THE DANISH SYSTEM

DEFINITION - A method of evaluating a participant's product, skill, or exhibit relative to the standards developed for that class or contest.

HOW TO USE - After the evaluation of each item in the class, the entire class is subdivided into four groups according to the merits of each item (performance) relative to the standard.

THE FOUR GROUPS:

- **Blue** - excellent; exhibit most nearly meets the standard (does not indicate perfection). Example of a numerical score = 90-100.

- **Red** - good; relative to pre-established standards, a few specific shortcomings have been identified. Example of a numerical score = 80-89.

- **White** - fair; many improvements are needed in order for the exhibit to meet the pre-established standards. Example of a numerical score = 70-79.

- **No award** - far below standards expected for that exhibit. Example of a numerical score = 69 - below.

WHY THE DANISH SYSTEM?

- Provides recognition for a maximum number of exhibits or contestants.

- Recognizes the existence of and allows for relatively minor differences of entries and performances.

ABUSES OF THE DANISH SYSTEM

- Too many or too few blue, red, or white placings are made.

- Ribbons are awarded on a set bell-curve which pre-establishes number of blues, red, whites allowable.

- Application of standards is too rigid or too lax.

- Standards were not clearly understood prior to judging.

- When judging exhibits, allowances are made for age differences, abilities, and experience.

CONSIDERATIONS

- Items should be judged against standards, not against other items.

- Exhibitor should not be judged. Only the product, exhibit, or performance of the exhibitor should be judged.

- Judge should not assume experience because of age.