

Mercer County Junior Fair Livestock Interviews Thursday, July 11, 2024

Livestock Interviews is a required pre-fair judging for all livestock projects that will exhibit at the fair. Members are demonstrating what knowledge they have acquired through their 4-H/FFA livestock project.

How should members prepare:

- Members should have their record books completed. The interviewer will review the record book and could ask questions from any page.
- The member should treat this like an interview and come prepared. Although a member does not need to wear a dress/tie, nice shorts/pants and top is expected.
- There will be no skill stations or tests. Members will sit at a table with one judge.
- Review the suggested questions in this document. Judges may or may not use these suggestions.

How will the scoring work?

- A member must attend with a record book to earn a completion. A completion is needed to participate at the fair.
- Members can earn an “Outstanding Ribbon” for interview above the standard expectation. There is no specific number of outstanding ribbons that can be awarded.
- Each judge will select one “Herdsman” award from the group of members they interviewed. It is completely up to the judge how to select that person - but it will be someone they feel was knowledgeable, enthusiastic, and prepared for judging. Herdsman is not based on age or years of experience.

How will Livestock Interview Day work?

- Members will not be divided into age categories. The judge will take into consideration their age in the complexity of the members questions and answers.
- If a member takes multiple species, then they will attend the “multi-specie” judge. This will allow that member to complete all their interviews at one time with one judge. For example, multi-species would be if you take a beef project and a sheep project. Multi-specie *would not* be if you take a market sheep project and sheep breeding project.
- Members are asked to arrive sometime during the suggested times for their respective club. Interviews will range from 5-10 mins.
- If you cannot attend the suggested time, you can come anytime from within your species time frame.
- The livestock interview schedule can be found here - <https://go.osu.edu/schedules>

Study Guide

Sheep, Goat, Swine, Beef, Dairy, Rabbit, Poultry

Remember these are suggested questions only and will allow the member to practice at home. There are suggested age brackets for difficultness of questions. Awards are not given based on age categories.

General: ALL

- Tell me about your project animal (s) (breed, date of birth, where it came from, etc.)
- Tell me about how you care for your animal (s) each day

Junior: 8 to 12 years of age as of January 1

- What is the most important nutrient that your animal needs to be healthy?
- What is the market price for your animal?
- How could you tell if your animal was sick?
- Tell me about where your animal (s) lives and how you keep it clean?
- Tell me 5 things you would pack in your show box to bring to the fair.
- What do you think will be the most fun part of taking your steer to the fair? The least fun?

Intermediate: 13 to 14 years as of January 1

- Tell me about what you feed your animal. How often do you feed it?
- What is meant by “withdrawal time” for a medication?
- If you could improve one thing about your animal, what would it be?
- How much do you think your animal will weigh at the fair? Are you happy with that? Why or why not?
- What do you do to prepare your animal for show?
- Describe what you think is appropriate behavior when you win or lose in the showing.
- Why is it important to keep accurate records on your project? What can you do next year to keep better records?

Senior: 15 to 18 years as of January 1

- If you were the judge, what would you like/dislike about your animal?
- What kind of information is contained on a medicine label? Why is it important to read all label before administering any drug?
- Why price does your animal need to bring for you to make a profit on this project?
- What do you think is the most important thing you could teach a new member taking this project? How would you go about teaching it?
- What do you think your average daily gain is for your project? Do you think this is good or bad?
- What did you learn this year that you didn't know before?
- If you took this project in the future, what would you do differently?
- Have your experiences with your project and in 4-H/FFA helped you decide what you would like to do as a future career?

Study Guide - Horse Projects

**** We highly encourage members to create a visual display around their project. This visual display should depict an area of study from the resource book. You do not need to cover the whole resource book on the poster – just one thing you focused your learning on for that year ****

Junior: 8 to 12 years of age as of January 1

- Tell me how you take care of your horse. (Should be able to generally talk about feeding and grooming.)
- What breed is your horse?
- How can you tell if your horse is sick?
- How would you describe your horse's personality?
- What do you think will be the most fun part of taking your horse to the fair? The least fun?

Intermediate: 13 to 14 years as of January 1

- Tell me about how you train your horse. How often do you work with it?
- What are two characteristics of your breed of horse? Do you think your horse exhibits these characteristics?
- If you could improve one thing about your horse's personality, what would it be?
- Why is it important that horses are fed a proper diet?
- Why is it important to keep accurate records on your project? What can you do next year to keep better records?

Senior: 15 to 18 years as of January 1

- If you were the judge, what would you like/dislike about your horse?
- What are the basics of hoof care?
- Name two health concerns in horses. How are they treated?
- What do you think is the most important thing you could teach a new member taking a horse project? How would you go about teaching it?
- What do you think is the most important thing to a successful training program? Why?

Study Guide - Dog Projects

Junior: 8 to 12 years of age as of January 1

- Tell me how you take care of your dog. (Should be able to generally talk about feeding and grooming.)
- What breed is your dog?
- How can you tell if your dog is sick?
- How would you describe your dog's personality?
- What do you think will be the most fun part of taking your dog to the fair? The least fun?

Intermediate: 13 to 14 years as of January 1

- Tell me about how you train your dog. How often do you work with it?
- What are two characteristics of your breed of dog? Do you think your dog exhibits these characteristics?
- If you could improve one thing about your dog's personality, what would it be?
- Why is it important that dogs are fed a proper diet?

Senior: 15 to 18 years as of January 1

- If you were the judge, what would you like/dislike about your dog?
- How do you care for a new dog that you would bring into your home?
- Name two dog population myths. What is your opinion on these myths?
- What do you think is the most important thing you could teach a new member taking a dog project? How would you go about teaching it?
- What do you think is the most important thing to a successful training program? Why?