

Pork Quality Assurance Plus Certification Meetings Planned

OSU Extension will be offering Pork Quality Assurance Plus (PQA Plus) certification for pork producers on December 9th in Ottawa and December 10th in Newport. Both meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a pork loin dinner that will be followed by the PQA Plus certification. There will also be a short presentation on manure test plot yield results from wheat and corn plots that have been harvested over the past three years.

The Pork Quality Assurance Plus program began in June of 2007 and replaces the Pork Quality Assurance Level III program that producers had been certified under since 1989. When producer certification expires under the Pork Quality Assurance Level III program producers will be required to complete Pork Quality Assurance Plus. As in the past, certification is valid for three years and producers can recertify at anytime prior to the expiration date on their certificate. Producers that are due to renew in the next year are encouraged to attend.

Pork Quality Assurance Plus is designed to help meet the needs of pork industry customers including restaurants, food retailers, and consumers. Pork producers receive training and certification to assure that high priorities are placed on product quality, food safety, and animal well being.

The meeting in Ottawa on December 9, 2008 will be held at the OSU Putnam County Extension Office which is located in the Education Service Center Building at 124 Putnam Parkway, Ottawa and is on the west side of State Route 109 going north out of Ottawa. Preregistration is due by December 5, 2008 and is \$5.00 per person payable to OSU Extension Putnam County and mailed to: 124 Putnam Parkway, Ottawa, Ohio 45875. Registrations accepted at the door on the evening of the meeting will be charged \$10.00

The December 10, 2008 meeting will be in Shelby County at the Newport Sportsman Club. The facility is located just south of Newport on Rangeline Road, between State Routes 47 and 66. Preregistration is due by December 5, 2008 and is \$5.00 per person payable to OSU Extension, Shelby County and mailed to: 810 Fair Road, Sidney, Ohio 45365. Registrations accepted at the door on the evening of the meeting will be charged \$10.00

Questions can be directed to Dale Ricker in Ottawa at 419-523-6294 or Roger Bender in Shelby County at 937-498-7239.