

EQM 399	 University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs <small>College of Agriculture, Food and Environment</small>
Equine Science & Management Internship Course	
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Internship Interview Assignment

The purpose of this assignment is to get you familiar with your supervisor and placement site. The overall objective is to help you identify the roles and responsibilities within the type of job you have, the potential for future career plans, identifying issues that affect that area of the industry and also identify a potential project you could develop through your role as an intern and see-through implementation.

Interview Transcript and Reflection – 25 points

1. Submit a brief transcript from your interview. 5 points
2. Write a one-page reflection (12 point font, double or single spaced, no larger) on what your key take away points were from the interview. – 15 points
3. Thoughts and ideas for your project development plan as a part of this course or if you will be conducting an issue analysis. – 5 points

Transcript

What is your background in horses? Have you always known you'd end up working with horses?

- Grew up with horses and started showing at a young age
- Moved to Kentucky from Maryland to go to UK and majored in agriculture
- Originally planned to be an extension agent for 4H
- While attending classes, she was actively involved with the Equestrian Team and Judging Team
- Worked at Midway and other places
- Worked for a barn where she didn't agree with the management style and realized she could do the same thing for herself

When did you start this business up? How did you do it? Why?

- Did not plan to work with horses, but after realizing she could do it herself and wanted to continue to ride she started looking
- First rented at Lakeside, then at Hodge, and then at Manly farm which was good but didn't have an indoor
- After a family member passing their farm was sold, Joyce's mother got $\frac{1}{4}$ of the sale which was put into the place she has now

How did you become a trainer? Judge?

- Both through experience
- Started to build up credibility at local shows

Who is your hay supplier? How did you go about finding them?

- Square bales are from a friend, the deal started as a trade for training
- Round bales are currently traded for a horse to board

How did you choose your grain?

- Used to use Purina when she showed because you could find it anywhere, but it was getting expensive
- Tribute offered to sponsor and she honestly likes it better

Where do you go to acquire new horses (to buy and/or lease)?

- From friends to borrow for the season
- Just donated
- On loan when people don't have time for them
- Found online (Craiglist)
- Retired show horses are good as beginner horses for light work

Do you have a certain routine to training new horses?

- Evaluating process of where to start and basics is the same
- Every horse is different so time and additional things vary

Who handles your social media? What do you have? What works best?

- Used to have someone for her website, but didn't like it so made her own
- Most active on Instagram
- Also has a Facebook (most contact is here), Twitter, YouTube, and now TikTok

How do you classify your barn? How did you decide on your rates?

- "Working barn," not as fancy as a show barn
- Rates determined on looking and comparing in the area as well as what is offered

Reflection

I am surprised at how much Joyce moved around and what she has tried when she never thought she would end up with her own business. Through her experiences she has learned to ride many different disciplines and has made many professional connections. As a learner, I really appreciate her willingness to teach and show me everything she knows as well as get me connected with others. No matter how crazy the offer might be, I should always take the opportunity to try something new. It is very reassuring to know that not everyone is biased to a discipline and accepting of me that I am a hunt seat rider as well as in the rodeo.

Joyce is a very honest and upfront person which I appreciate she isn't making everything sound easy to accomplish. Another main takeaway is that this industry really is made by connections. Even though we have learned it in class I just have never realized how much you need to know people to get feed and horses and build credibility.

The other main takeaway is that Joyce did not have any special certification process to go through to become a trainer for her place or local judge. I have had a different seasonal barn job every year since high school because I want as much different experience and viewpoints as possible and I am happy to know that I am not the only one that has not stuck to a place even though it was a good job just because there is so much out there.

We discussed what I will be doing and decided I can be the lesson barn manager on the weekends. My hours I am there are only consistent to turning out and brining in, while any other time I am there varies from when I work with horses by myself or shadow lessons during the week. As my internship progresses, we are going to set aside time to go over feedings in more detail as well as some of the financial aspects. I know that the main reason she has that facility was from her family inheritance and I do worry myself about how to build up finances.

Thoughts

- Make a lesson book binder
 - Horses: appearance, behavior, riding difficulty
 - Tack: what is needed, what pads to use
 - Crop/Spur Optional
 - Leg wraps: if only needed to jump or not at all
- Figure out how to make the gate areas not so mucky and dangerous
 - Moving gates uphill
 - Solidifying ground (gravel or a slab?)