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.

• 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 required.

• Certification
  • PQA Plus Trainer Certification is good for three years based on the PQA Plus Trainer training date (unless if trained mid cycle).
  • Retraining and retesting are mandatory for recertification.

Responsibilities of a Trainer 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.
• Grant access to online certification course for producer/individual.
• Administering and scoring Content (GPP’s) Exams and the 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 to the National Pork Board within 30 days 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.

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

• General
  • Be a veterinarian, Extension Specialist or Ag Educator and
  • Have a D.V.M. or B.S. or equivalent experience in Animal Science or associated field and
  • Have two years of recent, documentable swine production experience.

• 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 required.

• Certification
  • PQA Plus Advisor Certification is good for three years based on the PQA Plus Advisor training date (unless if trained mid cycle).
  • 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.
• Grant access to online certification course for producer/individual.
• Administering and scoring Content (GPP’s) Exams and the 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 to the National Pork Board within 30 days 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 session 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.
- 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 required.

- 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 required.

- 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 required.

- 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.