



## Examples of Conference Evaluation Questions for Agriculture and Natural Resources

Open questions can help enrich the discussion between the 4-H'er and the evaluator. The first word of certain open questions partially determine how the 4-H'er will respond. Four standard questions are printed in bold below. In addition, you'll want to ask specific questions based on the 4-H'ers goal.

As you work with young, beginning members "what" questions help get at their knowledge level. As members mature in age and experience, "how" and "why" questions become more important in helping members think about processes and the reasons for carrying out certain practices.

Some examples follow.

What questions most often lead to facts.

1. **What was your goal?**
2. **What were the most important thing/s you learned?**
3. **What ideas or plans do you have for the future based on what you learned or discovered?**
4. What equipment did you use to give your dog a bath?
5. What kinds of birds were you trying to attract to your bird feeder?

How questions often lead to a discussion about processes or sequences or to feelings.

1. **How did you go about working toward your goal?**
2. How did you go about giving your dog a bath?
3. How else could you control weeds in your garden?
4. How could the increase in milk production be explained?
5. How else could you attract birds to your yard?
6. How do you think you will need to manage your tree planting in the future?

Why questions often lead to a discussion of reasons.

1. Why did you give your dog a bath?
2. Why is weed control important in growing corn?
3. Why did you choose to make the artificial lure look like that?

Could questions may result in a variety of answers and do allow the 4-H'er to say "No, I don't know or I don't want to talk about that."

1. Could you give me a specific example of a weed you are trying to control?
2. Could you tell me more about your own experience of growing radishes?
3. Could you give me some examples of insects you would like to encourage or see more of in your area?