.

According to the 2014 Ohio 4-H Youth Development Statistical Report, 36.6% of Ohio's 4-H projects taken by 4-H members are animal projects. Of those 98,896 animal projects, approximately 67,800 are food animal projects, 21,000 companion animal projects, and 10,000 performance animal projects. Therefore, it is paramount that youth become skilled in animal handling, care and welfare, in addition to food animal safety.

Collaborators included: 4-H, ANR, CD, FCS, EERA's, County Agricultural Societies/Fair Boards, County Agricultural Education/FFA units, County Farm Bureaus, Kalmbach Feeds, Commodity Groups (Pork Producers, Cattlemen's Associations, Ohio Poultry Association), Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, American Rabbit Breeders Association, American Kennel Club, as well as allied business and industry representatives mentioned below in the 4-H Assuring Quality Care for Animals Advisory Committee.

Assuring Quality Care for Animals Signature Program Evaluation Data

- 72 Extension educators/professionals reported youth quality assurance within this Signature Program Plan of Action and Food Quality Assurance/Food Safety POA
- 179 events were reported with a total of 14,774 participants
- 2,598 participants were reported as under-represented individuals
- 761 participants were reported as under-served individuals
- 1,198 participants reported learning materials were helpful and could use information presented
- 235 participants plan to adopt one or more recommended practices
- 23 multi-state partnerships were associated with events

Direct Contacts

- 22 American Indian or Alaskan Native
- 19 Asian
- 124 Black or African American
- 199 Hispanic or Latino
- 8 Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- 113 Two or more races
- 2,135 Unspecified
- 18,236 White

Direct Contact Total: 20,856

Volunteers/Indirect Contacts

- 20,992 mail contacts
- 60,595 materials distributed
- 95 media appearances
- 1,776 phone contacts
- 2,048 volunteers
 - 8,611 volunteer hours

4-H Assuring Quality Care for Animals Advisory Committee – Beginning in 2014, the 4-H Animal Sciences Strategic Advisory Committee (ASSAC) became the Assuring Quality Care for Animals Advisory Committee. This included former members of 4-H ASSAC, plus 4-H Animal Sciences Design Team members, and AQCA Core Committee Members.

- 2014 membership included 7 Extension specialists, 2 ANR educators, 6 4-H educators, and allied industry representatives as follows: Dr. Leah Dorman, OFBF; Dallas Miller, Kalmbach Feeds; Dr. Bimbo Welker, Director, OSU Large Animal Services; Terry Wehrkamp and Mark Spangler, Cooper Farms; Dr. Tony Forshey, ODA; Tracy Dendinger, Ohio Ag Ed/FFA; and Dan Martin, OFMA
- 3 meetings were held
- A field visit to Pilot Dogs, Inc., where each AQCA Committee member had the opportunity to be blindfolded and led by a Pilot Dog (Guide Dog). Leah Dorman's (OFBF) first blog discussed her experience.
- Body Condition Scoring presentations for horses, dogs and cats were planned and presented
- Members reviewed and recommended resources for use across all animal species
- Best practices for animal handling, welfare, and exhibition were discussed, with plans for fact sheets made
- Assuring Quality Care for Animals Signature Program In-service was planned

4-H Animal Sciences Design Team

- For county 4-H educators with specializations in quality assurance, livestock, and companion animals
- Comprised of 10 4-H educators and 3 4-H program coordinators in 2014
- 1 45-minute meeting was held during each of 2 4-H professionals' in-services, with information and ideas generated to discuss at the ACQA Advisory Committee meetings

Quality Assurance Training - Quality Assurance training for youth food animal exhibitors was implemented in each of Ohio's 88 counties in 2007, resulting in zero (0) drug residue violations statewide in 2010 and again in 2013, with one violation in 2014 as reported by the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Health, and indicated in several counties' RiV reports. In years 2007-2009, and 2011-2012 there were significant reductions in drug residue violations compared to years prior to Quality Assurance curriculum development.

Instructors in each county taught from the following outline in 2014:

- List the 10 Good Production Practices (GPPs)

- Cover the “Animal Welfare and Ethics” and “Food Safety and Government Relations” chapters in the Youth Food Animal Quality Assurance curriculum
- Discuss the three selected GPPs in depth for 2014 training:
 - GPP 1: Use an Appropriate Veterinarian/Client/Patient Relationship (VCPR) as the Basis for Medication
 - GPP 3: Use Antibiotics Responsibly
 - GPP 6: Establish Effective Animal Identification, Medication Records and Withdrawal Times
- Complete at least one learner-engaged activity

Assuring Quality Care for Animals Signature Program In-service: November 3, 2014

- 155 attendees from 4-H (104), ANR (12), FCS (1), Department of Animal Sciences (3) Senior Fair Boards (13), Agriculture Education (3), 4-H Volunteers (9), and Agriculture Industry (10)

Training certifications by Dr. Paul Kuber and Dale Ricker entitled attendees to be certified as a County Coordinators and/or Instructors:

- Allows Coordinators/Instructors to train Assistant Instructors to teach Quality Assurance to youth at the county level
- Youth can be entered in the National Pork Board database for Youth PQA Plus certification
- Gives Coordinators and Instructors the responsibility of assuring they have met the state guidelines listed in the Ohio Revised Code of the Livestock Show Reform Law when teaching county or cross-county Quality Assurance programs
- 142 participants were certified to teach Quality Assurance in their counties
 - CDs containing the educational information presented at the in-service, including hands-on activities prepared by in-service presenters, were created and sent to all of the QA certified attendees
- 90% of the participants in the *Ethical Decisions Related to the Welfare of 4-H Animals* session plan to use the information presented, including ideas for best practices
 - Session taught by Dr. Monique Pairis-Garcia, Department of Animal Sciences
- 86% of the participants in the *Using Antibiotics Responsibly* session said they plan to follow best practices for antibiotic use in food animals
 - Session taught by Dr. Rob Krueger, Mt. Vernon Animal Hospital

The three GPPs taught at the 2014 AQCA Signature Program In-service for counties to focus on in 2015 were: GPP 2 – Establish and Implement an Efficient and Effective Health Management Plan; GPP 4 – Properly Store and Administer Animal Health Products; and GPP 5 – Follow Proper Feed Processing Protocols. Information about these GPPs were written by signature program co-leaders and presented at the in-service.

