

MQA workshops for 4-H and FFA scheduled

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Public confidence in meat products is extremely important to the success of the livestock industry. Youth livestock projects play an important role in building or losing the trust of consumers. It is important that youth livestock exhibitors exceed the standard in producing quality, defect-free livestock for consumers.

In the past, a very small number of exhibitors have given youth livestock shows a bad name by using unethical and unsafe techniques to “win at all cost.” As a result, CSU Extension has implemented a strong Meat Quality Assurance Program in Colorado.

Through the MQA workshops, youth learn ethics and good production practices needed to produce a high quality, desirable product for the American consumer.

Phillips County Extension will hold its workshop Thursday, April 2 from 4-7:30 p.m. at its office location in Holyoke.

A MQA workshop must be attended the first two years of taking a livestock project, once at 12 years of age and once at 15 years of age. County Extension offices are notifying those that need to attend this year.

There is the option to test out of the workshop at 12 and 15 years of age, but it is highly recommended to attend a workshop instead. The workshops allow for hands-on learning and experience.

For those who attended last year, the layout is the same. There will be different stations pertaining to the 10 Good Production Practices set up at each location, and participants will have the chance to observe and learn with real supplies and equipment. They will have the opportunity to come at any time during the workshop as long as they are able to participate at each station. Allow one hour at each.

Keep in mind dates and/or times are subject to change, so contact Phillips County Extension Office to confirm or for any questions.