

# Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies



# Welcome to “Becoming an OAAAS Judge”

Presented by Cheryl Bunda



- ▶ Becoming an OAAS judge is a very rewarding and interesting way to participate in fairs in and around your community.
- ▶ Homecrafts; such as quilting, sewing, knitting, or crocheting. Culinary; including breads, pies, canning and preserves, other classes can be; flowers, Juniors, fruits and vegetables, Field Crops, etc.
- ▶ You should have a good working knowledge of the class you want to judge, please do not sign up for a judging school expecting to be taught how to knit, quilt or bake a pie.
- ▶ Check the OAAS website under “Member Services” and check the “Judging School List” for the Judging Schools scheduled for your area. If there are none listed, check with one of your District Directors to see if any are scheduled in your area.



- ▶ You must attend an OAAS judging school which will be taught by an OAAS Certified Instructor. Be sure to purchase a copy of the Homecraft or Agriculture and Horticulture Judging Standards for Ontario fairs from your fair board office, or the OAAS Office Manager as this will become your “go to” book while judging. (hold up book).
- ▶ At the judging workshop you will be given knowledge to enable you to make decisions regarding the items presented to you for judging. At the workshop you will be expected to judge various classes and give reasons for your choices.
- ▶ The “Requirements for becoming a Certified or Apprentice Judge” have been updated recently. Instead of attending 2 Judging Schools, you are only required to attend 1 Judging School in each topic.
- ▶ After completing judging school, you will need to apprentice 3 times, with 3 different qualified OAAS judges. This apprentice time will give you an opportunity to try out your new gained judging knowledge, and learn more about judging from OAAS qualified judges.



- ▶ (When I am working with an apprentice I will let them try their hand at judging a few classes, I let them judge, and ask them to give reasons for their choices. However, the final decision for judging the class rests with me)
- ▶ Please note at this time, you may not apprentice at your home fair. (your home fair is where you exhibit items)
- ▶ The only exception is District 15 where due to distance between Fairs and a Judge's home, a Judge may have apprenticed at the same fair twice with two (2) different Judges.
- ▶ When your apprenticeship is complete, you must complete the "Application to become an OAAS Certified Judge" found on the OAAS website. Your name will then be added to the list of judges and distributed to local fair boards.
- ▶ We have provided a copy of the draft "Requirements to become a Certified and Apprentice Judge". It has been updated recently and provides details on how to become a Certified and Apprentice Judge and how to maintain your certification.



- ▶ So now you are a judge.
- ▶ Prepare a judging kit that you will bring along with you to the fairs. I have mine here with items I use for judging. I usually bring the whole kit with me, so if I am finished early I can help out with any classes I am qualified in.
- ▶ When a fair contacts you to judge, promptly reply to them, record the date and time for judging, and promptly return the fair contract. Most fairs will send you a copy of their prize list, or mention where you can obtain the information (ie. Website) Read over the sections you are going to be judging, and make yourself aware of classes and rules. If there is any class, you are not familiar with, do research on that class
- ▶ Now, if for some reason you are unable to judge at the fair you have been contracted for, contact the office immediately, and if possible suggest a suitable replacement.



## ▶ Off to the Fair:

- ▶ Dress appropriately; remember you are representing the OAAS, and dress accordingly. Casual office attire is acceptable, a skirt or pants, a clean top or a dress. Refrain from shorts, sweat pants, tight leggings, tank tops or baggy T-shirts. Wear comfortable shoes, mindful you will be up and down all day.
- ▶ Avoid excessive jewelry, especially when judging wool crafts that could catch and snag the items.
- ▶ Do not smoke, chew gum, drink alcohol, or use marijuana while judging. Avoid wearing perfume or strong scents.
- ▶ Be sure to turn off your cell phone (unless you are expecting an urgent call, notify the department chair, and turn phone to vibrate.)





- ▶ Arrive about 30 mins early and report to the fair office. Most fairs offer coffee and tea to judges and give them a chance to meet each other.
- ▶ When judging be fair but flexible, be able to support your decision with substantial reasons. Take the time to put a brief note of explanation on the back of the entry tag of any disqualified item.
- ▶ Remember, the exhibitors want to know why they did not win, and most times the committee members, who are helping on judging day, may not be the same ones on at the time the exhibitor walks through.
- ▶ If there is a class that you have difficulty with, ask the opinion of another OAAS judge, do NOT ask committee members for their opinion, and do not allow committee members comments to interfere with your decision





- ▶ When judging is completed be sure to sign off the score sheets, and at this time you should receive your cheque for judging.
- ▶ I hope this presentation will inspire more of you to come forward and train to become an official OAAS judge. All fairs, all over the province, need more trained judges to ensure continuous running for many years to come.
- ▶ Thank-you



▶ Thank you for attending this seminar

▶ Questions?



[www.ontarioagsocieties.com](http://www.ontarioagsocieties.com)

[www.ontariofairs.com](http://www.ontariofairs.com)



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