

Dear 4-H Colleagues,

**The 2016 Maryland 4-H On-Line Animal Husbandry and Quality Assurance (AH&QA) program is now open and will remain open through August 10, 2016.** The program was fully revised for 2015 and has a redesigned Welcome and Log-In page and reporting features for 2016. The program is also being used by 4-H and FFA members in West Virginia again this year.

The attached AH&QA Information Sheet contains the link for the program site, specific requirements, and other relevant information for the program. Similar information has also been attached in a second "newsletter article" style format for you.

All 4-H members enrolled in alpacas, beef, dairy, goats, horse and pony, llamas, poultry, sheep, swine and rabbits are required to have completed the on-line training prior to July 31 to be eligible to exhibit their project animals in 2016 Maryland County 4-H and State 4-H Shows. Units may set earlier deadlines to accommodate their local program and are requested to contact me to discuss this option if this would apply to your program.

The 2016 program must be completed using Firefox, Chrome or Safari web browsers. The program is not supported by Internet Explorer. The program contains two levels, a Junior-aged Level and an Intermediate/Senior-aged Level. The program automatically directs members to the correct level based on their birthdate. 4-Hers are required to complete the on-line training program when they reach each 4-H age division (juniors (8-10), intermediates (11-13), seniors (14-18) – all as of January 1 of the current year) OR when an Intermediate or Senior 4-H member chooses to show a new species since last completing the program within their age division they must return to program and complete the program for the new species area. (The Junior program does not have species specific sections like the Intermediate/Senior program does). Passcodes from 2015 should still be viable for members. Members with passcodes issued prior to 2015 must register to receive a new passcode..

Members may access the AH&QA program at: <http://www.agnr.umd.edu/ahqa/>

or via a link on the Animal Science Program Resources page of the Maryland 4-H website at <http://extension.umd.edu/4-h/4-h-program-areas/animal-science-resources>

Completion reports are available for counties to access in real time. Log-In names and passwords issued to your county for 2015 remains active for 2016. Full details on procedures to access reports will be sent to each county by Wednesday. 2015 completion data will remain accessible to county offices.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Chris Anderson