

Interview with Makenna Barker

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Maniscalco: Today is August 14, 2008. We are standing the 4-H building and we're standing here with Makenna. How are you doing?

Barker: Good.

Maniscalco: Great, great. Now Makenna tell us your age and date of birth to start out.

Barker: Umm. I'm twelve; I was born January 30th of '96.

Maniscalco: Great, and where do you live?

Barker: Lewistown.

Maniscalco: Lewistown, alright. Now we're here in the 4-H building; you just got judged. Can you tell us a little bit about your project?

Barker: Umm, this is my horticulture project. My grandma and grandpa have a garden so they helped me with it. All these vegetables are home grown.

Maniscalco: Great. So what's special, what's the real special ones in there that you're proud of?

Barker: Umm, this one.

Maniscalco: That one? What is that?

Barker: That's a golden hubbard squash.

Maniscalco: Okay, and what did you have to do to make sure it was the best?

Barker: Well, we had three of them and it was the cleanest and the prettiest.

Maniscalco: Okay, so what makes it the prettiest? What makes it look the best?

Baker: Well the others had bumps and bruises and everything all over them and this had the pretty little ring around it.

Maniscalco: When you get done with your project today are you going to bring that home and eat it, or?

Baker: Probably.

Maniscalco: Probably. Are you looking forward to that?

Baker: Yeah

Maniscalco: Alright. What other vegetables do you have in there?

Baker: Texas Super Sweet Onions, Walla Walla's, [sweet onions], Beef Master tomatoes, Golden Yukon Potatoes, and Kentucky Pole Beans.

Maniscalco: Now you did this as a project for 4-H. What did you have to do to make sure it was a project for 4-H?

Baker: Well, we enrolled for horticulture in 4-H...

Maniscalco: Ok.

Baker: ...because they had a big garden so they could help me with it.

Maniscalco: Did you have to keep track of things or...?

Baker: Umhuh, yeah

Maniscalco: What sorts of things were you keeping track of?

Baker: Keeping track of, making sure all of the vegetables were uniform and that we had enough of them to use.

Maniscalco: Oh really? Oh wow, okay. So how big was the garden?

Baker: Their garden is pretty big.

Maniscalco: Do you have any idea of the size? Give me a number or..

Baker: It's..no

Maniscalco: No, it's just real big.

Baker: It's big

Maniscalco: So was it a lot of work?

Barker: Yeah, kind of, but it was fun.

Maniscalco: What were some of the jobs you had to do?

Barker: Cleaning all the vegetables, and the hardest part was arranging them in the basket.

Maniscalco: Oh arranging them was pretty hard. What about while they were in the garden? Any specific chores and anything you had to do?

Barker: Well, we had to get them up out of there, digging them, pulling them, getting the weeds out from them.

Maniscalco: Was there a lot of weeding?

Barker: Uhummm, there was a lot of weeding.

Maniscalco: Great, what about fertilizers and things? Did you use fertilizers or..?

Barker: Not really. Grandpa and I used straw for our potatoes so that helps them.

Maniscalco: And you said you had to do a lot of weeding? Did it get pretty bad at sometimes?

Barker: Not really bad, but we just wanted to keep them safe.

Maniscalco: Now you know, it rained a lot this year. Was that a problem?

Barker: No, it wasn't a bad problem.

Maniscalco: Not at all?

Barker: Hmm-umManiscalco: Really?

Barker: Not too much

Maniscalco: Oh wow. So tell us about your involvement in 4-H. What sorts of things have you done?

Barker: I was in a lot of projects this year, some of which I didn't do, because there was so many. I used to show cattle, in 4-H. Then we quit that, so now I'm doing horticulture.

Maniscalco: Great. So what kind of cattle did you show?

Barker: Angus.

Maniscalco: Angus. And why did you end up quitting?

Barker: Well, it was just a lot of work.

Maniscalco: It was a lot of work.

Barker: A lot of work.

Maniscalco: Well what was the hardest part about it?

Barker: Breaking the calves to lead...

Maniscalco: Really?

Barker: ...trying to lead it by the rope.

Maniscalco: Really? Well how did you do that?

Barker: Put the halter on it and lead it around the yard.

Maniscalco: Oh, okay

Barker: Sometimes it decided to be stubborn and didn't want to go.

