

HEREFORDSHIRE YFC

Hints & Tips

2008



Training Contacts:

- Your Club President and Chairman
- HFYFC Training Committee
- HFYFC County Office - 01432 274187
- 7Y KnowHow - 01568 610077
- Holme Lacy College - 0800 032 1986
- CLA Enterprise Works

Having been involved with the YFC movement for over 50 years, both as a recipient and a dispenser of training I cannot emphasise enough how important a part it has played in my life.

As a raw 14 year old I went to the Bowling Green Farm, where Mr Richard Morgan Jones gave a group of Allensmore members an insight into judging and giving reasons on Hereford Cattle. Later that autumn, a Mr Gwillam of Craswall gave a week of hedging training.

Today there are still people who are willing to spend time teaching young people skills and crafts which are necessary to not only compete but are also useful in our everyday life.

With the present Health and Safety laws it is more important than ever to receive good training and the qualifications to enable you to compete and enjoy being a young farmer. A job worth doing is a job worth doing well.

Jim Lawrence, MBE

Dear Member,

This booklet is intended to be the first place you go to if you are not really sure how and where to start.

The first time I did stockjudging as a junior in Hereford Cattle Market I turned up without a tie and was not really sure where to start. I also remember a few years ago members of my club being disqualified for making their recycled rocket too big!

I hope that you will dip into this booklet from time to time to give you some tips on where to start or to remind you what to do from one year to the next. Everyone who helped put this booklet together was helped by a past member or expert when they started out. So if I had just one message it would be, don't be afraid to ask for help. You might not know where to go for help with a competition or activity, but your Club Chairman, President, or someone at County office will. So get on and have a go! It took me 10 years to earn a red prize card. I had a lot of fun and made a lot of friends on the way. Good luck.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the creation of this booklet, especially Tony Baker and Christine Hope for proof reading, and Sarah Desborough from Orleton YFC for the design and typesetting.

Rich Thomas,
Lugg Valley YFC, County Chairman 2007-2008.

The hints in this booklet are arranged from A to Z. So hopefully you can find everything you want quickly and easily!

A Brief History of YFC

In 2009, Herefordshire Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs will be marking its 65th anniversary. The Herefordshire Federation was originally started to pull together several Clubs, which had already been started up in 1943! The Clubs were originally calf rearing clubs and the first ever-recorded young farmers club was started in the Devon village of Hemyock in the Culm Valley in 1921. The members of the club were the children of Heymock area milk producers who were motivated by being involved in an organised programme of calf rearing, with competitions and prizes for those who set the highest standards.

It was another ten years before any kind of National young farmers' movement started to take recognisable shape and, when that happened, a main qualification for membership was still the rearing of calves – plus other living things like pigs, poultry and bees. Members were also expected to show a leaning towards gardening. The YFC movement was formed, therefore, for the very specific object of agricultural education.

So, 65 years on, and the programme of competitions has developed immensely. In Herefordshire the stockjudging classes have stood the test of time and are now complimented by carcass judging classes. The present day sees a very wide range of farm skills, home economics and crafts, performing arts, public speaking, sports, club management and so on available to members who want to learn how to do something, whilst representing their Club and having lots of fun.

Taking part in a competition for the first time can be a daunting experience but in time can lead members to do things they never thought possible. For instance, there are at least two World Champion ploughmen who come from Herefordshire and live in the County. They ploughed for their Young Farmers' Club and went on to win at the highest possible level. So, pick up the hints and tips from the knowledge given here by past members and competitors...and have a go. If you don't have a go you will never know how much you could have achieved!

Lucinda Rees, County Administrator.

Club Chairman Tips

The Chairman is responsible to the club members for the management of the club and its programme

Understand the YFC concepts and keep up to date with changes at Club, Federation, Area and National level

Know your club constitution and its policies. Speak to your advisory or past club members for advice on any aspect of the club's running

Encourage a good team spirit and use humour to relieve tension

Support your officers. Know their roles and offer support when it is needed

Keep your club informed of federation news, feed back your clubs feelings and try to avoid giving your version on what is said or reported

Have regular meetings, be punctual and try to involve every member in the discussions. Always have an agenda, stick to it and maximise the time you have with your club

Be on hand to be a reassuring ear to members who may need some extra help or are in some sort of trouble. Know who to contact for help if this occurs

Encourage new members on board and look after them until they are settled, you then get a good team spirit.

Live the values of YFC – fun, learning and achievement!

National YFC

Club Secretary Tips

The secretary is the club's main contact point with the outside world and are the receiving point for Federation, Area and National information

Work in conjunction with the chairman to make meetings run smoothly and that the members get the most out of them

Make sure that you have all your members current contact details – mobile numbers, e-mail, addresses. Never let a member tell you that they weren't informed!

