

# idea corner

## 4-H Consumer Decision-Making Contest

Following the natural demise of the home economics judging contest at the State 4-H Conference, 4-H agents encouraged the incorporation of a consumer product evaluation, where the 4-Hers would judge 4 like products and place them using a situation statement. The situation statement was to include the age of buyer, use of the product, budget available, and other limiting criteria.

The challenge of developing a handbook for the contest was begun by a committee of home economics and 4-H agents. Standards for products purchased by the 9 to 19 year olds were developed from various consumer publications.

Classes used at the present time for the contest include: toys, snacks, menus, place settings, knit pullover shirts, jeans, cookware, check writing, blow dryers, portable lamps, and calculators. The number of classes for a contest will depend on the time available and the experience of the participants.

The guidelines and standards for the contest have been compiled into a publication that's available for every contest participant and leader. The publication contains definitions, instructions for giving oral reasons and examples, standards for each class, and

guidelines for organizing a 4-H Consumer Decision-Making Contest.

Participation in the state contest has been excellent and the participants are enthusiastic about this educational judging contest.

It has been a truly cooperative effort between county Extension agents finding the need, home economics specialists developing a publication and the training, and 4-H staff coordinating the project.

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