



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

# Photography Judging Criteria

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## Criteria

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Photography	%
Impact – story told	30
Composition	25
Simplicity	25
Lighting	20

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## Specifics

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Look for Rule of Thirds (although not required), photos should rarely be divided in half (horizon in middle of picture)

Angled composition is more dynamic, darker image on edge focus eyes into the picture

Eyes should follow into picture, not off the photo

If a photo is stunning, it does not need to follow any rules.

Digital altering (other than red eye) allowed only in accepted classes.

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## Judging Guidelines:

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- 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.