Communicate effectively any important information to the chairman and the club. Don't let members find out third hand from other clubs

Ensure that all your club officers know what is going on and how their role is affected by information or change

Take prompt action as a result of a club meeting, respond to correspondence if it needs it and follow up any action points with your name on it

If you don't have a minute secretary, keep a note of all that was said/decided in the meetings. Don't rely on memory or else things may get missed or forgotten

Always leave time to enjoy being a YFC member as well as being secretary

Work closely with your chairman – it is often said that a chairman is only as good as their secretary!

Live the values of YFC – fun, learning and achievement!

National YFC

Club Treasurer Tips

Being treasurer is being responsible for money coming in and payments going out of the clubs accounts

The accounts must have been audited when you take them over or relinquish them and have them audited for the annual general meeting

Be aware of the accounting procedure if your club is a registered charity

Make full use of: receipts for all cash you receive, a pocket notebook to record transactions, a cash analysis book, a cheque book, a paying in book and a cash box

Never turn cash received into a cash payment, nor keep signed blank cheques

Chase club members who haven't paid their subscriptions

Hang onto club records for at least six years, and if in doubt, seek assistance as soon as a problem you cannot solve on your own arises

Be aware of what to expect from the Federation in terms of a levy. Have the cash to hand to pay it before the invoice arrives. Chase the chairman to organise fund raisers if the pot is short

Have a good filing system, keep it simple keeps it straight

Live the values of YFC – fun, learning and achievement!

National YFC

Don't attempt anything too complicated if it is above your skill level. You'll get more marks for doing a simple dish well than struggling with something really complicated.

Practice your dish at home (several times! – practice makes perfect) and collect up all the utensils and kitchen equipment you have used to pack and take with you. Weigh out and measure all your ingredients in advance. You have a time limit in the competition and you don't want to be weighing things out! Try and put everything in individual bags or pots. Don't forget a flask of hot water, dish cloth, fairy liquid and a large bowl. You can wipe down your cooking surface before you start and also when cooking, if it gets a bit messy! Also the most forgotten item – Cling Film, to wrap your dish after you have finished.

Before you start – sellotape a plastic bag onto your table for a waste bin and use it! Don't keep rubbish on your table top. Wear an apron over your white coat – it helps keep you cleaner if cooking something messy and you can tuck a tea towel into the back to wipe your hands when needed. Remove all jewellery and make sure you have clean hands (judges have inspected finger nails in the past – and I'm not kidding!).

Use time effectively – if you have a quick dish to make don't rush it as you'll be left standing around at the end. If you're short of time, make sure you keep an eye on your watch and leave enough to present your dish and clear down.

And if it starts going wrong – don't panic! One tip is to take spare ingredients in a cool box in case of disasters - if you've time you can always start again.

Sarah Wells, Hereford YFC

When building your exhibit, keep the sizing a little smaller than what it actually states. This way you shouldn't be disqualified on being oversized although remember if you have any extra attachments or anything hanging over the edges then this can be included into the sizing.

As with most competitions - preparation is the key. Have a planning meeting, decide on a design and how you will interpret the theme. Then share out the jobs and get everyone involved. Doing the Exhibit can really bring the club together.

Do not put your club name anywhere on the exhibit.

You will need 5 crafts - try and make them fit into the theme of the competition. Don't be afraid to 'think outside the box'!

Don't over fill the exhibit. Try and keep it minimal. Sometimes simple is more effective.

Watch your colours. You will have a scheme, make sure the colours work well together and don't clash.

If using lighting or electrical equipment make sure it is safe and has been tested before rally day. Otherwise it may well be disqualified. It may be safer to use a car battery than a 240V mains supply!

Lastly, all crafts should be labelled and a list on show in the exhibit stating what they are. Once done, stand back, examine the exhibit, and don't just rush off! You might miss something or need to adjust something.

Wendy Davies, Pencombe YFC.

Fencing

Make sure everyone knows what they are doing and when they are doing it, so you don't waste precious time.

Get your posts in as quickly as possible, to give you more time to put up the wire.

You should tamp the soil back in as tightly as possible, but if you are short of time, tamp the bottom third and the top third, just make sure the post is tight!

Tie the wire off tidily and neatly. If you can, wrap the wire round 3 times and 'twist' the end off.

Make sure your netting and barb are tight, but don't slacken one by over tightening the other.

Make your lines as straight as possible. The fence must be in a straight line aligned to the netting (i.e. the outside of the posts and stakes). Also the wire must be at the same height on every post and stake. Take the barbs off the tail end of the barb wire to tie it off.

