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  _____________________________________________________

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?
An Agricultural Interview (page 3)

11. How did you determine the location of your business?

12. What would you do differently if you were to start a new business this year?

13. How do you promote your business or products?

14. Discuss the sale of your commodities. Who do you sell to? How is the price determined?

15. What do you do to make your profit margin the best it can be?

16. In general, how do you feel about subsidies for farmers?
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?
An Agricultural Interview (page 5)

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:
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?