

## Commodity Grader Interview Questions

1. Describe the process of Inspecting food products and processing procedures to determine whether products are safe to eat.

2. What is your approach when Interpreting and enforcing government acts and regulations and explain required standards to agricultural workers.

3. Explain how you advise farmers or growers of development programs or new equipment or techniques to aid in quality production.

4. Share an experience where you provided consultative services in areas such as equipment or product evaluation, plant construction or layout, or food safety systems.

5. Walk me through how you review and monitor foreign product inspection systems in countries of origin to ensure equivalence to the U.S. system.

6. What methods do you use when comparing product recipes with government-approved formulas or recipes to determine acceptability.

7. Share your approach to examine, weigh, and measure commodities, such as poultry, eggs, meat, or seafood to certify qualities, grades, and weights.

8. Tell me about how to set labeling standards and approve labels for meat or poultry products.

9. Describe an experience where you had to inquire about pesticides or chemicals to which animals may have been exposed.

10. Describe what method you use to direct or monitor the quarantine and treatment or destruction of plants or plant products.

11. Explain how you set standards for the production of meat or poultry products or for food ingredients, additives, or compounds used to prepare or package products.

12. Share an experience where you Inspected livestock to determine effectiveness of medication or feeding programs.

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13. Explain ways to label and seal graded products and issue official grading certificates.

14. Share with me what process you use to monitor the grading performed by company employees to verify conformance to standards.

15. Describe an experience where you took emergency actions, such as closing production facilities where product safety was compromised.

16. Share what system you have in place to monitor the operations and sanitary conditions of slaughtering or meat processing plants. What has worked so far?

17. In your opinion, how often should you inspect the cleanliness and practices of establishment employees?

18. Describe your approach to writing reports of findings and recommendations and advise farmers, growers, or processors of corrective action to be taken.

19. Walk me through how you collect samples from animals, plants, or products and route them to laboratories for microbiological assessment, ingredient verification, or other testing.

20. Share with me how you verify that transportation and handling procedures meet regulatory requirements.

21. Expound on what method you use to inspect or test horticultural products or livestock to detect harmful diseases, chemical residues, or infestations and to determine the quality of products or animals.

22. Please describe what procedures you use to inspect agricultural commodities or related operations, as well as fish or logging operations, for compliance with laws and regulations governing health, quality, and safety.

23. Share an experience you had in dealing with a difficult person and how you handled the situation.

24. Share an experience in which you successfully shared a difficult piece of information. (Make sure that the candidate has open lines of communication.)

25. Tell me how you organize, plan, and prioritize your work.

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26. Share an experience when you applied new technology or information in your job. How did it help your company?

27. In your experience, what is the key to ensuring your company was compliant with all laws, regulations and standards that were applicable to your area of responsibility?

28. What have you found to be the best way to monitor the performance of your work and/or the work of others? Share a time when you had to take corrective action.

29. Share an experience in which you conducted a test of a product, service, or process and successfully improved the quality or performance.

30. Provide an example when your ethics were tested.

31. How do you stay fit in order to perform physical activities that are required in the workplace?

32. Share an example of when you went above and beyond the "call of duty". (Look for answers that show the candidate is dependable.)

33. Tell me about the last time you monitored or reviewed information and detected a problem. How did you respond?

34. Share an experience in which your attention to detail and thoroughness had an impact on your last company.

35. Tell me about a time when you developed your own way of doing things or were self-motivated to finish an important task.

36. Name a time when your patience was tested. How did you keep your emotions in check?

37. Share an experience in which your diligence of inspecting equipment, structures, or materials helped you identify a problem or the cause of a problem.

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38. Share a time when you willingly took on additional responsibilities or challenges. How did you successfully meet all of the demands of these responsibilities? (Make sure the candidate is a self-starter and can demonstrate some initiative.)
39. Name a time when your advice to management led to an improvement in your company or otherwise helped your employer.
40. Would you consider analyzing data or information a strength? How so?
41. Share an experience in which your ability to consider the costs or benefits of a potential action helped you choose the most appropriate action.
42. Provide a time when you were able to identify a complex problem, evaluate the options, and implement a solution. How did the solution benefit your employer?
43. Share an experience in which your understanding of a current or upcoming problem helped your company to respond to the problem.
44. Provide a time when you worked in a rapidly evolving workplace. How did you deal with the change? (Make sure the candidate is flexible.)
45. Provide a time when you dealt calmly and effectively with a high-stress situation.
46. Provide an example of when you were persistent in the face of obstacles.
47. Provide an experience in which you were sensitive to someone's needs or feelings. How did your helpfulness affect your work environment?
48. Share an example of when you established and accomplished a goal that was personally challenging. What helped you succeed?
49. Share an experience in which your willingness to lead or offer an opinion helped your company.
50. Share an experience in which you successfully coordinated with others. How about a coordination effort

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that was not as successful?

51. Provide an example of a time when you successfully organized a diverse group of people to accomplish a task.

52. Provide an example of when you set expectations and monitored the performance of subordinates. What guidance and direction did you find most effective?

53. Please share with me an example of how you helped coach or mentor someone. What improvements did you see in the person's knowledge or skills?

54. Tell me about your qualifications for and your experience handling vehicles and/or mechanized equipment.

55. Give me an example of when you thought outside of the box. How did it help your employer?

56. Provide an experience in which your ability to actively find ways to help people improved your company or your own work ethic.

57. Please share an experience in which you successfully taught a difficult principle or concept. How were you able to be successful?

58. Describe a time when you successfully persuaded another person to change his/her way of thinking or behavior.

59. Share an experience in which personal connections to coworkers or others helped you to be successful in your work. (Make sure candidate works well with others.)

60. Provide an example when you were able to prevent a problem because you foresaw the reaction of another person.

61. What are some long-range objectives that you developed in your last job? What did you do to achieve them?

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62. Tell me about your last experience recruiting, interviewing, or hiring an employee. What techniques did you find most effective in finding the right person for the job?