Put your staples in at the same angle, not touching the wire on stakes.

End posts: staple on front of post and again further round the post to ensure the wire will not pull back.

If you are new to the fencing competition and you want more help contact County Office or the Training Chairman.

Mark Jones, Dean Sankey and Brian Sankey, Kington YFC.

Flower Arranging

Always make sure you read the rules carefully and more than once!

Look around you for inspiration – don't rush perfection.

Get your flowers from a good florist.

Make sure you let your flowers drink enough before the competition.

Make sure your flowers are conditioned properly.

Keep your flowers in a cool safe place.

Don't forget the rules, white coat, membership card and tape measure on the day.

Have a parent or friend to help you carry everything on the day, there is always more than expected to take!

Make sure once you have finished your exhibit you measure your board and space accurately – rules are rules.

Always take a photo of your finished exhibit.

Rachael Leake, Hereford YFC.

Always relate materials to theme.

Always soak oasis the night before competition.

Use flowers and foliage with different shapes, colours and textures. Generally, you need three sorts of shapes - line material (straight leaves, such as Iris leaves, Bear Grass, Foxtail Lilies, etc), this material is used to form the outline shape of your design; rounded materials (such as Carnations, open Roses, Gerberas, etc.), generally used as the focal flowers; and intermediate or filler materials, (such as Gypsophila, Waxflower, small, ferny foliage) to act as stepping stones between the other materials, and to "fill in".

Use flowers in different stages of development, from bud to full bloom. When positioning place the buds at the top and edges of the arrangement, and the largest fullest flowers in the centre of the arrangement, more towards the bottom of the design, to form a focal area.

Make sure that your colours are evenly balanced throughout arrangement.

Always allow some space between the flowers to prevent a crowded effect.

Try not to overcrowd arrangement with props.

A backboard and base always make arrangements look more professional.

When arranging flowers try and keep your space tidy, judges seem to like that! Sticking a carrier bag to the edge of your work area is always an easy way to sweep cuttings away.

Always read rules carefully, check measurements and check again.

Verity Watts, Saltmarshe YFC.

Funding Applications

Herefordshire Council Project Development Team

Ten do's and don'ts for making
a good funding application

DO:

Confine your application to the information required

Show evidence of need for the project

Describe the project in a way that it meets the funder's priorities

Make sure your objectives are clear and measurable

Describe how the project will be managed and monitored

Make a request for a specific sum of money

Ensure the figures in the budget add up!!

Make sure the budget is realistic

Make it clear where any other money is coming from

Describe your "exit strategy" (how you intend to carry on after the grant)

DON'T:

Rush to get an application in for an unrealistic deadline

Make spelling mistakes or use abbreviations and jargon

Make vague statements about what you want to do

Present a huge list of things you want to do

Forget to include all expenditure items and overheads in the costs

Forget about inflation and VAT where applicable

Rely on one person to put in the application

Send in lots of other information unless it is requested by the funder

Forget to send in anything else the funder has asked for

Forget to compare supporting information and the application

Clare Wichbold MBE, Regeneration Coordinator, Herefordshire
Council 01432 261 793

General Competition Tips

Read the rules thoroughly. Know exactly what you're required to do. If you have any doubt, speak to a fellow club member who may have entered the competition before, or speak to a County Officer.

Make sure that you or your club have returned the competition entry form to the county office ON TIME.

Attend organised training for the competition, at club or county level. If you've already entered the competition before, further training may be useful in helping you to achieve a better result.

Make sure you know the date, time and venue for the competition. Allow plenty of time for travel, and DONT BE LATE.

Make sure you take any necessary equipment, paperwork, licences or materials with you. Organise these well in advance and make sure you have everything you need before setting off.

Ensure that you are dressed appropriately. This is essential for certain competitions, particularly public speaking, stock and carcase judging (don't forget your white coat, CLEAN boots and hat) and outdoor competitions requiring safety wear such as steel toe-cap boots, gloves, overalls etc. Judges frequently deduct marks for improper dress at these competitions.

Check what time you have available to do the competition in and practice sticking to the time limit if there is one. Marks are often deducted when you exceed time limits.

Be polite when dealing with stewards and judges; they have given their time voluntarily and are unlikely to help again if competitors are impolite.

Compete fairly and "be a good sport", don't forget you are representing your club or county and make a good impression.

After the results are announced, take the time to speak to and listen to the judge's comments. This is an excellent way of picking up further tips for performing better next time.

And one more:

DONT FORGET YOUR VALID, SIGNED MEMBERSHIP CARD COMPLETE WITH PHOTOGRAPH!

Des Carless, Ledbury YFC.

