

THE DANISH JUDGING SYSTEM

You may have heard agents speak of the “Danish System” of judging and perhaps you would like to know what it means.

All 4-H judging in the county is done by the Danish System. While it was originally developed for livestock to teach market grades and classification standards for breeding, it has since been applied to all other 4-H exhibiting as well.

Under this system, each exhibit, be it a dress, a flower, or a market steer, is compared to the ideal for that category. Exhibits receive either an excellent (blue), good (red), or worthy (white) award, as compared to the ideal. In a class of fifteen items there may be four blues, three reds and eight whites as the judge sees fit. Or they might be all blues, or any other combination, since each exhibit is compared to the ideal rather than to other exhibits.

What this means is that 4-H projects and demonstrations are NOT compared to the work of another individual but to the standard for that piece of work. Please, in both your comments and ribbon considerations, remember to look to the standard for the article and not make decisions based on another’s work.

Our job in 4-H is to make an individual feel worthy and capable. His or her work may need improvement but the 4-H’ers is not personally a lesser club member because someone else may have produced a better product.