
Oregon Agricultural College

Extension Service

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Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home
Economics.
Oregon Agricultural College and United States Department
of Agriculture Cooperating.
Printed and distributed in furtherance of the Acts of
Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914.

Score Cards for Agricultural and Horticultural Exhibits



CORVALLIS, OREGON

The Bulletins of the Oregon Agricultural College are free
to all residents of Oregon who request them.

STATEMENT

This is one of a series of three bulletins published by the Extension Service of the Oregon Agricultural College at the request of county fair secretaries for the purpose of familiarizing exhibitors with the standards of perfection by which their products are to be judged. "I could have brought a better display if I had known how to select it" is a statement repeated year after year in the presence of fair judges. So long as we proceed thus blindly we are losing much of the possible educational value of our fairs.

For economy and convenience in publication and distribution the material is presented in the following bulletins:

1. Score cards for Household Exhibits. (Ext. Bul. 338.)
2. Score cards for Agricultural and Horticultural Exhibits. (Ext. Bul. 339.)
3. Score cards for Livestock Exhibits. (Ext. Bul. 340.)

Fair secretaries are urged to call attention to these bulletins in their printed catalogs and request exhibitors to secure any one or all of them from their county agent or directly from the Extension Service. It is hoped also that they will be found useful to instructors and students in our agricultural high schools.

PAUL V. MARIS,
Director of Extension Service.

Score Cards for Agricultural and Horticultural Exhibits

INTRODUCTION

The score cards of this bulletin applying to vegetables, fruits, and nuts have been prepared by Professor W. S. Brown of the department of Horticulture. Those for potatoes, grain, and other field crops have been prepared by Professor G. R. Hyslop of the department of Farm Crops. These score cards are expected to serve a twofold purpose.

I

They will serve as a guide to exhibitors in the selection and preparation of farm and horticultural products for exhibit. They will enable exhibitors to choose better types of seed and other farm and orchard crops not only for exhibition but also for seeding and for standard commercial production. It is especially hoped that the score cards and the basis for scoring will enable exhibitors to select and show farm and horticultural products more nearly in accordance with commercial standards.

II

These score cards will serve as a guide to judges. It is anticipated that the judging will be substantially along the lines of these score cards. Experienced judges may have the principles of the score card sufficiently in mind so that detailed scoring may be unnecessary in making awards. Time permitting, detailed score cards are useful to exhibitors and spectators. Less experienced judges will find the score cards very useful guides in making awards. The value of fairs and other agricultural shows lies in their ability to show to competitors and visitors the best types of seed crops for seed purposes and the best types of fruits and general crops for commercial purposes.

It is always important that in all shows the system of scoring or judging be uniform, and a generally accepted score card results in very much more uniform judging.

FAIRS AND SHOWS

By

G. R. HYSLOP

The community fair or show, at its best has developed into a social and an educational institution. As a social institution it is a means of bringing large numbers of interested producers and consumers together, resulting in an interchange of ideas which is usually beneficial.

Side Shows and Concessions. There are instances where the social advantages of the fair or show are cheapened by the presence of side shows, concessions, games of chance, and other items of a questionable nature that not only detract from the social and educational value of the event but often take away a good deal of the community's money and leave very little in return. This is especially acute where traveling side shows and concessionaires are permitted to participate.

Home Talent Amusements. Concessions operated by people or organizations from the immediate community, such as farmers' organizations, school, Camp Fire, Scout, or lodge booths, usually are clean and wholesome and contribute to the success of the show. One of the most successful shows that has been put on in Oregon was the Coos County Corn Show, in which county and town participated and in which the social and educational advantages were shared by all.

This was a well-planned show. All concessions were handled by local people and amusements provided were in keeping with the character of the show and the resources of the community. Prizes were offered for winners in husking, shelling, fodder, pumpkin, potato, and other similar races. Music was furnished by local musical people. Musical contests were staged, some special performances were put on, and the final program wound up with old and new dances in which any might participate.