Hedgelaying

Be prepared: check tools before setting off, make sure they are sharp and maybe consider a folding pruning saw which is more effective than a bow saw.

Think when cutting heatherlings – too thin will be ineffective at binding the hedge, too thick will be hard work and may split.

Carry sharpening tools. It only takes some light contact with stones to blunt a hacker or chainsaw which in turn becomes dangerous.

Clear the hedge of brambles and undergrowth before starting. This gives you a much better view and makes spotting the best pleachers easier. It also exposes previous ‘nasties’ when the hedge was last laid.

Make a start! The first couple of pleachers are the hardest. Once done, the task gets easier and your enthusiasm rises!.

Don't be hasty in removing ‘unwanted stems’ – they may be needed if the next ideal one turns out to be rotten in the centre.

Carry a long hook. Often in old hedges, trees can be intertwined at the top. A good six foot hook does less damage and is more effective than shaking!.

Stake carefully. As a rule, the stakes should be on a 45 degree angle, the butt just below the top of the previous one. Hammer stakes in lightly at first for later adjustment and they should be a cubit apart (cubit: the distance from elbow to finger tips).

Keep you work area tidy. It doesn't take much to tidy as you go and it makes it easier to see bits for filling/brushing up.

Stand and look. By standing back you will see pleachers that are not running right and can be adjusted now rather than later.

Take your time. Rushing is dangerous and leads to a messy job. Patience keeps your cool and leads to a tidily finished job!

Matt Gardner, Ledbury YFC

How it all works . . .

County

You as a member elect officers to run your club, and people to sit on committees at County.

The Executive Committee elects it's own Chairman, the County Chairman and it also elects a Management Committee.

Management takes on responsibility for the Federation's finances, staffing and general management.

The County Chairman works with the Chairman of the 5 Committees, Competitions, Events, Promotions, Training and Junior Forum to run the County on a day to day basis.

The 5 Committees discuss and vote on most things that happen in HFYFC giving us our democratic platform.

Competitions

If you want to enter a County competition, you are entered by your club.

If you win or come second in that Competition you are put forward to enter the next round by the County. We can do this because we have over 600 members. If we fall below this we will only be able to enter 1 team/member.

Some competitions are set by the 3 Counties and some by National. If you enter a National competition then often the next round, after County is West Midland Area, consisting of Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire. The WMA is currently allowed to send 1 member/team to the National round because we have less than 3000 members in the WMA. If we go above this we can send 2 members/teams.

Meeting Ideas

Use the County MTA kit.

Rounders or another outside game in the summer.

Cuddly Toy/Anything Stock Judging. (More fun than you would think, can use pets but possibly dangerous!).

Club programme planning.

Practice competitions, County and National.

Fund raising planning.

Quiz.

Treasure hunt.

Card and board games, but remember no gambling!

Bridge building, i.e. to cross a small distance like 20cm between 2 tables with straws and limited sellotape!

Invite a speaker to come along and talk about their life.

Self defence.

First Aid.

Inter club socials – Golf driving range, Ten pin bowling.

Trip to a local factory or visitor centre eg, Westons Cider, Space Guard Centre, Queenswood, Symonds Yat.

Farm walk.

Ask a representative from the National Federation/West Midlands Area to come to your, or a group of clubs, to speak.

Use NFYFC planning guide book.

Rich Thomas, Lugg Valley YFC.

Always congratulate every competitor – it's all about having a go!

Balloon games: Volley ball; balloon tied to each leg, last one with theirs un-popped wins; balancing two balloons whilst only holding the bottom one.

Debating: discuss topics in pairs then as a group; debate 'speed dating' style; - debate topics for two minutes then move on.

Discuss topics on paper and reach agreements as a group.

Have a competitions night – simple flower arranging, art work, carrier bag challenge. Or have one after each business type meeting.

Tag games outside if nice, inside if not! Tag can be with toilet paper in back pockets – the one with the most tags wins!

Dressing up – bring a bag of unknown clothes, each member picks one item and stays in that character throughout the meeting.

Blindfold steering in pairs, one blind, one steering through a safe obstacle course! Blindfold drinks pouring – messy!

Outside – welly wanging, rounder's, boules, french cricket etc

Ball games inside expensive, balloon games inside cheaper and more fun!

Phil Hughes, Eardisley YFC

Judges have been around for a long time and remember what has been entered before!

