



PQA Plus™ Fact Sheet

Provided by Iowa Pork Producers Association
and Iowa Pork Industry Center



What does the PQA Plus™ program include?

There are three separate components:

1. PQA Plus™ Certification for the *producer*.
2. PQA Plus™ Site Status for *farm sites*.
3. Potential for Audit Component.

(This fact sheet covers certification and status only.)

Certification

How do I get certified in PQA Plus™?

To become PQA Plus™ certified, you must attend a PQA Plus™ certification training session conducted by a PQA Plus™ Advisor. The Advisor will record your information with the National Pork Board. A PQA Plus™ certification card will be issued to you.

There is no examination or site assessment required for PQA Plus™ certification, and a producer can be certified without obtaining a Site Status.

This producer certification is valid for three years.

Who are the PQA Plus™ advisors and how do I find one?

Advisors must have the following qualifications:

- Veterinarians, Extension Specialists or Ag Educators with a D.V.M. or B.S. in Animal Science, or an equivalent combination of education and swine production experience as determined by the PQA Plus™ Trainer.
- Two years of recent, documentable swine production experience.
- Successful completion of PQA Plus™ Advisor training from a PQA Plus™ Trainer.

To find an advisor near you, contact the Pork Checkoff Service Center at (800) 456-PORK (7675) or visit the PQA Plus™ Web site at www.pork.org

If my PQA Level III does not expire until 2009, do I need to recertify before then?

No, your PQA Level III certification will be honored until the certification expires. When your PQA Level III certification is up, you will recertify in the PQA Plus™ program.

What if I am 18 and still exhibit in swine shows?

If you are 19 or older, you need to be certified through the new PQA Plus™ program. If not enrolled in the Iowa FSQA program, PQA Plus™ certification is needed.

Is there a cost associated with becoming PQA Plus™ certified or achieving site status?

A fee schedule will be determined by the certified PQA Plus™ Advisor to reflect costs of providing services, including program administration activities.

What is the difference between “certification” and “site status?”

- “Certification” relates to an individual.
- “Site Status” refers to a specific production site. An individual can be certified without having any connection with a specific production site.

Site Status

How do I obtain a Site Status for my farm?

In order to obtain Site Status:

- The production site must be identified with an NAIS Premises Identification number that is obtained from IDALS.
- The site must be associated with a PQA Plus™-certified individual who has a relationship/responsibility with the production site.
- The site assessment must be done by either a PQA Plus™ advisor or an individual directly associated with the farm who has a PQA Plus™ Site Self-Assessment Endorsement.

A site status is valid for three years.

Self-Assessment

What is PQA Plus™ Self-Assessment?

A PQA Plus™ Self-Assessment Endorsement allows individuals to conduct a PQA Plus™ Site Self-Assessment of the operation they are directly associated with, on their own. A PQA Plus™ Advisor will review assessment results and report completion of the site assessment to the National Pork Board.

How can I receive a PQA Plus™ Self-Assessment Endorsement?

To receive a PQA Plus™ Self-Assessment Endorsement, you must:

- Hold current PQA Plus™ certification.
- Attend a training session with a PQA Plus™ Advisor.
- Pass an examination covering the 10 Good Production Practices and the on-farm assessment process.

This endorsement is valid until the producer certification must be renewed (maximum of three years.)

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