Inexpensive, Well-Planned Program. The social and amusement program was particularly successful, due to effective local organization by the county agent and close cooperation by all concerned. Little actual money was spent in putting on what was a really comprehensive and excellent program during the three days of the show. This social program in no way interfered with the educational phases of the work, as each item was scheduled for a definite time and run off on time as a part of the regular program. As a matter of fact, some of the entertainment features were used to draw a crowd for some of the educational work.

Contests for old and young and intercommunity contests related to the commodity being shown usually attract considerable attention. Sack races, sack sewing contests, straw races, grain judging contests,

grain shocking contests, sack or bale races, piling or handling contests lend themselves to grain and hay shows. Other similar contests and potato grading, sacking, cutting, peeling, or eating contests may be added for potato shows. Corn judging, shelling, and cutting contests work in well with corn shows. Events of this sort, sometimes combined with various athletic activities, provide an excellent background for the educational work.

Educational Features. The educational opportunities presented by a show are as follows:

1. It has an advertising value for the commodities of the district represented.

2. It presents opportunity for wide publicity featuring the material shown and the kind that should be shown.

3. Selection, proper arrangement, and judging of material presents graphically the better type of commodity to producer and consumer.

As a means of advertising, it shows in a way the crop adaptability and program of the section represented.

A poor exhibit may create a wrong impression, but a good show always carries a message of optimism and encouragement.

The good show should usually be recorded in photographs. If it is properly written up, it brings much favorable publicity from outside, and it stimulates local people to greater efforts.

Grading Demonstrations. Well-prepared displays demonstrate the type that should be selected for seed or for market. There is probably no better way to educate a man unaccustomed to grading potatoes or other crops than to get his sample in the show alongside a well-graded exhibit. This sets a standard to be equalled or surpassed, and shows consumers the best types to be had. Effective arrangement, not too crowded, is essential to the best display of material. Careful judging by a judge familiar with market demands is essential to the continued success of the show.

The educational features of the show usually are developed along the following four lines:

1. **Community Exhibits.** The community exhibit should be shown and judged on the basis of the actual resources of the community combined with an effective arrangement to display its resources in a pleasing and forceful manner. It should be a well-balanced exhibit in keeping with the actual production of the district represented. Nothing is more incongruous than an extensive exhibit of fruits from a grain county or a remarkable exhibit of grains coming from a special grain garden in a district devoted to forage and dairy production. Neither is it desirable to make a great showing of bunting, flowers, or other decorative material without the agricultural resources.

The volume of agricultural exhibits comprising the community exhibit should be in keeping with the volume of commodity produced in the district, and special effort should be made to show material of good quality put up in attractive packs. The use of well-executed placards and photographs often adds materially to the exhibit. Usually freak specimens of plant or animal life, even though sometimes interesting or amusing, do not add to the prestige of the district as an agricultural district and should be entirely omitted or shown in some place devoted to the display of freaks and oddities.

As far as possible all exhibits should be labeled so that visitors may see at once the very best varieties of the best crops for the district. The community exhibit at best is simply an expression of the productive capacity of the community and the community spirit and advancement.

2. Competitive Commodity Exhibits. Competitive exhibits particularly emphasize the varieties best adapted to the district and in addition when properly arranged emphasize the best seed and market selections.

Competitive exhibits should be arranged in classes so that all exhibits in a given lot or class are placed side by side. This makes it possible for visitors and spectators to see the actual points of superiority or weakness between exhibits, and it makes the work of judging very much simpler. A competitive exhibit of grain with different entries scattered in different booths in a large building loses its whole educational value.

Scoring by a score card is laborious but a good plan. While it is usually unnecessary to score all of the exhibits, sometimes score cards for the better ones, big enough so that they may be read by spectators, have advantages and greatly enhance the educational value.