- Design is very important, so follow the brief.
- Plan what you intend to do, sketch it out.
- If using recycled metal don't clean it too much, it'll look new!
- Preparation is key, 'V' out the edges of the metal on 'butt' joints.
- Check the settings on your welder, practice with a scrap piece of metal first.
- Watch your welding on the joints.
- If welding with an ARC welder make sure there are no slag traps and the slag has been chipped away.
- If welding with a MIG welder or with gas watch your neatness.
- No sharp edges.
- A good paint finish can make all the difference.
- Make sure the paint is dry. You would be surprised how many entries have been painted on the morning of the competition.

Mark Phillips, Lugg Valley YFC.

The National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs (NFYFC) is the head of a nationwide body of more than 650 Young Farmers' Clubs (YFCs) located throughout England and Wales and is dedicated to supporting young people in agriculture and the countryside. Their memberships comprise 22,000 young people aged between 10 and 26 years. As such, the NFYFC is the largest rural youth organisation of its kind.

YFCs are run by members for members and provide young people with a unique opportunity to enjoy a dynamic social life, develop skills, get involved with the local community, travel abroad and take part in a wide range of competitions and training at county, regional and national level, including sports, crafts and life skills.

The YFCs are grouped into 48 federations based mainly on county boundaries. These are grouped further into six regional areas in England plus Wales and together form the NFYFC.

Aims

To advance the education of its members and their knowledge of agriculture, crafts, life skills, rural affairs and country life.

To develop members' reliance and individual responsibility.

To train members to play their full part in the life of the Young Farmers' Clubs organisation and of the community.

To promote the formation and affiliation of YFC as a means of achieving these aims.

To co-operate with relevant Government Departments, non-governmental organisations and other bodies interested in the furtherance of the above aims.

To raise funds, obtain grants and donations for all or any of the above aims.

Ideals

The ideal of citizenship is fundamental to YFC and is provided by creating an awareness of community responsibility, encouraging voluntary member effort in all fields.

By exercising self-government at all levels of the YFC movement, individual members will increase their willingness to take responsibility and will become more self-reliant members of society.

A major goal of the YFC movement is the broadening of horizons achieved by providing the opportunity for members to participate in a wide range of new experiences within the framework of their Club, County and National Federation.

The encouragement to acquire new skills through craft training provides a basis from which members can ensure that the skills of the home, the countryside, and of agriculture are retained for future generations.

An awareness of the importance of the care of the environment is achieved through numerous and varied community projects, often in partnership with other environmental organisations.

The encouragement to gain a greater awareness and understanding of cultural diversity at home and abroad is provided through an extensive programme of visits, exchanges and work experiences.

One Plus Tips

SCRIPT – pick a script that you can handle, don't be ambitious and it's often better to write your own that can utilise the strengths of your cast

CAST – only work with willing volunteers – press ganged cast members may not want to throw themselves into the production

RULES – if you are of competing age and are out to win, use the rules as your starting point. How the judge will mark the performance dictates how you perform it

KNOW YOUR STUFF – leave plenty of time to rehearse and know your lines/movements thoroughly. Mistakes on stage can knock you off course and the whole thing can unfold

PROPS/SET – keep it simple! Props and set can take on a mind of their own and let you down. Keep it simple and under control, don't over clutter/complicate your production

BE PREPARED – make sure that all your cast have everything they need before you set off for the theatre – improvising props or set at the theatre doesn't always work!

KEEP YOUR HEAD – before you go on stage, take time to relax and gather your thoughts. If you get worked up and think you have forgotten your lines don't panic. We all think that before we go on stage!

GET STARTED – before you step on stage, take a deep breath and have your first line clear in your head

DON'T RUSH – if you are in a timed production work to it, don't rush your production and leave the audience behind

ENJOY YOURSELF – the audience will love what you do if you look, sound and act like you are too!

Photography

Read the rules and follow them accurately

Mount your photographs on a firm, tidy and correctly sized presentation card/board

Colour of your presentation card/board should complement your photographs without being overpowering

Titling should be tidy and kept to a minimum – do not include your name or club on your entry

All photographs should be exposed correctly, mounted securely and cleanly

It is also most important that all photographs are relevant to the theme

Each photograph should be well composed, have impact and be of merit individually

Watch out for unnecessary clutter and distractions in the background i.e. telegraph poles, etc.

Allow plenty of time to take your photographs – good light is essential for best effect

Enjoy your photography

John Hardwick, Woolhope YFC.

Policies

Policies are an important part of the running of the County. Most members don't need to know them off by heart, but you should know that they are there to make the County run well for your benefit. The Management Committee deals with these, so you are in safe hands!

WHY HAVE POLICIES?

As a voluntary Youth Organisation, which is a charity, we are obliged by law to have standards and procedures that cover most of our activities.

We do have a Duty of Care to the membership.

Many funding applications will require policies in place prior to accepting an application for a grant or funding.

