

Livestock Project Interviews

We have decided to move away from livestock skillathon model used in previous years. In 2022, we will move to a traditional interview style. Why?

It is important that youth can “talk the talk” of the livestock industry. Although it is important to know our breeds, body parts, and other facts, it is all beneficial to talk about the project.

Let’s say during an interview a potential boss noticed that the applicant listed showing livestock for 10 years at the Mercer County Fair. The employer asks them to share their experience. The former member is not going to start citing body parts and meat cuts. Our goal is that they would explain their experience of raising a quality animal. They could share the hard work that went into raising their animal, the budget they created to afford their project, and their successes and failures at the fair.

Some may say this is taking the “easy way” out for livestock kids. The true “winners” or top scored exhibitors were the ones that should share their knowledge on paper. The interview will still take preparation and hard work. Can the exhibitor truly share the process of raising their animal? Do they understand the information in their record book? Interviewing skills are important skills in life and livestock members will now have the opportunity to practice.

What can a member expect during interviews?

- 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.
- Member could be asked to share information about their animals such as: beginning weight, rate of gain, daily interactions, and care of animal.
- Member could be asked quality assurance or animal health care questions.
- There will be no skill stations or tests. Members will sit at a table with one judge.

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.

How will Livestock Interview Day work?

- **Livestock judging will take place on Thursday, July 14 from 3:00-7:00pm.**
- 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.
- Judges will be selected based on their expertise and knowledge for each specie.
- Interviews will range from 5-10 mins.



- Enrollment into 4-H and your livestock project
- You are enrolling for what specie you will show at the fair
- “Yes, I want to be in 4-H and need all the information for the following specie”

Due March 1st



- Enrollment into the Junior Fair
- You are entering exactly what animals you are bringing to the fair
- “Yes, I am coming to the fair and bring these animals for these exact classes”

Due July 13th



- Skillathon is now called “Livestock Interviews”
- You are required to complete an interview to be eligible for participate at the Junior Fair
- “Yes, I can tell you all about my project and review my Record book with you”

Scheduled July 14th