



PORK QUALITY ASSURANCE PLUS® PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Trainer Certification

To be a Certified PQA Plus Trainer, the candidate must:

- General
 - Nominations will be solicited by the National Pork Board.
 - PQA Plus Trainer eligibility is defined as one who is an animal scientist or veterinarian associated with a University preferably with an extension appointment. On the rare occasion that a state does not have that infrastructure, we are forced to look outside the university for a veterinarian who is independent of a pork producing company.⁵
- Training and Examination
 - Attend a PQA Plus Trainer training session conducted by the National Pork Board.
 - Successfully complete and pass an examination covering PQA Plus Good Production Practices 1-10 and the on-farm site assessment process.
 - The examination may be retaken twice in one session or attendance at another training session will be required.
 - No National Pork Board fees are required².
- Certification
 - PQA Plus Trainer Certification is good for three years based on the PQA Plus Trainer training date.
 - Retraining and retesting are mandatory for recertification.
- Responsibilities of a Trainer include but are not limited to:
 - Scheduling & Conducting Advisor training sessions
 - As part of a veterinarian and animal scientist team unless extenuating circumstances exist.
 - Receiving, reviewing and approving Advisor candidate applications.
 - Administering and scoring Advisor exams.
 - Following the PQA Plus Program requirements when conducting training sessions and administering examinations to insure the program's standards are met.
 - Functioning in the PQA Plus Advisor role.
- National Pork Board may modify, amend or terminate the TQA™, Youth PQA Plus®, PQA Plus® and all other certification programs without notice. Further, the Board in its sole discretion may terminate or condition a participant's continued eligibility for, participation in, and/or use of any rights, license or benefits under such program(s).

Advisor Certification

To be a Certified PQA Plus Advisor, the candidate must:

- General
 - Be a veterinarian, Extension Specialist or Ag Educator¹ and
 - Have a D.V.M. or B.S. or equivalent experience in Animal Science or associated field³ and
 - Have two years of recent, documentable swine production experience³.
- Training and Examination
 - Attend a PQA Plus Advisor training session conducted by a PQA Plus Trainer.
 - Successfully complete and pass an examination covering PQA Plus Good Production Practices 1-10 and the on-farm site assessment process.
 - The examination may be retaken twice in one session or attendance at another training session will be required.
 - No National Pork Board fees are required².

- Certification
 - PQA Plus Advisor Certification is good for three years based on the PQA Plus Advisor training date.
 - Retraining and retesting are mandatory for recertification..
- Responsibilities of an Advisor may include but are not limited to:
 - Following a successful PQA Plus Advisor examination the Advisor will report their name and contact information to the National Pork Board to complete certification requirements.
 - Conducting training sessions for producers.
 - Administering and scoring Endorsement exams.
 - Conducting on-farm site assessments.
 - Following the PQA Plus Program requirements when conducting training sessions, administering examinations and conducting site assessments to insure the program's standards are met.
 - Reporting producer name and contact information to the National Pork Board for individual PQA Plus certification and/or endorsement to conduct site self-assessments.
 - Reporting to the National Pork Board the site has met the qualifications for PQA Plus Site Status.
 - Reporting on-farm site assessment data following an assessment.
 - Being available for producer consultation during and following a site assessment.
 - Providing assistance to producers related to audit compliance issues as needed.
- National Pork Board may modify, amend or terminate the TQA™, Youth PQA Plus®, PQA Plus® and all other certification programs without notice. Further, the Board in its sole discretion may terminate or condition a participant's continued eligibility for, participation in, and/or use of any rights, license or benefits under such program(s).

Producer/Individual Certification

To become PQA Plus Certified, the candidate must:

- General: No previous education or work experience required.
- Training and Examination
 - Attend a PQA Plus Certification training session⁴ on the PQA Plus GPPs conducted by a PQA Plus Advisor.
 - Successfully complete and pass an examination covering PQA Plus Good Production Practices 1-10.
 - The examination may be retaken twice in one session or attendance at another training session will be required.
 - No National Pork Board fees are required².
- Certification: PQA Plus Certification is good for three years based on the PQA Plus training date. Retraining is mandatory for recertification.

To obtain Endorsement to conduct PQA Plus Site Self-Assessments, the candidate must:

- General: Hold a current PQA Plus certification.
- Training and Examination
 - Be trained in conducting a PQA Plus Site Self-Assessment by a PQA Plus Advisor.
 - Successfully complete and pass an examination covering PQA Plus Good Production Practice 10 and the on-farm site assessment process. The examination may be retaken twice or another training session will be required.
 - No National Pork Board fees are required².
- Endorsement
 - PQA Plus Site Self-Assessment Endorsement is good for up to three years based on the PQA Plus Site Self-Assessment Endorsement training date but is not to extend past the individual's PQA Plus Certification expiration date.
 - Retraining is mandatory for re-endorsement on or after the expiration date of the PQA Plus certification.

Site Status

To achieve PQA Plus Site Status through a PQA Plus Advisor Site Assessment, the site must:

- General
 - Be identified by a premises ID number.
 - Before assessment data can be reported and site status granted there must be a producer-designated PQA Plus Certified individual (the person with the most stable relationship/responsibility with the production on the site) associated with the site.
- Assessment
 - Have the Site Assessment conducted by a PQA Plus Advisor.
 - Before assessment data can be entered and site status granted, a signed written action plan needs to be completed for all non compliance areas identified during the current site assessment.
 - No National Pork Board fees are required².
- Status
 - PQA Plus Site Status issued based on confirmation through the NPB database that there has been a PQA Plus Site Assessment and a designated producer with a current PQA Plus Certification is linked to the site.
 - Site Status is good for three years from the date of assessment.
 - Confirmation of site reassessment and PQA Plus Certification of a producer linked to the site is mandatory to renew site status.

To achieve PQA Plus Site Status through a PQA Plus Site Self-Assessment, the site must:

- General
 - Be identified by a premises ID number.
 - Have a PQA Plus Certified individual associated with the site.
- Assessment
 - Have the Site Assessment conducted by an individual associated with the site who holds a current PQA Plus Certification and who also has completed self-assessment training with an Advisor and holds a PQA Plus Site Self-Assessment Endorsement.
 - The Advisor must report to the National Pork Board that a site assessment has been done; must report the assessment data into the database; and must report that there is a PQA Plus Certified producer associated with the site.
 - No National Pork Board fees are required².
- Status
 - PQA Plus Site Status issued based on confirmation through the NPB database that there has been a PQA Plus Site Assessment and a designated producer with a current PQA Plus Certification is linked to the site.
 - Site Status is good for three years from the date of assessment.
 - Confirmation of site reassessment and PQA Plus Certification of a producer linked to the site is mandatory to renew site status.

¹ An Ag Educator is defined as a person who is a full-time adult educator or spends at least 50% time in production training.

² The National Pork Board will not require or collect any fees but the independent contractor (organization or individual) conducting a training session and/or site assessment or consultation may require a fee.

³ Or an equivalent combination of education and swine production experience as determined by the PQA Plus Trainer reviewing the application.

⁴ Training sessions may be conducted in a group setting or one-on-one.

⁵ The eligibility requirements are in place to add credibility to the program and eliminate any perceived conflict of interest by having all program elements within a production company.