Prizes and Awards. Prizes for competitive exhibits should be placed on standard varieties only and should usually be substantial for the sweepstakes and for the firsts. Second should usually be about one-half of first and third not over one-fourth the first prize, if any prize is awarded at all. Offering a large number of prizes as 5 to 10 per class usually invites a considerable number of mediocre exhibits. All firsts should automatically enter into appropriate sweepstakes classes. Classes for freaks have no place in an educational show.

Arrangement. Competitive exhibits should be placed where there is a good light and should be protected from mixing or unnecessary handling by spectators. Usually the best plan is to show grain or potatoes or seeds in tight boxes placed so the top of the exhibit is about 30 inches from the floor and so the top of the box is at least three inches over the top of the exhibit. There should be a guard rail so placed that the average disinterested spectator will be

kept at least two feet away from the exhibit. This will do away with most of the aimless handling that takes place when people can indiscriminately reach the exhibits. On special days, when large numbers of persons not particularly responsible will view the exhibit, a woven wire protection is frequently necessary. In the event that there is danger of mixing, a good policy is to display only a small part of the competitive exhibit.

Amounts to Show. Various shows require different amounts of material. The required exhibit should not be so large as to involve heavy transportation charges. It should be big enough to be representative and to discourage questionable preparation, such as hand picking, special polishing, and similar practices not feasible for seed purposes. A hand-picked sample of grain is not representative of the lot at all, although it is conceded that detection is sometimes difficult. Usually small seed exhibits should be one-third- to one-half-bushel exhibits. Grain exhibits should be bushel exhibits. Corn may be 10-, 50-, or 100-ear displays. The single-ear exhibit is not desirable. Potatoes should usually be shown in bushel exhibits. Large roots, pumpkins, squashes, corn on the stalk, and similar displays should have from five to ten specimens, depending on bulkiness. Hay should be exhibited in commercial bales, and one is usually enough. Sheaf grain competition usually has very little merit. Only high class material should be shown.

Competitive exhibits should, wherever possible, be returned to the grower, since they represent the very best product that he has and such material should be retained for seed. In general, material for competitive exhibits to win in close competitions must be very carefully selected.

3. Demonstration Results. In counties or districts where Boys' and Girls' Club, County Agent, or other educational work is being conducted, there are often demonstrations that may be graphically represented at shows. These usually demonstrate results from cultural practices or application of fertilizers or the results of spray treatment or similar enterprises. If properly labeled they describe what was done and give the resulting difference in yields, together with the names of the farmers who conducted the demonstration. They prove a very effective sort of educational effort.

Such demonstrations as the comparative yield of certified and uncertified potatoes, total yield exhibits from 25 hills of mosaic and 25 healthy potato hills, comparative yields and display of grain from an acre of treated vs. untreated wheat, comparative yields from different kinds of treatment from grain seed or potato seed, results from different methods of cutting, times of planting, depth of planting, different uses of fertilizer, and other common though important cultural practices, are interesting and instructive. The demonstration does not fail to excite interest, and it

may be accompanied by a demonstrator or it may be well explained by properly developed placards and photographs.

Special practices may be promoted by putting on exhibits of hill-selected potatoes, field-selected corn, or plants showing the ideal type, or even by developing contests of competitive demonstration exhibits of this sort. Kind of seed used by different people or kind of crop harvested by different people may make a rather effective demonstration.

4. **Lectures.** Lectures, illustrated or not, when presented by individuals or agencies recognized as qualified for such work, often prove valuable. The lecture program connected with a fair or show must

- (1) Be timely, short and to the point;
- (2) Have a definite place on the program;
- (3) Must be practically without competition at that time.

It is useless to stage a subject-matter lecture alongside or in competition with amusement features.

Securing Entries. A fair or show should be of sufficient interest that exhibits will be brought in voluntarily. The practice of some man going out and collecting and preparing material for a competitive show is not a good one. No one lacking interest enough to prepare, select, and send in or bring in an exhibit should be permitted to show. No individual should be awarded prizes on produce not grown by him. No individual should be permitted more than one entry in a class, and no one should be permitted to show an excess of material "so the judge can pick the best."

