

TIPS FOR DEMONSTRATIONS ABOUT ANIMALS

Adapted from guide M - 4- 6

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Giving demonstration may well be one of the most rewarding undertakings of your 4-H project work; it will give you an opportunity to learn how to express yourself before others with confidence and poise. Actually, it will be fun because you will be learning with friends who have similar interests. No matter what type of work you do as an adult, you will need to express yourself to groups of people. Learning how to talk before an audience will be much easier while you are in 4-H than later in your life.

A Demonstration or Illustrated Talk

Your presentation can either be a demonstration or an illustrated talk. Topics that lend themselves to illustrated talks are usually easier to select than those for demonstration. Moreover, they can usually be covered in a more comprehensive way, and for this reason are likely to be more interesting to an audience.

A demonstration is a presentation in which you actually *show how to do* something. Subjects might be "How to assemble a milking machine," or "How to clean a horse's hoof." The main object is to *teach* others how to do what you demonstrate.

An illustrated talk is a presentation *teaching* others about something. Illustrated talks are actually short lectures. Two possible subjects are "Guides for selecting a horse," and "The life cycle of the heel fly."

Sometimes you may want to combine an illustrated talk and a demonstration in one presentation. In this case, show how to do something and at the same time explain why certain details are important. A topic such as "Using your dairy records" can be appropriately presented this way.

Planning Your Presentation

First select your topic. It should be a subject about which you know something, and which is not too difficult for a person of your age and experience. However, it should be challenging and make you learn new things; it should be interesting and important enough to give you a feeling of accomplishment when you have finished it.

For a first year member the topic should be a fairly simple one, such as "The parts of a dog," or "How to Groom a Horse." The second year a more difficult topic may be selected, or perhaps a similar one may be given in more detail. Examples are: "Stalls for young calves," or "The gaits of a horse." Third and fourth

year members can cope with topics that require special study, such as “The value of farm records” or “How to shoe a horse.” Information for this level of presentation will not be as generally available as that for the more simple topics. Each year of experience and demonstration will enable a member to undertake more difficult topics.

Because you need time to seek out the information, you should select your topic long before you plan to present it; perhaps the best time is immediately after county demonstration day, when ideas are fresh in your mind. Find out as much about your subject as you can by using reference books and extension bulletins, and by talking with people of experience. To be prepared to answer questions from an audience, you will need to be informed about recent advances, and to know that your information is correct.

After gathering the information, you should prepare an outline to help you organize your material in logical sequence. **The three main parts to be worked out are 1) the introduction, 2) the body, 3) the summary.**

The introduction, which should be limited to two minutes, should describe what you are going to do and why. It should arouse the interest of the audience by making them feel that the information they are about to receive is valuable.

The following procedure may be used:

1. Greet the audience.
2. Tell what you are going to talk about or do.
3. Tell why you are interested in the subject and why you think the audience will be, too.
4. Tell them about the practical, economic, or esthetic value of your subject.

The body of your presentation should include your main points- the main steps in a show-how demonstration, or the main ideas in an illustrated talk. Under each major point you should list two or three supporting items. The body of your talk should be about eight minutes in length.

The summary allows you to show your completed work or relate briefly what you have tried to teach or show. This is also the time to tell your audience where you learned your information. You do not have to show the books or bulletins but you should give titles and authors mentioned. The final step in your presentation is to thank the audience for their interest and attention and ask if they have any questions. The summary will be most effective if you keep it to about one minute. Your total presentation should not exceed 8 -12 minutes.

Assembling Your Materials

After you have prepared your outline, you should assemble all the models, equipment, and aids that you need and be sure they are in good operating order. Do not use too many items. Do not use any piece of equipment unless it really

adds to the presentation and when it is not in use, keep it out of sight of the audience. It is not necessary to use a live animal in your demonstration. As a matter of fact, it is usually better if you do not. This is especially true with horses. Use your imagination and work out a substitute.

Next you should design and prepare your posters/ charts. Both demonstrations and illustrated talks need at least a title chart. On most occasions, you will want to use the following:

1. A title poster- short catchy titles are very effective.
2. An introductory poster to stimulate interest.
3. A poster for every main idea. Sometimes two or three ideas can be combined on one chart. (Be careful not to put too much on one poster.)
4. A summary poster giving a clear, short list of the main points.

