

Conducting a semi-structured interview
Lesson 3 On the spot auto-evaluation

Model Answer – Exercise: Taking notes during an interview

REMINDER OF THE INSTRUCTIONS

Using a short video extract from an interview conducted in Larzac (sheep farming region, France) you will:

- a) Listen to a sound track and take notes verbatim.
- b) Time yourself; this will be useful for the last exercise.

MODEL ANSWER

The main problems are the price of lambs and marketing. Before, we were a small cooperative that was named VIDOC where Daniel worked; that was, by the way, where we met. The cooperative worked in the Gard and the Herault. I do not know how many livestock farmers there were but there must have been about sixty, it was not a big operation. Daniel was the administrator; he had the impression that he had a grip on the cooperative.

For the past 4-5 years, maybe even less, there have been mergers. The cooperative merged with a cooperative in Lozere which got together with a cooperative in the Massif Central which fused with a cooperative in Aveyron, we no longer really know where we are headed. Before, the lambs were slaughtered in Nimes or Pezenas in local slaughterhouses, in the Gard or Herault. Now, they must be sent to Lozere and the meat then is sent back down to Montpellier and the large towns.

When there was the small cooperative, there was traceability, it worked, meaning they ringed the lambs with a label, an order number on which there was a farm number and thanks to this number you could know the birth date, the number of the mother, etc. At the slaughterhouse we got the weight of each lamb, how the carcass was, there were information channels, the fattening status so we had feedback on the quality of a carcass lamb by lamb, one knew the work that had been done and the price behind it, and now, there is nothing.

We've now started direct sales, I find this is an extra new job because you have to keep track of clients and you have to bring the lambs to the slaughterhouse yourself. There is a nice side because it is direct from the producer to the consumer and so you get feedback; we are really happy when people tell us, "we had a real feast, soon we can do barbeques", this is nice but there is a lot of work because you have to make a bill for each half lamb, which makes for a lot of paperwork, and that is not my thing.