WHAT POLICIES HAVE BEEN ADOPTED AT HFYFC?

Child Protection

Health & Safety

Risk Assessment

Equal Opportunities

FUTURE POLICIES TO LOOK OUT FOR.....

Sexual Health Policy

Cyber Bullying Policy

Drug & Alcohol Policy

BRIGHT IDEA

If you have a suggestion for a policy, request it, it may help every other club too!!!

Christine Hope, Longtown YFC

Poultry Boning & Jointing

Wear a white coat and hat

BRING:

2 Chickens

A chopping board and 2 sharp knives (1 big and 1 small).

Polystyrene tray for display, cling film and labels.

Damp cloth to place between chopping board and table to prevent board from moving around.

Big needle (available from many cook shops) and string to sew the bird back together again.

Shiffing for boned bird to fill and make presentable.

Kitchen towel, to wipe hands.

Blue (food safety) plasters – just in case!

Oval doilies to display carcase wishbone.

Relax and enjoy it! Practice makes perfect. For more information contact County Office.

Don't be put off by this traditional competition. Due to lack of entries County tried to get it taken off the programme. However, it has seen a resurgence and is now one of the most popular competitions. Remember its all about good hygiene, and boning a chicken is a useful skill for later life!

Anna Lewis, Welsh Newton YFC.

Public Speaking

Don't worry about being nervous. Nerves are a good sign – just don't let them get the better of you.

Know the timings – how long you have to speak and how long your speech lasts. Time faults can make all the difference to results.

Start when you are ready – the audience has come to listen to you and they will wait for you. Gather your notes, move your chair back, stand up and take a breath – then start.

Hold your notes where you can look at them comfortably without moving your head. Don't worry about having to look at them – most people cannot remember a long speech word for word.

It's OK to gesture – it's natural. The important thing is not to let your body language show that you are nervous – say by shuffling.

Speak up – the audience have come to listen to you so make sure they can.

Remember the Three P's – Pitch, Pace and Pause.

A pause in the right place is worth a whole sentence and can score as many marks.

When the audience laughs at your joke, let them! Wait for them to finish before you carry on – you don't want them to miss the next thing you say.

Try to relax and don't forget to breathe.

When you aren't speaking – pay attention to the person who is (or at least make sure it looks like you are).

Don't forget to do your job – whether you are chairman, making the toast, or proposing a vote of thanks.

Chris Lloyd, Pontrilas YFC

Public Speaking - Braintrust

Designed for members to learn how to be able to create an interesting, informative and entertaining discussion on a given topic.

The Chairperson runs the meeting and where necessary provokes and directs the discussion.

Try and introduce humour where possible to maintain the audience's interest, but keep it clean!

The discussion should be balanced with equal participation from all three panel members.

The interaction of the panel members will be reduced if they all agree and have similar comments. So in order to get stimulating discussion, panel members should take opposing views, even if this goes against their own opinions.

All other public speaking protocols apply. That is: your own presentation, sit up, speak up and knowing when to shut up!

John Probert, Teme Valley YFC.

Reforming/revamping a club

Ross Young Farmers was a well established club in its day, but was sadly closed due to a lack of support and interest in the area at the time. However there was a burning desire in some of our associate member's hearts to reform this club and make it a huge success, their idea was formed over a glass of white wine!!

Here is how they did it!

Firstly it takes an enormous amount of dedication, motivation and enthusiasm from a team of people who are so dedicated to the cause that they sacrifice their job, families and social life for the weeks leading up to the reformation!! In these months and weeks leading up to re-opening, you must prepare the following; decide on which day of the week your club is going to meet, study other clubs and ask about their key to success, put together a fun and action packed programme to catch peoples eye, gain sponsorship, and advertise - but most importantly work as a team. Use parents as a huge resource and network of support. Some if not all of the following really need to be in place if you want any chance of survival.

Advertising and press releases. This is vital so that your local community are aware of what you are doing, when you are doing it and where you are doing it, with a feeling of inviting each individual to come along. Send out invitations to your sponsors and local families so that everyone feels part of it, a personal touch has proved very successful and companies and parents have continued to be supportive.

Sponsorship is a great way of getting some money in the bank and you would be surprised by how many local businesses are keen to support this sort of interest. The money also helps you to host an open day or party to get going on a high. Our money was also used further to provide facilities both fun and practical for our club house including a ping pong table and a pool table plus subsidising the membership for

Reforming/revamping a club cont

the first year. This cheap membership encouraged a lot of members to join – value for money!

You can also look at applying for a grant, this proved a success for us and funded the purchase of smart tables and chairs for our meetings plus a stage and dance floor which we now hire out for functions and are able to make money from, it also gives us immediate facilities to host functions ourselves with ease.