Judging. Judging is all important. The judge must be competent, familiar with market demands and varietal characteristics, and without prejudice.

Judging is simplified if names of growers are withheld until after awards are made. Many exhibitors cannot resist the temptation to boost for their exhibit while the awards are being made. It is unfair, is recognized as such, and probably prejudices the judge against that particular exhibit. Watching the judging is permissible, but a statement of reasons after awards are made or a score card for the leading exhibits usually conveys more information about how the judging was done. No sweepstakes or first premiums should be awarded to inferior or second grade exhibits.

Ribbons or scores should be put on as soon as awards are made.

SCORE CARDS FOR FARM COMMODITIES

GRASS AND LEGUME SEEDS

Weight per bushel	15
Plump heavy seed best	15
Uniformity and trueness to type	10
Color —bright and free from bleaching	20
Freedom from foreign material	25
Free from inert matter, weeds or other foreign seeds. Noxious weeds disqualify	25
Soundness and seed condition	15
Free from dead seed, serious cracking, sprout- ing, mustiness, or mold, or weather or heat damage	15
Freedom from disease or insect injury	15
Free from disease or disease carriers, weevil, honey dew, etc.	15
	100

CORN FOR SEED

Adaptability	25
Maturity, size, solidity, clean bright cob color, pick for solid ripe ears	25
Seed Condition	15
Good color, free from mold on grain or cob, large bright germ, free from discoloration....	15
Shape of Kernel	15
Well dented, rather rough, deep, slightly wedge- shaped, straight sides, well-filled next to cob	15
Uniformity	15
True to type, uniform size, shape, filling, ker- nels, indentation, and color	15
Weight of Ear	10
Large proportion of grain, 8 to 12 ounces when dry	10
Length and Circumference	10
Not long and slim or short and thick. Length 7 to 10 inches, circumference three-fourths to four-fifths length at one-third distance from butt to tip	10
Color of Grain and Cob	5
Free from mixture. Grain bright and not ex- cessively starchy on top. Yellow corn, red cob; white corn, white cob	5
Butts and Tips	5
Well-filled, with straight, uniform rows, shanks medium size	5
	100

CORN ON THE STALK

	Silage	Grain
Maturity	10	20
Uniformity and trueness to type. Varietal characteristics	15	15
Size of stalk and leafiness. Vigor	20	10
Size and position of ear		
Preferences: Medium-sized drooping ear for seed or grain		
Medium to large ear at convenient height for silage	30	20
Quality of ear	10	20
Freedom from disease or insect enemies or evidence of degeneration	15	15
	100	100

SEED GRAIN—THRESHED

1. Weight per bushel. Wheat 60 lbs., barley 48 lbs., oats 32 lbs., rye 56 lbs.	20
2. Uniformity and trueness to type. (Uniformity of color, size, shape, etc.)	10
3. Freedom from foreign material and other cereal grains either separable or inseparable. In- separable weed seed, grain, or other seed more serious than separable. (Inseparable stones, cinders, bits of metal disqualify.).....	20
4. Freedom from varietal mixture. (Based on size, color, shape, and general appearance of kernels.)	15
5. Soundness and condition of grain. Large, plump, bright sweet kernels, not treated, bleached, musty, moldy, sprouted, cracked or injured by insects or disease. (Grain sour, heating or hot, infested with live weevil is disquali- fied.)	25
6. Quality. Proportion of kernel to hull in oats and barley. Kernel texture of wheat and rye	10
	100

SHEAF GRAIN

Length of straw	10
Color	10
Uniformity and trueness to type	20
Size and filling of heads	40
Condition. Mature, sound, and sweet, free from mustiness or mold or storage injury. Freedom from disease or insect injury	20
	100

