

Wayne County 4-H / FFA / Jr. Fair Skillathon Interviews

Wayne County Fair Event Center

6:30 – 9 pm

July 11-12, 2022

Skillathon Interviews are a new twist on the traditional in-person Skillathon held for many years prior to the pandemic. Our goal is to blend both some hands-on interactive activities that have been a part of Skillathon in the past with an interview experience that will help our youth practice the art and skill of communication in an interview setting, which will help them in the future as they interview for jobs, scholarships, and other activities.

When youth / parents arrive at Skillathon Interviews they will stop at the registration desk to fill out the top portion of one scoresheet for the youth that is participating regardless of the number of animal / livestock projects that youth is enrolled in. Then parents will go to the parent waiting area and youth will begin the Skillathon Interview event.

Skillathon Interviews will consist of the following three components:

1) Record Books: Youth will bring and turn in all of their completed animal / livestock project record books for this year to be graded / reviewed by a judge. Youth should complete record books as thoroughly as possible. Specific page numbers that can / should be completed prior to Skillathon Interviews are listed on the OSU Extension Wayne County website at: <https://go.osu.edu/wcrecordbookpages>. Record Books will be returned to Club Organizational Advisors to re-distribute to youth later in July.

2) Hands-on Activity: Youth will complete one hands-on universal Skillathon activity (Feed Identification for 2022) regardless of how many animal / livestock projects they're enrolled in for the year. So if the youth is taking one animal project or three animal projects – either way they will just do the Feed ID station once. *Note - many clubs have ordered one or more Feed ID Study Kits which the Extension Office is in the process of putting together this spring and will be distributing to club leaders sometime in May so youth can study the Feed ID matching labels and ingredients activity throughout May, June, and early July.*

3) Interview: Youth will have one 8–10-minute interview with a volunteer judge that will interview the young person asking them a combination of general open-ended questions such as “Tell me about yourself and all of your animal projects” and more animal species-specific questions based on the type of projects they're taking. For example, if the youth is taking a market hog project the judge might ask them to list four retail cuts of pork that come from their hog. If the same youth is also taking a dog project the same judge will ask the youth a dog-specific question. The general open ended questions will all be basic questions such as “Tell me about your animals, tell me about what you do to take care of them, how often do you observe or walk them, etc.” while the animal specific questions will all come from the State 4-H Office bank of questions, which are all created based on information contained in the animal / livestock resource books published by OSU Extension.

Once the youth has completed the three components listed above – they will take their scoresheet to the score table to be tabulated, pick up a prize, and then be directed to the parent waiting area to be reunited with their parent or guardian.



Skillathon Interviews FAQ

What are Skillathon Interviews?

In addition to having your record book(s) graded and completing a hands-on activity (Feed ID for 2022) it is a one-on-one interview with a knowledgeable volunteer judge. The judge will ask you questions about your project experience, your knowledge of your animals and care for your animals. A Livestock Project Interview will be very similar to a Still Project or FCS Project Interview.

How will interviews be graded/judged?

Exhibitors will be judged on their interview etiquette (handshake, eye contact, politeness, appearance, etc.), project knowledge, and project record book. Animal species-specific questions will be based on information contained in your animal / livestock species Resource Book published by OSU Extension.

Why should I consider doing a Skillathon Interview this year?

Being able to interview well is an essential skill for future success. The ability to make a good first impression and confidently hold a conversation with someone will help you go far in life – whether it is a future job interview, talking to the judge in the show ring, or answering questions about your project from visitors at the fair. Project Interviews are a learning experience in many ways – not only do youth get the opportunity to learn from a knowledgeable judge, but they will develop these workforce preparation skills that lead to success down the road.

How do I prepare for my interview?

The key to any successful interview is preparation! Make sure your project book is up-to-date and you have studied your resource book and understand your project. A great practice would be to sit down with an advisor, project helper, or family member and have a practice interview at home. The more you practice beforehand, the more confident you will feel and the less nervous you will be!

Do I need to bring anything to my interview?

You will need to have your completed project record book with you for your interview. Come dressed nicely – for example, something you would wear in the show ring, for a presentation at school, or to church. Remember, you want to make a great first impression! And last, but certainly not least, be sure to bring your SMILE! 😊

Do I need to have a certain interview score to show at the fair?

No, there is no minimum score required to fulfill the requirement to show at the fair – however, you must show up and participate in the interview. We encourage members to prepare and do their best, while using this as a learning opportunity. If a judge does not find you to have sufficient understanding of your project or your book is not up-to-date, you will receive a lower score.