Hold an open day for all ages – we were very lucky, it was a blazing hot summers day and hundreds turned up to join in the fun. The atmosphere was brilliant and full of excitement, made by the couple of hundred people that turned up. We had a huge amount going on; tug of war, face painting, bouncy castles, laser clay shooting, sumo suits, bucking bronco and a bar for the seniors and parents... Fun for all the family!

One of the most important elements of reforming our club though, was the production of the annual programme to use as a selling point - but you must stick to it! Providing things of interest for both boys and girls, and all ages, with some farming and some non farm related visits / talks. This is especially important when re-forming a club because you need to appeal to the wider market as you are starting with effectively a members list of zero! You need people to sign up because they like the look of the activities coming up and really want to be part of the fun.

Once all the foundations are in place the rest follows fairly naturally as per a well established club although competitions are an enormous challenge to start with because no-one really knows what they are doing or what the standard is like, but we have learnt very quickly that this is Herefordshire Young Farmers and therefore the standard is always very high!

Risk Assessment

When holding any (even if its not YFC related!!!!!!) event you are legally required to produce and keep a record of a Risk Assessment - even for a club meeting. Risk assessments are the written evidence to show you have taken every precaution to keep yourself and the public safe. You can use the same/similar Risk Assessment provided it is still relevant. Just change the date.

Get a copy of the HFYFC Risk Assessment form. It is easy to fill in and the Training Committee can provide you with help to fill it in and every year there will be training you can attend to support you. This will show anyone you or your club has thought through any potential problems and risks.

Most venues have an incident/accident book. Always write in it, even if you just swept the floor but especially if you break something. It shows you are doing things properly and taking due care. Someone from the venue will check this and sign it. It will stand you in good stead to use the venue again and shows you are actively responsible. Enter any breakages or damages that are present before you start, (As well as the ones that happen during your event!) this is the whole point of risk assessments to make sure you provide a safe environment

Rich Thomas, Lugg Valley YFC

Safeguarding

Safe, Happy, Healthy, Valued, Respected, Trusted & Having Fun

Ensuring members in positions of “Trust” for example Club leaders are CRB checked and that they attend training in the area of Child Safeguarding

Confidentiality

If any member is in doubt about sharing information they hold in relation to young farmer members, seek advice from your County

Chairman

Be Aware when transporting younger members “under the age of 18” that the vehicle is roadworthy, seat belts are worn, and that you have the correct insurance. If it is necessary to transport someone alone this should be recorded and reported to your County Office and parents

ALL

Our members have a right to be treated with respect and dignity and the adults should not use any form of sarcasm, demeaning or insensitive comments, intimidation or bullying. NONE of these are acceptable in any situation

Photographs/Videos

Always ensure that the young person has agreed to the use of images involving them and that you also have parental permission to take and/or display photographs

Safeguarding *cont*

BE AWARE

Many young people don't feel able to talk about not feeling safe. It is up to all of us to keep an eye on each other.

Listen to each other and share your concerns.

Trips & Outings

Always undertake a risk assessment, have parental consent and ensure you have at least two adults (over 18) with you.

If you are worried, you might want to talk to someone you know and trust: This could be: a close friend, a parent, teacher, club leader, a neighbour or your designated County Child Protection Officer.

Who Else Can Help

Childline 0800 1111 (24 hours) free www.childline.org.uk

Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board 01432 260100

www.There4me.com – on line service – issues facing 12-16 year olds

www.childrenssociety.org.uk/youngcarers - young carers

www.bullying.co.uk Advice on bullying

www.kidscape.org.uk & keeping safe

www.rd4u.org.uk 0808 8081677 (free phone) bereavement

www.nspcc.org.uk

Police Protection Unit 08457 444888

Michelle Harrison, West Midland Area Field Officer

Stage Tips

SMILE – no audience likes to see a grumpy actor (unless the character demands it!) or someone who looks like they would rather be somewhere else

SPEAK UP – if the audience cannot hear what you are saying, there is little point in saying it

DEFINE YOUR CHARACTER – listen to your director for the character you are and stay in character at all times on stage – it keeps your mind focussed and makes the audience believe that you are that person!

SMILE – keep it up!

LEARN YOUR LINES – and your movements thoroughly. You can't act with a script in your hand

USE OF MICROPHONES – practice with a mic, hold it 5-8 cm away from your mouth, don't yell or whisper into it!

CREATE A PICTURE – theatre is fantasy and you and your fellow players are there to create a picture for the audience to believe and get involved in

LEVELS – using different levels creates visual impact that adds to the picture image

SMILE – even as the production comes to an end, you must keep up the enjoyment pretence

ENJOY YOURSELF – the audience want to be sucked into your production and have paid for entertainment – you can enhance that by enjoying yourself on stage too!

