

4-H Danish Judging System

Having one's accomplishments evaluated can be motivating and educational for 4-H'ers. When judges critique their work or performance, it serves as a guide to further improvement. The judging process is probably more valuable than the award or recognition. To plan, practice, and present a finished product is to "learn by doing." To graciously accept constructive criticism of one's work is a real life experience. 4-H'ers learn quickly that judging results reflect a personal opinion, and that evaluation will vary among judges.

In 4-H most judging involves the Danish system of judging. In this system, the judges do not judge one person's work by comparing it to another's. The evaluation is made against a standard. A judge looks to see whether requirements are met.

What would an ideal version of this item be?

Often a score sheet is used, available from the county 4-H office.

One advantage of this system is that everyone whose work fulfills minimum qualification can receive a ribbon. If **all** entries are judged to be excellent, **all** receive blue or 1st place ribbons, *opposite* of the American judging system where there is only one 1st, one 2nd and one 3rd given in each category.

The purpose of using the Danish judging system is to give every 4-H member the recognition deserved for the work that was done. It also helps young people recognize the need to improve their skills and to "make the best better."