Maniscalco: What would happen then?

Barker: We twisted its tail and then it went.

Maniscalco: [laughs] That works, huh?

Barker: Yup.

Maniscalco: Ok. What were some of the fun parts that you miss doing about cattle projects?

Barker: Umm, I liked, I liked, cleaning them, giving them a bath actually.

Maniscalco: Oh really?

Barker: Uh huh.

Maniscalco: Good.

Barker: I liked that and brushing them.

Maniscalco: Can you tell us how you did that?

Barker: Washing them?

Maniscalco: Yeah.

- Barker: Yeah. The hose. They just have special soap you use, shampoo and stuff. And you brush them out while you're washing them. Just a regular hose and soap.
- Maniscalco: Great. Now what about 4-H. Is 4-H through your school?
- Barker: Unh uh
- Maniscalco: No. It's after school
- Barker: Yup. It's usually at 6 o'clock on Mondays.
- Maniscalco: Great. And what do you do?
- Barker: We have the meeting and they cover all the points and stuff of what we've done, and then they tell us what we're enrolled in.
- Maniscalco: Oh, So you have to give an update on your project then? On a weekly basis?
- Barker: Yup.
- Maniscalco: Oh wow.
- Barker: It's every, well, it's just once a week, once a month, I mean.
- Maniscalco: Once a month, okay.
- Barker: Every Monday.
- Maniscalco: Well what sorts of thing would you report?
- Barker: That the garden is doing great and the vegetables are very nice.
- Maniscalco: Great. And what about some of the other kids? What were some of the other projects that they did?
- Barker: Um, some of them did dogs in shows, and cats,
- Maniscalco: Really?
- Barker: So they talked about their dogs and cats.
- Maniscalco: That's cool. So what do you think you are going to do for your future projects?
- Barker: Probably flowers. Probably horticulture.
- Maniscalco: Really, and will you grow them in the garden then?
- Barker: Uh huh

Maniscalco: Oh wow. That will be cool, that'll be cool. I'm sure we are going to look forward to that. So do you know how you did in the contest yet?

Barker: Not yet.

Maniscalco: Not yet. When will you find out?

Barker: Probably at nine or a little after.

Maniscalco: Ok, well great. Have you been at the fair all week?

Barker: Nope this is the first day.

Maniscalco: This is the first day? Are you going to be able to do any of the other stuff that's around here?

Barker: Yup.

Maniscalco: What are you looking forward to doing?

Barker: The Conservation World.

Maniscalco: Conservation World. Why?

Barker: Umm, because my friend told me you can make candles and stuff there, and watch the people ride on the log in the water.

Maniscalco: Great. So are a lot of the kids in your school involved in the 4-H?

Barker: Not a lot, no.

Maniscalco: No? How many do you think there would be?

Barker: Probably just a handful out of my grade.

Maniscalco: A handful? Really. How about some of the other grades?

Barker: Not very many.

Maniscalco: Not very many at all? I guess you're kinda special then out of your school that you get todo this.

Barker: Yeah, our, our 4-H club is out in Checkrow(?) I'm the only Lewistown there.

Maniscalco: Really?

Barker: Umhmm.

Maniscalco: Wow. Who's the person in charge? Is it a teacher, is it--?

Barker: It's just a 4-H leader, Sharon Spangler.

Maniscalco: Ok and what is she. I mean, what does she do besides run the meetings and stuff? Does she help you with our projects and stuff?

Barker: She does sometimes.

Maniscalco: What kind of things did she help you with on this project?

Barker: She said that I really should do it, because she knew my grandma and grandpa had a really big garden and it would be fun, because she's done it before.

Maniscalco: Did she give you any other advice?

Barker: No not really.

Maniscalco: She just said 'Go to it'?

Barker: Yup.

Maniscalco: Great. So who in your family helped you with your project?

Barker: My grandma and grandpa

Maniscalco: Your grandma and grandpa mostly.

Barker: Yeah

Maniscalco: Did your mom or your brother help you at all?

Barker: My mom helped too.

Maniscalco: Your mom helped too.

Barker: My brother got in the way

Maniscalco: [laughs] Your brother got in the way.

Barker: Yes

Maniscalco: Great, well thank you very much for doing this.

Baker: Thank you.

Maniscalco: They look tasty.