Your posters should be as clear and attractive as possible. Letters should be neat, big enough (1-2 inches) and heavy enough to be seen readily at 30 feet. Felt tip markers, lettering guides, and the proper kinds of cardboard or paper can be obtained at most art supply or craft stores. Dark red and green colors used along with the traditional black helps make posters more attractive. Make sure you spell every word correctly. For an illustrated talk you should have enough posters so you will not have to use any one for more than a few minutes.

The Presentation

Always keep in mind that the primary reason you are giving this presentation is to *teach* others either *how to do something or about something*. When you give your presentation at the county or district presentation program, you will be judged on your effectiveness as a teacher. In order to be an effective teacher, there are a few basic rules you must follow.

1. Dress neatly. It is not necessary to dress as though you were going to do the particular job you are demonstrating. For example: When shoeing a horse or dehorning a calf you would not wear your best trousers and a white shirt and tie. However, such clothing would be very appropriate when giving a demonstration where the live animal was not used.
2. Show interest and enthusiasm. Be pleasant, but businesslike.
3. Speak clearly and easily, in a well modulated voice.
4. Have your presentation well in mind but do not memorize it.
5. Avoid long pauses; do not say "uh" and "er"; avoid excessive use of "a" and "and." Keep a continuous flow of discussion, especially during parts of a demonstration that otherwise might be dull.
6. Do not distract your audience with nervous mannerisms. (Button pulling, pointer bending, poor posture, etc.).
7. Use a pointer with the hand nearest your posters so you can always face you audience. Look at your audience.
8. Be ready to answer questions. If you do know the answer, do not be afraid to say so.

SAMPLE TOPICS

Dairy Topics

Registering a Holstein calf
Blanketing a cow
Clipper care
Show box supplies
Dehorning dairy calves
Judging dairy cows
Clipping a calf for show
Feeding a calf
Calf pens
Cleaning a milking machine
Identification of calves
Keep a growth chart
Dairy gains
A balanced ration
How much grain
Quality Hay
Cut hay in May
The Herringbone rapid ext
Off flavors of milk
Good silage
TDN of hay
Protein supplements
Vitamins A & D
The mineral box
Composition of milk
How to select a dairy cow
Keeping a 4-H calf record
Sampling milk for DHIA records
Mastitis costs
A maternity pen
Pick carefully for profit
Testing milk
Vaccination- Valid, Vital, Valuable
Five breeds of cattle
Does type have value?
It's calving time
Care of springing heifers
Planned matings
Type classification
Comfort stalls, free stalls, comfort bedding barns
Feeding requirements
What's in a bale of hay?
Feed heifers hay in the summer

Livestock Topics

Identification of Livestock
Major diseases
Saving orphans
Inherited traits in livestock

Sheep breeds
Care of the ewe and lamb
How to judge lambs
How to block a lamb
Shearing skills
How to sharpen shears
Care of a fleece

Modern beef breeds
The cuts of beef
Feeding steers
Halter breaking calves
Rope halters made right
Making money with vealers
Preparing a beef steer for show
Cattle loading

Swine breeds
The meat type hog
Saving little pigs
Swine sanitation
Ear notching
Swine testing

Dog Obedience Topics

Parts of a dog
Care of newborn puppies
Heeling
Your puppies' health
The stay exercise
Healthy ears
Emergency muzzle
Grooming your dog
The best dog for you
Discipline is a must
Working dogs
The Sheep Dog
Labrador Retrievers (or any other breed of dog)
Evolution of a dog

Horse Topics

Western riding apparel
English riding apparel
Preparing for horse for show
The overnight trail ride
Rope Magic
Grooming a horse
Cleaning of an English saddle
Parts of a horse
Horse physique
No hoof- no horse
Know what you are buying
Parts of a saddle
Let's dress right
Soap your saddle
Know your colors
Tips for trail riders
Your working stable
Emergency rope halter
Stable management
Clean feet
Bits and biting
Selecting a horse that fits
Safety around horses
Botflies
Care of legs and feet
Horses of the desert
Eight strand braid
Common stable vices
Unsoundness of legs
Saddle, past and present
Sitting the saddle
Leads
Determining a horse's age
The talking horse
Horse shoes of interest
Balanced feeding
Tooth Tales
Elbow Grease
Parasites in horses
Horse jumps
The Head, Key to a horse
Breeding and Foaling time
Horse sense
Skeletal Structure
Trimming the Hoof