



It's Fair Time. Marlene Larkin, here putting finishing touches on Christmas items she will display as part of a special "Holidaze

room. New this year, the "Holidaze" room is an added feature of the Washington County Fair. It is certain to be a crowd

pleaser and a part of the August 9th through 11th fair you will not want to miss.

County Fair Judging Is Complicated Process

Have you ever wondered how and why things are judged the way they are at the County Fair? If so, you are not alone. Judging at Fairs and Shows has a number of purposes including education, recognition, rewarding achievement, upgrading standards, and evaluating progress.

In the Washington County Fair 4-H and Home Arts Departments we use the Danish System which is based on excellence. Each entry is based on its own merits. Everything that deserves a Blue Ribbon, or Red, or White as the case may be, gets the ribbon it deserves. This is why you may see many ribbons of the same color on the foods' clothing, or other exhibits.

At the beginning of the judging time, the judges receive instructions about the items they are about to judge. In the 4-H department we ask the judges to consider the age of the exhibitor, and make note of any special needs of the individual, such

as items made by the handicapped.

It is very early in the spring when the judging assignments are made for the County Fairs in Utah. Utah State University Extension Home Economists send their requests for Fair judges into the state office in Logan and there they take the mammoth task of assigning judges for each County Fair in Utah. Imagine what a job it is to assign judges from one county to judge in another county when many of the County Fairs are held during the same week! To insure as much fairness and impartiality as possible, judges are never allowed to judge in the county where they live. As an Extension Agent, it is my responsibility to make sure that judges are trained. I recruit skilled volunteers from the county and train them through workshops and practical experience judging with qualified, experienced judges. Every year we are assigned to take a given number of judges to judge at

nearby County Fairs. This year we have been assigned to judge at Iron County and Garfield County Fairs.

Score sheets are used to communicate to the exhibitor the good points and the areas which need to be improved. I feel it is very important that the exhibitor know why their exhibit received the award that was given to it.

Rules are a necessary guideline in entering items into the County Fair. Anyone entering items in the Fair should carefully read the rules and abide by them. In different departments of the Fair you may find different styles or standards of judging, such as in the Art Department. Be aware of the guideline before you enter.

The Fair is for people, our education and betterment. Come and participate and be a part of the Washington County Fair. See you there!