



Agriculture Scenarios

Student Workbook



Name: _____

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Problem-solving

Scenario

Scenario: The farm you work on has about 20 calves housed in hutches, and you are responsible for feeding them. You are feeding the calves one bottle and bucket at a time, and it takes you over an hour to complete this task. With current employee losses, you are being asked to do more than what you were previously asked and are finding it hard to get everything done. You would like to find a more efficient way to feed and water the calves. While digging through the feed room, you find an old pasteurizer tank. After talking to your boss, he agrees to let you use the tank and gives you free rein on calf feeding (i.e. you can do what you need to do as long as the health of the calves is not compromised). You decide to create a portable water tank by mounting the pasteurizer tank on the back of an ATV and adding a nozzle. This allows you to fill all the calf water buckets at the same time. Additionally, a large bucket on the front of the ATV filled with starter feed allows you to fill all the feed buckets at the same time.

Points of view to consider:

You

Your boss

Answer the following key questions:

1. How do you think your boss felt when you asked to create a device that would ultimately do the job you were asked to do quicker?
2. How will this contraption help you in the long run?
3. What benefits come from taking the time to problem solve?

Problem-solving

Organizer

Use the 7 steps to problem-solving to solve the problem in the scenario.

1. Problem	4. Evaluate the options <u>Pros</u> <u>Cons</u>
2. Other points of view	
3. Options	
	5. Solution
	6. Documentation and steps to implementation
7. Evaluation and monitoring	

Teamwork

Scenario

Scenario: After working on a farm in many conditions for a few years now, you have learned that you cannot do all the jobs on the farm by yourself. When you take on too many tasks your stress levels rise and you become short-tempered. To better manage your stress, you need to get some help. At the next staff meeting, you discuss how to get the jobs done more efficiently by working together.

Points of view to consider:

You

Your coworkers

Your boss

Answer the following key questions:

1. How can teamwork help get things done on a farm?
2. How can teamwork help reduce the stress that certain members of the farm are feeling?
3. Why is it important to feel like you work in a team environment?

Teamwork

Characteristics of Effective Teams

Think about the characteristics that teams should have in order to be effective. In our scenario, all of the employees on the farm are a team. Here are eight characteristics of effective teams to consider. For each of the eight, identify what the team members should do to demonstrate this characteristic.

1. The team must have a clear goal.
2. The team must have competent, knowledgeable team members.
3. The team must be collaborative, with all members being honest, open, and respectful of other members.
4. The team must have a unified focus and commitment.

Teamwork

Characteristics of Effective Teams

5. The team should have a results-driven structure.
6. The team must have high expectations that are understood by everyone.
7. The team should receive support and encouragement from external sources.
8. The team must have an effective leader who works for the good of the team.

Communication

Scenario

Scenario: Every month your boss requires you to attend an all-staff meeting. At these meetings, you discuss what has been going on around the farm, including things you have noticed or things you think should be improved upon. These staff meetings are a time for everyone to discuss farm operations and come up with solutions to problems.

Points of view to consider:

You

Your boss

Your coworkers

Answer the following key questions:

1. Why is it important to get all of the staff in the room at the same time?
2. What value is there in having all of the staff share ideas?
3. What can the boss do to ensure the meeting does not become a “blame game” scenario?

Communication

Nonverbal Communication Activity

The scenario primarily focused on the impact of personality on communication in the workplace. Consider how you can use nonverbal communication with coworkers to convey how you are feeling. What messages could you be sending with your body language?

Write a brief statement of how each of the following could be used in this scenario to communicate with the coworker, including a supervisor. (Example: Clenched fists may show anger or minimal eye contact may signal lack of confidence)

Eye contact:

Facial expression:

Posture:

Handshake:

Personal space:

Vocal tone:



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