



April 26, 2024

Dear 4-H/FFA Parent:

Thank you for your family's participation in the Maryland or West Virginia 4-H or FFA program. Your child is enrolled in one or more projects in the Animal Sciences area and may choose to exhibit a project at a county/state 4-H or FFA show. If so, he or she will be required to complete the Maryland and West Virginia 4-H and FFA On-line Animal Husbandry and Quality Assurance program (AH&QA).

The AH&QA program is a narrated, slide-based training which takes about 60-75 minutes for youth to complete via the internet and offers standard-level information about ethical and safe animal husbandry practices. The training includes quizzes at different points during the training; the pre and post quizzes should take participants about 5 minutes to complete. Completion of the AH&QA training program is a requirement for exhibiting animals in Maryland and West Virginia 4-H and FFA Shows. The purpose is to teach safe and ethical production practices, so healthy, high quality food sources result from 4-H and FFA members' project work.

To assess the effectiveness of this on-line training program in helping participating 4-H and FFA members improve knowledge of animal husbandry and quality assurance information, a study of the AH&QA program pre and post quiz responses is being conducted. We request to include your child's pre and post quiz responses in the study. The pre quiz ("Check Your Knowledge") is taken at the beginning of the training program and the post quiz ("What I Learned") is taken near the end of the training program.

The quizzes will ask your child to select the correct responses to questions related to the content included in the AH&QA training program. Examples include:

- Which of the following information would you find on an animal medication label?
- What is the purpose of completing a thorough check of your animal's health before loading it to travel to a fair or show?
- Which activities could pass germs to you? Mark ALL that apply.
- Do you believe that handling healthy-looking animals could make you sick?
- Do you believe that you could make healthy-looking animals sick by handling them?

The responses to the quizzes will be completely anonymous. Name of the participant, contact information, or other identifying information will not be attached to their responses. A randomly assigned passcode will be used to link the pre quiz to the post quiz. Your child's confidentiality will be maintained at all times during the evaluation. If we write a report or article about this research project, your child's identity will be protected to the maximum extent possible. His/her information may be shared with representatives of the University of Maryland, College Park or governmental authorities if you or someone else is in danger or if we are required to do so by law.

Please understand that your child's participation in the study is voluntary, refusal to allow his/her pre and post quiz responses to be included in the study will involve no penalty or loss of benefit to which your child would be otherwise entitled, and he/she may discontinue participation at any time without penalty or loss of benefit. Please note that there are no known risks associated with your child's participation. There are no direct benefits to participants. However, possible indirect benefits include gaining insight into the effectiveness of this program to help 4-H and FFA members increase their knowledge by participating in the training program. And we hope that, in the future, other people might benefit from this assessment of the program.

Regulations require that we obtain your consent to the following statement before your child's pre and post quiz responses may be included in the study and your child must agree (assent) to participate.

Parent's Permission: 4-H and FFA AH&QA Pre and Post Quiz Assessment

I have read and understand the letter requesting my child's participation in the Maryland and West Virginia 4-H and FFA On-line Animal Husbandry and Quality Assurance (AH&QA) program assessment by including his/her AH&QA pre and post quiz responses in the study.

The responses from the quizzes will be completely anonymous. Name of the participant, contact information, or other identifying information will not be attached to the instruments. A randomly assigned passcode will be used to link the pre quiz to the post quiz.

Please understand that your child's participation is voluntary, his or her refusal to participate will involve no penalty or loss of benefit to which he or she would be otherwise entitled, and he or she may discontinue participation at any time without penalty or loss of benefit. Please note that there are no known risks associated with his or her participation. There are no direct benefits to participants.

If you should have any questions about this study to assess the, please feel free to contact Christopher Anderson, Maryland 4-H Center, 8020 Greenmead Drive, College Park, MD 20740, Phone: 301-314-7187, FAX: 301-314-7146, Email: canders2@umd.edu.

Youth Assent: 4-H and FFA AH&QA Pre and Post Quiz Assessment

Dear 4-H/FFA AH&QA Participant,

As part of this AH&QA training program, you will complete "Check Your Knowledge" and "What I Learned" quizzes. Each quiz will take about 5 minutes of your time to do. We are conducting a study of responses to these quizzes to help us see what participants learn by completing this training program. Your name will not be collected on the quizzes. If after you begin you don't want to continue in the study, you can leave any questions you don't want to answer blank and stop at any time by forwarding to the end of the quiz.

Can your responses to the AH&QA quizzes be included in this study?
(Respond below and then continue to the first question of the quiz.)

- Yes, I want to include my responses to the quizzes in the study.
- No, I don't want to include my responses to the quizzes in the study.

If you do not want your child to participate in this study or have any questions about this assessment, please contact the investigator of this study, Christopher Anderson at canders2@umd.edu. Thank you for your assistance.

If you have questions about your rights as a research participant or wish to report a research-related injury, please contact: University of Maryland College Park Institutional Review Board Office, 1204 Marie Mount Hall, College Park, Maryland, 20742, E-mail: irb@umd.edu, Telephone: 301-405-0678. This research has been reviewed according to the University of Maryland, College Park IRB procedures for research involving human subjects. IRB#: 426409-12.

Sincerely yours,

Christopher Anderson

Christopher Anderson
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