

2018 JC Rancher's Choice Essay Questions:

Dr. Jeff Goodwin spoke to the Jackson County 4-H and FFA youth this past December about livestock show ethics and quality assurance. Both the ethics and cattle industry questions will come from that presentation. Please read the card that was given to you with this information before writing your essays. Essays will be turned in with your record book at fair.

MINIMUM WORDS PER ESSAY: Junior 250, Intermediate 350, Senior 450

Ethics Question:

Everyone: After reading the six questions you should ask yourself to determine if a practice is ethical or unethical from Dr. Goodwin explain what the word ethics means to you in regard to your 4-H Beef project.

Junior – What do the initials “FDA” stand for and what does the organization do? Why is it important to follow their guidelines?

Intermediate– In what ways is raising a market steer for a livestock show different than real world agriculture? Explain the difference between an act being in opposition to real world agriculture (unethical) and simply being different than real world agriculture (ethical).

Senior– Make up a scenario with your steer that would violate each of the six questions you should ask yourself when considering whether an action is ethical or unethical and explain why it is a violation of each question (unethical).

Cattle Industry Question:

Everyone: After reading the five links in the chain of food production explain why each of these links are important in strengthening wholesome food production.

Junior– Explain what can happen to the meat when you give a steer a shot in the muscle. Where is the best place to give a shot and where should you never give them a shot?

Intermediate– Why is proper nutrition important in raising your steer and what impact does it have on the quality of the meat your steer will produce? Share a real life example of what poor nutrition can do to a final product.

Senior – Choose a disease or condition that you need to treat your steer for. Find a label from any medication that you would use to treat your steer and read it. Include a copy of it with your essay. What does it say is the route of administration, the withdrawal time before slaughter, and is it approved to give to your steer? Explain why it is unethical to use medications that are not labeled for use in cattle on cattle.