Sue Atkinson & Ann Drew, Golden Valley YFC

Stockjudging

DONT RUSH IN – you have your card and you are ready. Stand a good 3-4 metres back from the pen of stock. Get a good over view before you start.

TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS – when placing stock, your first gut feeling is usually the correct one.

IGNORE ALL YOUR FRIENDS – even if from your own club, you can only give your own reasons, so don't discuss them – the judge can always tell!

USE THE FACTS – number of teeth, bad feet or udders, excess fat etc are all factual points that cannot be argued and will help you to be sure in your own mind of your placings.

SAY WHAT YOU SEE – my favourite and it speaks for itself!

USE YOUR CARD – it is there to help you, so make sure that you put the same order on both. Get into the routine of making notes and not writing an essay.

DONT BE A HERO – don't volunteer for every stock judging class, no matter how keen you are! It gives little time to pause and you may mix technical terms up.

DONT FORGET - placings are only half your points. Even if you think that you have placed stock wrong, you can still redeem your marks with your reasons.

DONT FILL – don't make things up just to fill two minutes – one minute of accurate reasoning is better than two minutes of waffle.

TRY TO ENJOY IT!

Richard Sparey, Pontrilas YFC

Stockjudging *cont*

Ask for and attend a Club or County practice before the event.

Dress: shirt, tie and a clean, ironed white coat.

First impressions are usually best, try not to change your mind for the sake of it.

Don't listen to any other competitors as empty cans make the most noise!

Card Layout: After handling the stock construct your reasons in an orderly fashion of head to tail for each animal. Leaving a small gap or line between each.

Before handing in your placing card to the steward write your order on your reasons card.

Keep up to date with modern trends, housewife demands and terminology. You also require the correct terminology for the stock you are judging as it detracts from your reasons e.g. breast, brisket.

Your reasons must be comparative rather than descriptive e.g. best, fuller, larger, rounder, poorer, weaker and lacking... never say good or nice!

Take advantage of the period between handling the stock and delivering your reasons. Time yourself and fill the 2 minutes with the most valuable accurate observations.

You must believe you are right to portray an air of confidence (not arrogance) in the way you approach the judge, stand and deliver your reasons.

Be there when the judge gives their reasons to listen and learn for another event. Don't be afraid to ask a question.

Russell Watkins, Craswall YFC.

Woodwork & Table Making

Don't rush – Rome wasn't built in a day.

Have a clean and spacious workspace.

Allow time for the table making competition. Varnish needs 12hrs between coats to get the best effect.

Have sharp tools (saws, chisels etc).

Mark everything out first – measure twice, cut once!

Get your ideas down on paper for the woodwork competition (Plan!)

Don't be worried about asking for help and ideas.

Have a practice before the competition, to find out how you will do it, time scale, to get your templates made, work out finishing touches, check your plan works.

Always read the rules thoroughly, and follow them!

Do as shown on the plan and if improving the item do it around the plan given.

Most of all work safely and have fun doing so.

Josh Best, Dilwyn YFC.

YFC Member Tips

BELONG – as well as joining a locally based club, you have also joined with a national organisation with over 22,000 members

BE INVOLVED – as a member of your club, you have a say in how it is run as well as a voice at county and national level too

FEEL INCLUDED – the YFC movement is totally inclusive; race, creed, background, disabilities – there is nothing to stop anyone being part of the movement

SETTLE INTO IT – many new members are a bit over awed at the breadth and depth of the YFC movement. Once settled as a member, help newcomers settle in too

SUPPORT – your club thrives on involvement from all of its members, especially those prepared to muck in and help. Be a ‘doer’ not a ‘watcher’

BE UP FOR IT – YFC offers its members a whole raft of activities, some you’ll not have come across before. Those who dive in and have a go, get the most back from being in a YFC club

RESPONSIBILITY – we all have to be responsible some time in our life, it’s just knowing when! Young Farmers have a reputation for getting out of control. Know your limits and never do anything you just know you are going to regret

FINDING OUT – use all the resources of your club and the county office to fulfil your potential in YFC. Only you can do this, it’s your call

ENCOURAGEMENT – if you have ever been encouraged to take part in an activity that you weren’t sure about but did it and enjoyed it, get round a fellow club member and get them involved too!

ENJOYMENT – YFC will give you skills for life, friends for life and experiences for life. Never be afraid to enjoy it too much!





HEREFORDSHIRE FEDERATION OF YOUNG FARMERS' CLUBS

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