POTATOES

Trueness to Type	
Varietal characteristics	10
Uniformity	
In size, shape, color, surface, eyes, etc.....	10
Shape of Tuber	
Conforming with varietal standard. Well-filled at ends. Symmetrical and free from de- pressions and protuberances	10
Size	
Medium-sized, 5 to 8 ounces (cut 6 points if too large, 9 points if too small)	15
Skin	
Firm, smooth, unbroken and free from sunburn, discoloration, bruises, rhizoctonia, scab, and other blemishes	20
Flesh	
Solid, free from cuts, fork holes, internal dis- coloration, disease, worm holes, rot, etc. Even in texture, of a clear white or creamy white color, and free from sogginess	25
Eyes	
Few in number, healthy, according to variety..	10
	100

FIELD ROOTS

Trueness to type, varietal characteristics, shape, color, etc.	20
Uniformity	15
Size	40
Feeding or market quality and condition.	
Freedom from dirt, lateral or branching roots, insect or disease injury, surface blemishes as cuts or bruises, rotting, etc.	25
	100

FIELD PUMPKINS AND SQUASHES

Trueness to type. Varietal characteristics	20
Uniformity	15
Size	50
Quality. Freedom from rot, blemishes, disease or insect injury	15
	100

SHEAF FORAGE

Size	20
Uniformity and texture	20
Leafiness	20
Stage of cutting	10
Color	10
Condition	20
	100

COMMERCIAL EXHIBITS

The judging of commercial exhibits shall be along lines indicated by the Federal and state grades adopted for the respective crops.

In other words, all material grading No. 1 in accordance with these grades shall be considered superior to material grading No. 2. The lot showing most superior qualities, such as greater test weight, better texture, better color, etc., that makes it really superior to the minimum quality permissible in No. 1 shall be given first place.

All grades established in Oregon for crops may be had from the Grain Inspection Department, Public Service Commission, 723 Court House Building, Portland, Oregon.

SCORE CARDS FOR HORTICULTURAL CROPS

INDIVIDUAL VEGETABLE DISPLAYS OR DISPLAYS OF SINGLE VEGETABLES

Market quality—size, shape, freedom from blemishes, etc.	50
Trueness to type and correct naming	20
Commercial value of variety	15
Uniformity and completeness	15
Total	100

Where vegetables are included among other agricultural products forming an entire county exhibit, score card would be as follows:

Quality	30
Completeness of display	30
Commercial value of varieties	10
Arrangement and appearance	30
Total	100

COMMERCIAL PACKS

APPLES AND PEARS

PACK			
	Bulge	50	
	Alignment	50	
	Height of ends	50	
	Evenness and style of pack	50	
	Compactness	50	
	Total pack	250	250
FRUIT			
	Color	250	
	Blemishes	250	
	Uniformity	150	
	Size	50	
	Trueness to type	50	
	Total fruit	750	750
	Grand total		1000

GRAPES

	Flavor	15	
	Form of bunch	15	
	Size of bunch	15	
	Size of berry	10	
	Color	15	
	Firmness	5	
	Bloom	5	
	Freedom from blemishes	20	
	Total	100	

PLATE DISPLAYS

	Form	15	
	Size	15	
	Color	20	
	Uniformity	20	
	Blemishes	30	
	Total	100	

TRAY DISPLAYS

PACK			
	Alignment	50	
	Firmness	50	
	Evenness and style of pack	50	
	Total pack	150	150
FRUIT			
	Color	300	
	Blemishes	275	
	Uniformity	150	
	Size	75	
	Trueness to type	50	
	Total fruit	850	850
	Grand total		1000

NUTS

		Walnuts	Filberts
	Size	10	20
	Color	10	15
	Form	15	15
	Uniformity	20	20
	Sealing	10	
	Filling	15	15
	Pellicle (color, tannin, etc.)	5	
	Quality of meat	15	15
	Total	100	100