



An Introduction to Judging 4-H Project Exhibits at Fairs Amy M. Sollock Extension Specialist, 4-H Youth Development K*STATE Research and Extension

Objectives of this Webinar

- Understand your role as a judge in creating a positive learning experience for youth
- Understand that youth development is the main focus not the exhibit
- · Understand the Danish ribbon system





Objectives of Project Exhibition

- Gain knowledge, support and encouragement- reinforce project
- Learn new and better methods- encourage a growth mindset
- · Compare their work with a "standard"
- Provide youth an opportunity to share what they have learned and accomplished with 4-H audience and the public





Creating A Positive Experience

Role of a Fair Judge

- Part of the team for the project learning experience with project leaders, parents and Extension Staff
- Link between 4-H project, the 4-H member and a standard of performance
- Be consistent, constructive, objective and









Creating A Positive Experience

Focus on Youth

- * Youth development is the purpose of 4-H project work
- # Judge the exhibit not the child
- # Judge the exhibit as an illustration of the 4-H member's achievements toward project goals and objectives



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Preparation

Review prior to judging day:

- Know what you are evaluating
- Locate judging site, plan travel
- time, parking...

 Prepare tools that will be needed
- Review standards or scorecards that will be used
- Read fair book including general and division rules

Day of Judging-

Clarify with superintendents:

- **%** Ribbons, trophies and other awards to
- be awarded
- **8** Break times
- Payment process

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Judging - What are Standards?

- Ideally, standards are derived from research primarily from land-grant universities - and are the same standards used by adults.
- * The appropriate ribbon should be awarded to the exhibitor based on the evaluation of the exhibit using an accepted standard or scorecard.
- Standards should not be changed because of problems or situations with which the 4-H'er lives and works.





Judging Process



Best Management Practices

- Provide Consultation/Conference Judging, an opportunity for the judge and 4-H member to discuss exhibit
- Use a Scorecard/Standard
- In addition to the judging conversation, write comments on the scorecard





Consultative Judging Process



- Sit beside or across from 4-H member Introduce yourself, ask member their
- name, put the member at ease Provide written comments and markings on the scorecard/standard to help member apply suggestions in the
- future

 # Use Sandwich Method to provide feedback





Sandwich Method of Providing Feedback

- Start with two positives
- # Discuss one way to improve
- Add another positive
- # End with a one or two word descriptor which defines the 4-H member's capabilities







Suggested Positive Comments



- # I like how....
- * I can tell you enjoyed this because....
- You handled very well
- * I can tell you learned a new skill by how.....
- You should feel proud because.....
- You did a great job of following the project





Suggested Constructive Comments

- * The next time you might try....
- * Some other ideas to try....
- # It would be helpful if....
- * It may be helpful to practice ____ before you
- As you work on ____ an important thing to remember is.....







Suggested Questions to Ask

- Tell me about how you selected this particular exhibit to compete this year for fair.
- What was your favorite part of making this exhibit?
- ***** What was the most important thing you learned?
- If you had a chance to do this again, what would you do differently?
- # How will you use what you learned next time?
- How have you shared what you learned with others?







Judging Process - Parent Role

- The judging conversation is between the 4-H member and the judge.
- # Find a way for parents to be close enough to hear the judging conversation, but not intervene
- Written comments and markings are important on the scorecard/standard to help members apply suggestions in the future, and for 4-H members not present at judging



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Award the Ribbon Earned

Danish System - Most often used in 4-H static exhibits

- All exhibits receive a ribbon

 Exhibits are judged in comparison with an ideal standard, not to each other

 Exhibits are placed in 4 ribbon groups Purple, Blue, Red, or White

Modified Danish System – Often used in Livestock Shows

Exhibits are compared to a standard, placed in four-color ribbon groups, but are ranked top to bottom within each ribbon group.

American System – Most often used in Open Class Exhibits
 Not all exhibits receive a ribbon. Exhibits are ranked 1-2-3, etc. with a different colored ribbon for each placing. Exhibits are compared to each other.

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Danish Ribbon System

PURPLE: Outstanding on all standards

BLUE: Exceeds the minimum standard; may have minor flaws where improvements can be made

RED: Meets all minimum standards; may be visible signs of needed improvements

WHITE: Fails to meet minimum standards







Judging Process - Ribbons

Participation Ribbons

- Participation Ribbons are awarded to those exhibits that do not meet requirements. Participation ribbons indicate to the 4-Her that the exhibit was not necessarily poor in quality, only that it did not meet the project requirements as indicated in the fair book.
- # Participation Ribbons are also awarded to Clover Buds or other "participation" only classes.

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Champions

- Reserve Champion Reserve champions is awarded to the second highest quality exhibit in a single division if there is a worthy exhibit.
- Champion Champion is awarded to the highest quality exhibit in a single division if there is a worthy exhibit.
- Reserve Grand Champion Reserve grand champion is awarded to the second highest quality exhibit in one project area, if it's quality merits this award award.
- **8 Grand Champion** Grand champion is awarded to the highest quality exhibit in one project area, if it's quality merits this award.

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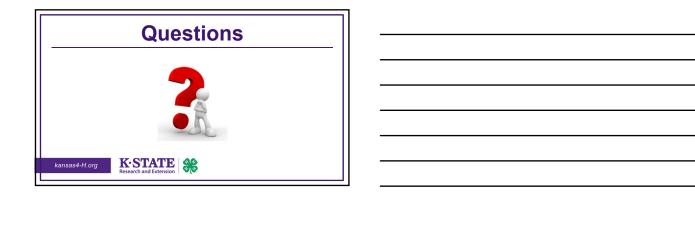
Special Awards

- Nearly every county fair has them
- # Fair premium book should specify how the exhibits/recipients will be selected
- * Ask superintendent for guidance
- Exhibit quality should merit the award









April 18, 7:00 pm- How to Judge Food: The Basics April 25, 7:00 pm- How to Judge Food: Food Preservation See you then! K:STATE Research and Extension