



## 2026 HARTFORD INDEPENDENT FAIR Junior Fair Livestock Quality Assurance / Equine Guidelines



### WHO.....

#### Junior Fair Livestock Exhibitors (with the following projects)

**BEEF** - Market Steer, Market Heifer, Beef Breeding, Beef Feeder Calf, Dairy Feeder Steers, Steer Pool

**DAIRY** - Dairy Cows, Dairy Heifers

**GOATS** - Pygmy Goats, Dairy Goats, Market Goats, Meat Breeding, Pack Goats (encouraged for Pet Goat Projects)

**POULTRY** - Meat Poultry, Breeding Poultry, Fancy Poultry

**RABBITS** - Breeding Rabbits, Market Rabbits (encouraged for Pet Rabbit Projects)

**SHEEP** - Market Lamb, Breeding Sheep

**SWINE** - Market Hog, Breeding Swine (OSF exhibit)

**EQUINE** – See additional details on 2<sup>nd</sup> page regarding Ohio 4-H EquiSTEP requirements. These programs will not be held in conjunction with QA program dates listed below, and are offered completely online.

#### Parent of Exhibitor

It is strongly encouraged that a parent or other adult who may assist with animal healthcare and handling attend with livestock exhibitors. A parent is required to attend for horse session participants.

#### Community Club / Chapter Advisor

Minimum of one advisor from each 4-H club / FFA chapter containing an affected exhibitor should attend. This will allow that advisor to be familiar with topics presented and more capable of answering questions pertaining to the information shared during training programs.

### WHAT.....

Required to attend one designated Livestock Quality Assurance program **prior to JUNE 1**. Designated training sessions will be approved by Lisa McCutcheon, Licking County 4-H Youth Development Extension Educator and Hartford Senior Fair Board.

### WHEN / WHERE.....

#### Licking County 4-H / FFA Sessions will be held as follows...

Thursday, March 19 <sup>th</sup>	Watkins Memorial High School	6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 15 <sup>th</sup>	Utica High School	6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Licking Valley High School	6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 7 <sup>th</sup>	Northridge High School	6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 20 <sup>th</sup>	Johnstown High School	6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

#### Other Approved Activities and Training Programs...

Delaware County Quality Assurance Training Program ..... (Contact #740.833.2030 for program details)  
April 11 – 1:00 p.m. (Extension Office) / May 12 – 6:30 p.m. (Extension Office) /  
May 13 – 6:30 p.m. (Extension Office) / May 19 – 6:30 p.m. (Extension Office)

*\*Please Note: Delaware is also offering session on June 10<sup>th</sup> – this one does NOT meet Hartford QA deadline of June 1<sup>st</sup>.*

Knox County Quality Assurance Training Programs ..... (Contact #740.397.0401 for program details)  
March 10 (East Knox H.S.) / April 9 (Centerburg H.S.) / April 20 (Fredericktown H.S.) / May 5 (Danville H.S.)  
/ May 11 (Mt. Vernon H.S.)

*\*All training programs take place at 6:00 p.m.*

#### Other Approved Programs...

Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup> Ohio Beef Expo - Columbus, Ohio  
Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> Licking County 4-H Dairy Judging Contest – Contest Participants Only (Dairy Specific)

**WHY .....**  
To promote food safety; to promote responsible use of animal health products; to avoid drug residue violations; to improve management practices; to comply with guidelines from federal agencies; to assist in creating a positive view of the agricultural industry by consumers and fair visitors.

**HOW.....**  
This program, which is coordinated and facilitated by the Licking County 4-H Youth Development program, will be enforced and supported through a partnership between the 4-H Youth Development program, FFA, Steer Pool and the Hartford Independent Fair. Please be advised that no exceptions will be considered to the above requirements.

**ADDITIONALLY .....**

Training Session Format...

Each training session will begin with a general gathering of all participants followed by participants being divided into species-specific groups. Youth will choose any one of the species sessions to attend for more detailed, project-related information. All sessions will last for a period of ninety minutes. NOTE: Any collegiate youth, or youth not living in the Licking County area can contact the Licking County Extension Office to find Q.A. programs that are located closer to them. **All qualified QA training programs must take place prior to June 1<sup>st</sup>.**

Notification of Ineligibility in Licking County...

Any Licking County 4-H youth exhibitor who has not met the Junior Fair Livestock Quality Assurance training requirement at the conclusion of the last scheduled meeting (May 20, 2026) will be notified by email that they are ineligible to exhibit livestock (in the areas requiring QA training) during the 2026 Hartford Independent Fair. FFA Advisors will be contacted and asked to share similar details with their intended exhibitors. At that point, they will have until June 1, 2026 to complete a training in another county or complete YQCA online training (at their cost) in order to meet the training requirement. On June 2, 2026 the Senior Fair Board will receive a listing of those Licking County 4-H youth not meeting requirements. These individuals will be denied entry of livestock projects which require quality assurance training.

Delaware & Knox County 4-H / FFA Member Requirements...

Those youth who attend the Hartford Independent Fair and are enrolled members in the Delaware or Knox County 4-H / FFA program will be required to attend only one Quality Assurance program. Upon their attendance of a program in their home county, their Extension Office will contact the Hartford Fair and Licking County Extension office to report attendance. Any youth not completing a quality assurance program in either their home county or within Licking County by **June 1, 2026** would then be found ineligible to exhibit in the 2026 Hartford Junior Fair livestock program.

**EQUINE EXHIBITORS .....**

EquiSTEP Training Program for Equine Members...

Beginning in 2023, all youth enrolled in equine projects within Ohio must complete the EquiSTEP training program on an annual basis. This training must be completed prior to being eligible to participate in the Hartford Fair equine classes, and meet deadlines established by Delaware/ Knox / Licking County. Contact your local Extension Office for program details! *During 2026, members must complete YR4 level modules within each training section.*  
[go.osu.edu/equistep2026](https://go.osu.edu/equistep2026)

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Only Licking County 4-H/FFA Quality Assurance Programs will address program changes and updates for the Hartford Fair. Details pertaining to the Hartford Fair shared during Licking County QA programs will be made available to Delaware and Knox County families in a timely manner through their respective county Extension Office, Licking County Extension website and the Hartford Fair website.