

The Danish Evaluation System

You may have heard Educators or leaders speak of the “Danish System” of evaluation, and now that the 4-H Youth Fair is upon us, perhaps you would like to know what it means. 4-H evaluation in the county is done on the Danish system. While it was originally developed for livestock, it has since been applied to all other 4-H exhibiting as well.

Under this system, each exhibit is *compared to the ideal* for **that category** (livestock, food, rocketry, sewing, etc). Exhibits receive either an excellent (blue), good (red), or worthy (white) award considering age, number of years in the project, and skill level of the exhibitor. In a class of fifteen items there may be four blues, three reds, and eight whites as the evaluators sees fit. Or there might all be blues or any other combination, since each exhibit is *compared to the ideal* rather than to other exhibits.

This dual merit system was developed initially by a livestock committee to teach market grades and classification standards for breeding animals. For instance, grouping in livestock classes would be on market grades. In dairy breed classes, the blue prize animals would meet the classification for excellent and very good, the red group includes animals that would be classified good, and the white group are those with ratings below good.

