



1.If anything was possible, what would your dream job be, and why?

If anything was possible, I would be a veterinarian. I grew up surrounded by animals and for as long as I can remember, I have always wanted to be a vet. Animals are great companions. They love you if they love you, they hate you if they hate you. Everything is simple and real with them. I was supposed to continue further studies to achieve this dream of mine, but life happened. We had financial problems when I was taking up my bachelor's degree, and my mother passed away when I was in my second year of college. For 18-year-old me, it was a lot to take in. I was so young back then, and I think nobody deserves their mother to be taken from them early on in life. I had to navigate my way and be practical, but if anything was possible, I would definitely be a veterinarian.

2. Have you ever experienced a stressful situation in your past workplace (college if fresh graduate), what was it and how did you overcome it?

Yes, I have experienced a stressful situation in my past workplace. I'm not sure if you are familiar with African Swine Fever (ASF) but basically, it's a virus that only affects pigs. There is no prevention or cure. The only way to stop it is if the affected pig is killed. 2023 was the year it hit our province and I was the ASF Chairman in my lgu. I had people and teams assigned to me in handling the disease pandemic. Once we had a laboratory-confirmed ASF case, the only order was to cull (kill) ALL the pigs from the affected farm, whether they were healthy or not. This is to stop the further spread of the virus to other farms. The order to kill the pigs lay on my shoulders. When I tell them to cull, then the culling team will go and kill all the pigs. There were instances where the mother pig was already dead and stiff, yet the piglets were still suckling. There were instances when they were buried alive, and they would scratch their way up the grave pit while my disposal team kept on covering them with soil. When we had no resources to stun them to kill them humanely, my culling team would smash the head with a hammer until they died, and they didn't die in an instant; they still screamed. So many more heartbreaking moments. I can only write about this, but you cannot imagine the mental and emotional weight this has on me. The fact that the decision to end a life or not relied on me was a very stressful situation. I overcame it by practicing detachment. I thought rationally, knowing and understanding that this is the protocol I had to follow. These were the only protocols I had to follow, but this does not define who I am. I also have a very strong support group who I know I can always count on and lean on.



3. In your previous position, what task did you find most challenging and why? What task did you enjoy most and why?

Related to my answer in the previous question, the most challenging task in my previous position was handling the African Swine Fever (ASF) virus pandemic in my lgu. It was like Covid. Everything was new. Nobody, not even the vets, knew exactly what to do. The public, especially pig raisers, were demanding answers. We were all lost and finding our way. It was a hard and challenging time.

The task that I enjoyed in my previous position was doing extension work. Whether it be teaching, doing hands-on skills on farms, etc. I love to teach especially to those who have no resources to go to formal schooling. Sure, it doesn't pay well, but the fulfillment I feel in my heart doing it is priceless. The gratitude of these people is overwhelming. The saying is true that, those who don't have much have more to give, than those who have all the money in the world.

4. How would your previous managers/coworkers describe you?

My managers would describe me as hardworking, determined, and smart. I do the task assigned to me diligently. If I'm not familiar with the task, I try my best to understand it and do my best. My managers can rely on me with big roles. I've noticed people don't like to look stupid, so they tend not to ask questions when they don't understand something. I have no problems with communicating with my superior when I don't understand something, even when I may look stupid doing so, like especially example when I'm asking an obvious or simple question. It's because I always want to make sure I'm doing the right thing, and I'm doing what is expected of me.

My coworkers would describe me as fun as a friend, but strict as a leader. Oftentimes I don't like to mix friendship and work to avoid conflicts. This is because I am strict as a leader, yet have an adventurous spirit outside of work. They would describe me as someone who they look up to, because I often motivate them, share inputs when they ask for advice, and push them out of their comfort zone.



5. What personal or professional accomplishments are you most proud of?

The professional accomplishments I am proud of are my double eligibility, handling the ASF pandemic, having hands-on skills in handling farm animals, being able to conduct seminars to farmers, and recently learning how to spay and neuter cats and dogs. I am both a PRC Licensed Agriculturist and a Civil Service Professional passer. I wasn't sure if I'm going to practice my field as a profession or career, but I just wanted to take these exams and pass them and get it over with while I was still a fresh graduate. I thought whether I will pursue this or not, it's better to have it and not need it, than to need it and not have it. Another professional accomplishment is handling the ASF pandemic as I've mentioned above. I also take pride in being able to conduct seminars and teach farmers on animal production, because I like to teach especially to those who don't really have the resources. Finally, last year I practiced and practiced conducting spay and neuter until I learned how to do it. Special thanks to my mentors who were patient in teaching me.

The personal accomplishments I'm proud of are getting better at handling my grief and getting better at handling my finances. I am slowly but surely having a clear image of my priorities in life. For a while, I was just enjoying and had a live life in the moment mindset, but as you age, I realized that we're not getting any younger and we still have dreams and goals in life, so I decided to pursue more stable things that will help me in achieving the stability I want and need in life. Also, another personal accomplishment is I'm getting married this year!