

Are Farm Show Judges Really Fair?

BY LOU ANN GOOD PALMYRA — Saturday is D-day for hundreds of seamstresses and craft lovers. It's the day when the best-of-the-best compete at the state Farm Show and hope to garner ribbons for their projects.

Among the jubilant winners, there are bound to be plenty who are disappointed and a few who may complain about unfair judging. With all the gorgeous outfits and handicrafts, how do judges choose the prize-winning articles? "It isn't easy," admits Sandra Paveglio who has served as a judge for two years. She believes that the winners really deserve their prizes because their articles need to pass strenuous requirements before the

judge pins a ribbon on the article. Sandy stresses, "We look for good quality." The garment is fully examined inside and out to reveal construction techniques, seam finishes and hems. Does the article have neatly finished buttonholes? Correct interfacing? Have bulky seams been tapered?

The requirements don't stop with that list. Sandra continues, "The fabric must be suited to the style of the garment." And Sandy admits, "I like to see an article that could be taken off the rack of a fine clothing store. It must be stylish and not outdated."

What happens if two or more items in the same class pass all those tests? Sandy said, "We chose

the garment that has been more difficult to sew." If the difficult garment has a few flaws, it's a strike against them. Then judges surmise that the seamstress chose a project that was too difficult for her skills.

Sandy knows the skills required to sew impressive garments. She has a background in home economics and for 12 years operated her own dressmaking business in Palmyra.

Despite her own skills, Sandy continues to be amazed at the quality of work that comes from all over the state. She said, "It's interesting. Some of the clothing such as little girls smocked dresses could bring high prices if they were sold."

Although interesting, Sandy also finds judging a lot of hard work. She recalls that one year, she started judging at 6 a.m. and did not finish until 12 hours later.

In the end, the quality of the garment not the judge decides the ribbon status of the articles. Entries will be displayed from January 10 until noon on January 15.



Sandra Paveglio demonstrates how farm show judges examine garments to determine whether or not they deserve a prize-winning ribbon.



As an professional seamstress and a degree in home economics, Sandy Paveglio knows from experience the time and detail garments require from start to finish.

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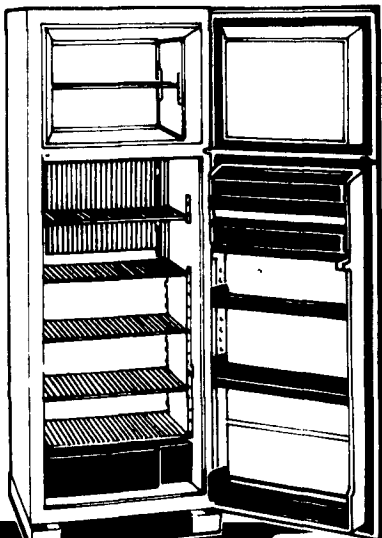
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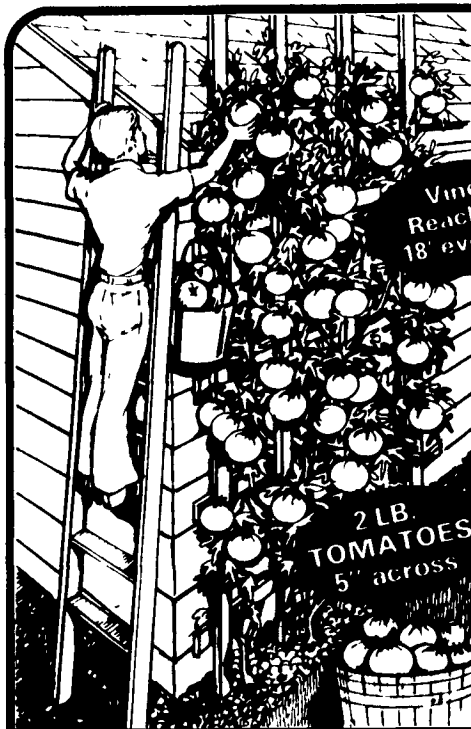
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