2014 Quality Assurance Survey – Quality Assurance pre- and post- surveys were administered in 54 counties to 15,368 total youth during counties’ QA trainings, for a total of 30,736 surveys collected and analyzed. Of the 54 counties, 53 reported 4-H members increased their knowledge of care, management, and handling of animals as a result of the trainings.

- Individual reports were generated for each of the 54 counties returning completed pre- and post- surveys.

Retrospective Pre-Post Quality Assurance Evaluation Survey – With the assistance of Tom Archer, a Retrospective Pre-Post Quality Assurance Evaluation was developed for county 4-H professionals to use to evaluate their youth quality assurance training sessions. This survey reflects the GPPs to be taught in 2015. Counties will analyze their data for reporting.

Youth Food Animal Quality Assurance Test-Out Data – Youth ages 12-14 and 15-18 have the option of testing out of face-to-face quality assurance training sessions for up to three years, provided the county Educator allows test-out options.

- Of 12 counties reporting test-out information, 395 youth took the exam; 74.68% of the youth passed the exam and tested out of QA for up to three years (youth needed at least 70% to pass).

National Online Youth Quality Assurance Training – Paul Kuber (during 2014) and Nancy Snook (beginning in 2014 and current Ohio representative) represented Ohio on National Pork Board’s All Species Youth Quality Assurance Committee. The goal of this committee is to offer online and leader-directed curriculum, *Youth for the Quality Care of Animals*, as one method of teaching youth quality assurance. Participating states must have their state’s IRB approval. This program will be piloted in 2016, with Nancy requesting Ohio to be one of the pilot states, and the program implemented to all participating states in 2017.

Poster Presentations – Assuring Quality Care for Animals Signature Program posters were presented at the Outreach and Engagement Forum, May 1, 2014 and OSUE Annual Conference, December 9, 2014.

Universal Brochure Template Development – Template prototypes are still in the process of being created that can be assessed by users to create pieces to inform the end user about animal welfare, food protection, animal management, niche marketing, and defining practices in performance, companion, and food animal production. AQCA team members are developing content for the brochure within OSU branding requirements.

Ohio State Fair Skillathons – These are events held to test a youth’s knowledge of specific subject matter using the experiential learning model. They are created to challenge the youth’s knowledge of all aspects of a specific species of animal.

- 1,195 youth completed one or more of the nine animal skillathon (beef, dairy, dog, goat, horse, poultry, rabbit, sheep, and swine) at the Ohio State Fair.

Ohio State Fair Judging Contests – Livestock judging (general livestock, dairy, and poultry) contests are held for youth to demonstrate their skills at effectively evaluating breeding and

market animals, and in some cases product, which is highly important in the animal industry. Youth in horse judging contests evaluate the horse's conformation and performance.

- 552 youth competed in either dairy, horse, poultry, or general livestock judging contests at the Ohio State Fair

Companion and Performance Animals – The RiV indicator descriptions pertain to livestock and food animals, and not companion or performance animals, therefore there is no report of data from these two areas which are a part of the Assuring Quality Care for Animals Signature Program. We are reporting some 4-H PetPALS data we have collected:

4-H PetPALS – 4-H PetPALS (People and Animals Linking Successfully) is a leader-directed animal-assisted activities (pet therapy) 4-H project. 4-H PetPALS youth and their animals from Franklin and Fairfield Counties interacted with more than 3,300 college students at the OSU Libraries Pause for Paws Pet Therapy and Study Spot Program (Main Library), Columbus Campus during finals week, April; Popcorn and Puppies at student dorms (180 participants came to Seibert Hall); as well as faculty and staff at the John Glenn School of Public Affairs (Page Hall), and at a Medical Students' Stress Relief program (Meiling Hall).

Commodity Carnival – Chicago Mercantile Exchange Group (CME) and National 4-H Council partnered to present the Commodity Carnival learning activity educating families and youth about the concept of agricultural commodities and futures trading. Ohio was one of the grantee states. Commodity Carnival Station #1 explained what commodities are and what goes into producing a commodity. Station #2 addressed the market risks that producers face when selling a commodity on the market. This activity exposed the general public to CME, OSUE, and National 4-H. Participants discovered how business investments and risks factored into agricultural markets and prices.

- An OSU student was hired as an intern to facilitate the Commodity Carnival
- The Commodity Carnival was held at 10 Ohio county fairs and the Ohio State Fair
- 108 4-H teen leaders facilitated this activity
- 25 adult 4-H volunteers facilitated this activity
- Approximately 9,181 youth 8-14 participated in this activity
 - As a result, parents were present to also learn about CME and OSUE
- There was a total of 35 days of operation of Commodity Carnival activities
- 100% of local 4-H contacts said they would participate in this type of activity again