

## The Danish System of Judging

The Danish (standards-based, criteria-based) system compares each exhibit on its own merit against a set scorecard or recognized standard and award as many blue, red or white places as are merited.

Proponents of the Danish system say that this system allows each 4-H member to attain his/her own personal level of excellence and not compare his/herself to others. They say that this allows 4-H members to develop at their own pace, develop their own abilities, and not be as competitive.

### **The three groupings of the Danish system are:**

*Blue (excellent):* A blue is given to those entries or members who most nearly meet the standards established for the particular class or level of performance. Excellent does not indicate perfection, but is a wide grouping indicating a high degree of achievement toward the elements in the standards for the exhibit.

*Red (good):* The second or red grouping indicates those exhibits or individuals who rank good in relation to the particular standards or expected achievement of the class or contest. Either the general level of the accomplishment is less than excellent or enough specific shortcomings are found to cause the placing to drop from excellent to good.

*White (fair):* The white grouping contains those exhibits or contestants who upon evaluation are found lacking and rate only average, acceptable, or satisfactory rating for the standards established.

*Green (participation):* maybe given if exhibits or individuals who for one reason or another fail to produce that level of achievement which can be reasonably expected in relation to the specific class or performance in which they are entered.

Some projects have history of assigning different scores from the general rule. The scoring most often would be a blue ribbon score of 20-28; red ribbon would be 11-19; white ribbon would be 4-10; and a participation ribbon for a score of 4 or anyone that did not complete their presentation. White ribbons are discouraged unless the quality is very poor. As judges you have the authority to award whatever color ribbon you feel that the youth deserve, but please remember that this should be a **positive** youth development event.

If you can't decide always err on the side of the higher ribbon color. The most important factor is to make **positive comments that can help the youth improve for next time**. Answer the question, "What could I do differently in order to advance?"

Thank you for serving!

North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University commit themselves to positive action to secure equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status or disability. In addition, the two Universities welcome all persons without regard to sexual orientation.