

## ANIMAL QUALITY ASSURANCE (AQA)

What is Animal Quality Assurance? – Would you like to have your name associated with an unhealthy animal that is not fit for people to eat? This program has been developed to promote Best Management Practices in the areas of herd health, livestock handling, facilities and nutrition in support of the ethical production of youth livestock projects. The program educates youth concerning their role in U.S. livestock production. Youth will learn how they fit into the food supply chain and the importance of providing a quality assured product. If you are planning to take an animal to the Livestock Market Sale at the County Fair, you must participate in the Animal Quality Assurance workshop once as a junior member (ages 9-13) and once as a senior member (ages 14-19). If you are new to this project, whether you are a junior member or a senior member, you must take AQA before you can participate in the livestock sale at the County Fair. The previous policy of taking the AQA workshop every two years no longer applies.

Two AQA workshops will be offered this year. One on Sunday, January 29th from 2:00pm-4:00pm at the Gallatin County Fairgrounds, Exhibit Building #4. The other one will be held on Saturday, April 28th from 1:00pm-3:00pm (location TBD). The January 29th AQA will cover animal health, injections, residues, and ethics and will be a repeat of the AQA workshops taught last year. The April 28th AQA will cover animal health, handling, pens and bedding, and ethics. Either AQA workshop will fulfill the requirement for those Members who need to take an AQA workshop this year. The January workshop is especially recommended for first time attendees however, and the April workshop will be more interesting to those who have already taken an AQA workshop in the past 2 or 3 years.

Please RSVP for the AQA workshops by calling the 4-H Office at 388-3213.

## 2012 MONTANAFAIR JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW

The 2012 MontanaFair will be held in Billings in August 9-18, 2012. Any 4-H member wanting to enter a livestock animal must have that animal ear tagged in Billings on the following dates.

Beef Tagging – Saturday, February 4, 9:00 a.m. to noon at the PAYS arena  
Animal Quality Assurance Training – 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Sheep/Swine Tagging - Saturday, June 2, 8:00 am to 11:00 am at PAYS arena  
Animal Quality Assurance Training – 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Each exhibitor can tag three animals in each species. Animals must be tagged specifically for the MontanaFair. A market animal tagged for the MontanaFair can not be shown or sold at another 4-H or FFA Junior Livestock Show. Open shows do not pertain to this rule. Everyone will need to weigh his or her animal(s) at tagging time. A beginning weight is required for the Carcass Contest through the Ultrasound program. Steers do not need to be halter broke to be weighed. If the weather causes a problem for you to get to Billings on the tagging date or if you have questions, please contact Roni Baker at the Yellowstone County Extension Office (256-2828).

## 2012 Montana Winter Fair - A 65-Year Tradition

The Winter Fair will be held on January 27-29 in Lewistown at the Yogo Inn, Eagles' Hall, Lewistown Art Center, Brooks Market and the Fergus County Fairgrounds Pavilion. Montana Winter Fair is a state winter fair consisting of a livestock show, bull expo, youth livestock events, fiddlers contest, art swap and shop, youth educational events, commercial exhibits, farm forum, death by chocolate competition, photography, quilts, farm equipment displays, stock dog trials and clinic, cowboy church, and lots of great Central Montana scenery. 4-H members can enter the Heifer Pen Show, All Breeds Heifer Show, Livestock Judging, Beef Showmanship, Photography, Quilting and Knitting projects, and Food related entries. For more information go to [www.montanawinterfair.com](http://www.montanawinterfair.com).

## Montana 4-H Shooting Sports Leader Training

The next Montana 4-H Shooting Sports Leader Training will be held in Bozeman on January 13-14, 2012. The deadline for registration is January 9<sup>th</sup>. The registration fee is \$60 for adults and \$25 for teen leaders (teens may only assist a 4-H shooting sports program if under the direct supervision of a trained and certified 4-H shooting sports adult leader of the same shooting discipline). The training will begin at 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Friday night and continue from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday. Friday's dinner and lodging is on your own, but lunch is provided on Saturday as part of the registration. Educational materials are also included. [Watch for news of another training in Feb/March in Billings!](#) If interested in attending, please contact the Extension Office for registration forms.