



Salem Fair
JUDGING
GUIDELINES

Information gathered and compiled by the Salem Fair Blue Ribbon Exhibits.

INTRODUCTION

Judging exhibits at a county or a state fair is a challenge!!

The information in this Judges' Guideline has been compiled from many Judges' guidebooks found online. We took the best information from each source to share with you. We hope that this Guideline contains information that will assist you, the judge, in evaluating entries. We also hope that it will provide guidance to the many exhibitors who enter into county and state fairs.

Information obtained from the following sources:

Prince William County Fair

Colorado State University

Colorado 4-H Extension

National Center for Home Food Preservation

University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service

College of Family and Consumer Sciences in cooperation with the
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

North Dakota State University

Cooperative Extension Service | University of Kentucky College of Agriculture

Tasty Tidbits Montana 4-H Guide for Judges

University of Nebraska Lincoln Extension

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service

Cooperative Extension Washington State University

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Services

Sewing Judging Criteria

Criteria

Overall Appearance – 20%	Harmony, style and design
Quality of Workmanship – 30%	Clean and well pressed
Degree of Difficulty – 20%	Finished look, correct construction, collar points, top stitching, hem, lining, stitches
Creativity – 30%	Complexity of pattern
	Individuality, suitability and creativity in choice of fabric, color and decoration

Specifics

Usefulness and wearability of article

Judging Guidelines:

- If judging youth, please consider the age of youth being judged.
- Ribbons should be given to the top three items.
- If there is only 1 or 2 items in a class, a blue and red should be given unless the quality is extremely poor.

Needle Arts Judging Criteria

Criteria

Overall Appearance – 25%

Color and Design – 30%

Workmanship – 45%

Clean, neat, attractive

Suitable design, complexity of pattern and use of color, originality

Even stitches, uniform tension, shaping, blocking and pressing done properly, appropriate finish

Specifics

Needlepoint – difficulty of stitches, tension of stitches, no twisted stitches

Knitting and Crocheting – neatness and uniformity of stitches, difficulty of pattern, use of color and loose ends woven in, not hanging

Crewel – no knots, number of stitch patterns and uniformity of stitches, loose ends woven in, not hanging

Counted Cross Stitch – No knots, number of stitch patterns and uniformity of stitches, all stitches going in the same direction and no loose threads

Judging Guidelines:

- If judging youth, please consider the age of youth being judged.
- Ribbons should be given to the top three items.

Quilting Judging Criteria

Criteria

Visual Impact– 10%
Design – 45%

Hangs straight and flat and is clean
Use of pattern and design
Effects of color in overall design
Suitability of materials
Border or edge treatment
Difficulty of pattern
Precision of work – top and back
Quality of quilting and needlework
Binding, edges and backing

Workmanship - 45%

Specifics

No markings, stains, threads or pet hair

Amount of quilting is appropriate for size of quilt

Pattern and design has unity, rhythm and balance
proportional to quilt size, quilting design
complements pattern and has originality

No knots, backstitches, pleats or bubbles should
be evident

Thread color matches or blends with fabric and
backing coordinates

Applique – curves and points should be properly
executed, stitches small, tight and virtually
invisible, appliqué should lay flat and not
shadowing of darker material

Border provides an effective frame and
complements quilt design

Pieced – points sharp and curves smooth, seams
should match and grain line should be consistent,
thread used to join patches should not be visible
from top

Precise points, corners, curves, angles and
intersections.

Secure stitches

If scallops on binding, inside should be tacked
down.

Balanced tension, stitches even, straight and
penetrating all layers

Batting fills binding evenly, corners are identical
and backing is free of unsightly stitches or marks.

Judging Guidelines:

- If judging youth, please consider the age of youth being judged.
- Ribbons should be given to the top three items.