

An Agricultural Interview



Names of Interviewers _____

Instructions

1. Schedule an appointment for an interview with a local farmer, farm manager, or an owner or manager of a farm-related business. (You *may not* interview an immediate family member.)
2. Before your interview, familiarize yourselves with the operation as best you can. Request flyers or Web site addresses that will give you information about the operation. Learn about the commodities that this person/company produces. This will make your interview more meaningful.
3. The interview must take place at the business site. Obtain accurate directions, and secure a responsible method of transportation. Be sure to complete the *Pre-Interview Information* prior to your arrival at the interview site.
4. One or two days prior to the interview, call and confirm your appointment.
5. This completed form is due on _____. Recopy and/or write a summary about your findings, as instructed by your teacher. Proof your work for proper spelling, punctuation, and grammar. Be prepared to discuss your interview with your classmates.

Pre-Interview Information

Name of farmer or person to be interviewed _____

This person's title _____

Name of farm or agriculture-related business _____

Address of farm or business _____

Business phone number(s) _____

E-mail address and/or Web site _____

Date and time of interview _____

Telephone number of farm or firm _____

Date and time of interview _____

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Interview Questions

1. Describe the nature of your farm or business: _____

2. Type of business: Sole Proprietorship Partnership Corporation
3. Years at present business: _____
4. Number of employees: _____. Salaried Hourly
If paid hourly, how much do the employees earn per hour? _____
5. Approximate hours you work per week: _____
6. Do you have seasonal employees? Yes No. If so, how many? _____
7. Do you have more full-time or seasonal employees? Full-time Seasonal
8. What qualities do you look for when hiring employees?

9. Have you found owners of similar businesses to be friendly? Competitive? Explain.

10. Why did you select this particular business to go into?

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17. Discuss the use of various chemicals in your operation. Why are they used? What precautions are taken? What regulations must be followed?

18. What kind of sustainable agricultural practices do you incorporate into your work?

19. Describe two unique features of your business:

a.

b.

20. What is most rewarding about your career?

21. What is the biggest challenge in operating your business?

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22. What prepared you to be a farmer, owner or employee of an agricultural-related business?

23. What is one political issue you are concerned about?

Two additional questions:

24. Question:

Answer:

25. Question:

Answer:

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After the Interview

In a well-written essay, discuss what you learned from the interview. Proof your essay and make sure there is a logical sequence of thought as well as proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Site examples from your interview in your writing. You may choose to include information that answers the following questions:

- What was your first impression of the person you interviewed and the facility at which you performed the interview?
- Does the person you interviewed seem to enjoy his/her occupation?
- Does the person you interviewed have a passion for agriculture?
- Summarize your impression of the strengths and weaknesses of this particular business?
- What are some specific challenges that were addressed?
- How did your first impressions change after interviewing the agriculturist?
- Would you be interested in this type of job or career? Why/Why not?