

## NEBRASKA 4-H JUDGES RESOURCE

# RIBBON MEANING

### PHILOSOPHY OF JUDGING

“To Make the Best Better” —our well-known 4-H motto—implies that we need to know what our best is before we can make it better. Our motto asks how well we’re doing now and encourages us to consider how and where we can improve. “To Make the Best Better” there must be evaluation (judging) that allows us to discover where we are and how well we’re doing.

Remember that the “best” we are striving to “make better” is young people—people who need to feel and know they are special, capable, and lovable. We are helping them achieve the best in themselves. Keep in mind that the exhibit/project display is not an end in itself and does not illustrate all the learning that takes place in a 4-H project; it displays a portion of what the 4-H member is capable of doing and shows what he or she has accomplished and created.

The total development of the 4-H member is more important than the completion of the project/display. Creating, sharing, exhibiting, and judging projects can help members develop in positive and healthy ways. We use projects and records to help young people develop skills, gain knowledge, and build confidence, but it is always the PERSON with whom we are most concerned. In 4-H, it’s people that count!

### THE DANISH SYSTEM OF RECOGNITION

The Danish System recognizes and rewards young people for their efforts and projects. This system is designed to maintain a proper balance of competition and recognition. The Danish System uses colors to signify different award levels. The 4-H project awards ribbons in these colors.



#### **Purple (Superior)**

A purple is awarded to those entries that have met and far exceed the average standards established for that particular class. The exhibit or workmanship is outstanding with minimal flaws.



#### **Blue (Excellent)**

A blue is awarded to those entries that exceed the average standard. The exhibit and workmanship meet the standards of the purple ribbon but has a few flaws.



#### **Red (Good)**

A red is awarded to those entries that meet or are slightly below the average standard established for that class. The exhibit and workmanship meet expectations but has multiple flaws.



#### **White (Fair)**

White is awarded to those entries that do not meet average standard. The level of accomplishment is less than expected. Extremely poor workmanship or little thought is given to the exhibit.

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