

## 2. Project Feasibility

**a. Goals.** The purpose of this study is to document the reasons parents with no prior farming experience chose to involve their children in 4-H livestock projects and how they support them. Through 10 face-to-face, audio recorded, 45-minute, semi-structured interviews, [REDACTED] will further seek participants' responses to the perceived benefits of 4-H before, during, and after their children participated in 4-H livestock programming; additionally, the interviews will include questions on the various ways parents supported their children in their participation. There are four phases of this project, each affiliated with a goal: (i) preparation, (ii) data collection, (iii) data analysis, and (iv) report writing and dissemination.

**Goal 1:** [REDACTED] *will prepare for the research project.* During Spring 2017, [REDACTED] will complete the Epigeum online ethics training; we will meet a few times to continuing developing the specific interview questions and protocol; and then she will prepare and submit an HRRC application. [REDACTED] will instruct [REDACTED] on the basics of qualitative research and content analysis; this will be accomplished via readings, online videos, and weekly face-to-face meetings to discuss the topics, answer questions, and practice exercises. [REDACTED] will continue developing the literature review and will seek consultation from the social work librarian. Furthermore, [REDACTED] will meet with a couple 4-H directors to seek their input as to the suggested interview content and questions. Then we will design the interview protocol which will include a draft of roughly 20 questions to guide the interview. These questions will be shared with the previously identified 4-H directors to solicit their feedback (see attached letter of support). To qualify, research participants must have adult children who participated in five or more years of 4-H as youth. The only factors precluding them from participating is if the potential participant was reared on a farm or in farming. Together we will begin the recruitment

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process including but not limited to posting on listservs, distributing fliers at 4-H clubs and MSU Extension Offices, and posts on social media. In fact, the Kent County (MSU) Extension Office has already agreed to assist in recruiting participants. As an incentive and to thank participants, a nominal portion of the S<sup>3</sup> funds will be used to purchase gift cards as an honorarium.

**Goal 2:** ██████████ *will collect qualitative data.* Approximately 10 semi-structured face-to-face interviews will occur in June and July taking place at an agreed upon neutral, private location (e.g., library quiet room). ██████████ will explain the study and ask the interviewee to sign an HRRC-approved informed consent form which includes permission to audio record the interview. Immediately after the interview, ██████████ will write an interview contact summary.

**Goal 3:** ██████████ *will transcribe and analyze the data.* After training ██████████ in using denaturalized transcription, she will transcribe the interviews in their entirety. The transcriptions will be imported into QSR NVivo 10 (2015) qualitative data analysis software to ease the analysis process. The initial training on NVivo and analysis will use some of my existing datasets so ██████████ can practice prior to her interviews. We will collaborate by listening to the recording of her first two interviews together so we can practice coding together before having her do so on her own. As we listen to the first two interviews, we will attempt to identify relevant themes and consider ways to improve subsequent interviews. After completing her interviews, ██████████ and I will separately code and index each interview drawing emergent themes and categories; then we will meet to compare, contrast, discuss and eventually combine our analyses. ██████████ and I will collaborate intensely during both the data collection and analysis phases of this study, meeting at least twice a week as one of the most critical phases of this study is data analysis and interpretation.

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**Goal 4:** ██████████ *will write up and disseminate the findings.* We will prepare a presentation and manuscript for publication together. ██████████ will write the first draft and then ██████████ will assist her in editing and revising it. We will continue to meet at least weekly through this phase to organize the paper, incorporate the relevant literature, describe our research methodology, and ensure the proper use of APA format. (See *Dissemination Plan*, Section 6.)

**b. Expertise.** This project has the ability to combine each of our strengths. ██████████ has extensive experience with 4-H as a youth livestock participant for 13 years. She maintains relationships with both local and state 4-H programs. ██████████, although not previously involved with 4-H or livestock, the majority of the interview questions will be about program benefits and the supporting of children both of which are within his scholarly and professional expertise. Nevertheless, ██████████ contributes his methodological expertise in qualitative research. Not only does ██████████ teach both undergraduate and graduate level qualitative research courses, but he has scholarly publications that include research using qualitative data. Furthermore, ██████████ has previously mentored three Student Summer Scholars. The inclusion of 4-H directors in our study will supplement ██████████ content area knowledge and expertise.

**c. Timeline**

	Activity	Date of Activity	Student Commitment	Faculty Commitment
1	Take Epigeum Training	March	8 hrs	1 hr
2	Request IRB approval	Mar-Apr	6 hrs	2 hrs
3	Continue literature review	Feb-May	20 hrs/wk	10 hrs/wk
4	Teach/learn about qualitative research	Mar-June	25 hrs/wk	10 hrs/wk
5	Consult with social work librarian	Early Apr	3 hrs	1 hr
6	Create draft interview and protocol	Apr-May	5 hrs	2 hrs
7	Consult with directors of 4-H programs	May	12 hrs	1 hr
8	Finalize interview questions	Early June	15 hrs	4 hrs
9	Recruit parent participants	Early June	6 hrs/wk	2 hr/wk
10	Schedule interviews	June	4 hrs	1 hr
11	Conduct interviews	June-July	16 hrs	4 hrs
12	Transcribe and analyze interviews	July-Aug	35 hrs/wk	10 hr/wk
13	Write manuscript	Aug	35 hrs/wk	5 hrs/wk