

Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies



Welcome to an Overview of our Judging Program



Why are we doing this revitalization process?

- ▶ The renewal of the Judging Program was started because of the concerns and comments from the Judges, Instructors, Agricultural Societies, Districts and others.
- ▶ The Board took your concerns and comments and started the revitalization process to address those concerns and improve our Judging Program.
- ▶ This has been a far more detailed and daunting task than we first imagined. It has taken longer than we had hoped, and I know that people are getting frustrated that it has taken so long.
- ▶ However, we believe that our Judging Program is one of our most important Member Services and we want to make sure that we get it right the first time.



If you heard me speak last year, you may have heard some of the following points but they are worth hearing again as they form the basis of our revitalization process.

- ▶ The comments and concerns that we received seemed to be focused on the following :
 - Not enough Judges and Instructors in all Districts
 - Need a clear list of requirements to become a Certified Judge or Instructor and maintain that certification. The interpretation of our current “Requirements” was not as consistent as it could be
 - Shorten the length of time and training to become a Judge
 - Not enough Judging Schools



- People don't know when and where Judging Schools are
- Judges Lists not kept current and it takes a lot of time for the District Director and OAAS Office Manager to keep them up to date
- Consistency of programs at Judging Schools - too much variation between different Instructors and different Districts
- Not all Judges and Instructors are attending Judging Schools on a regular basis to maintain their qualifications and stay up to day with changes to Judging Standards, Judging Program and current trends
- Consistency of Judging at our Fairs
- Evaluation system for Judges and Instructors
- Need a clear process to retrain or remove Judges and Instructors who don't or won't meet the requirements



PROGRESS REPORT



AD-Hoc Committee

- ▶ The original AD-Hoc Committee created the ‘**OAAS Judges’ and Instructors’ Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics**’ - it was approved by the OAAS board in October 2018.
- ▶ This ‘Code’ will ensure that Judges and Instructors know what is expected of them when they are representing the OAAS as a Certified or Apprentice Judge or Instructor. It also lets the Agricultural Societies know what is expected of our Judges when they are Judging at their Fairs so it should help manage expectations for both parties. And if the Fair has any concerns with a Judge, they will know now what the process is to deal with them. If a Judge or Instructor has been reported for a violation, they will be given an opportunity to present their side of the story.
- ▶ The “Code” allows the OAAS to take action, if required, if someone has been reported to have violated the ‘**OAAS Judges’ and Instructors’ Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics**’. There is also an Appeals process if they do not agree with the action taken.
- ▶ All Certified and Apprentice Judges and Instructors will be required to sign and submit the “Code” to their District Director at the Judging School.



JUDGING PROGRAM PANEL

- ▶ I felt that we need a different format to proceed further with the revitalization process, so I presented a proposal to the Board to create a “Judging Program Panel”. They accepted my proposal and we set about to set up the Panel.
- ▶ We determined that we wanted a Panel that covered all ages and stages of Judges and instructors so that our program would meet the needs of our new and Apprentice Judges as well as our most experienced Judges and Instructors and everyone in between. A requirement for the Panel members was Email and Internet access as we would be meeting via Zoom Video Conference call.
- ▶ I feel we have put together a great group that works well together is willing to listen and discuss new ideas and most importantly is not afraid to challenge the status quo if a different way would work better.
- ▶ I am a firm believer in “ **If you continue to do something the same way you have always done it - you will always get the same results you have always gotten.**”



I am pleased to introduce the 6 members of the Judging Panel in no particular order:

- ▶ Judy Slaughter - Judge
- ▶ Anne Babcock - Judge
- ▶ Katie Petherick - Apprentice Judge
- ▶ Joanne Holt - Judge and Instructor
- ▶ Cheryl Bunda - Judge
- ▶ Colleen Anderson - Judge and Instructor



- ▶ The Judging Panel has been working on updating the current documents and created a draft copy of the “**Requirements for OAAS Certified and Apprentice Judges**” and “**Requirements for OAAS Certified and Apprentice Instructors**” documents.
- ▶ We have received numerous comments and concerns that there has been no clear, consistent information on how to become a Judge or Instructor. As well it has been mentioned that many people felt that the process to become a judge was so long that it discouraged more people from starting the process to become a Judge.
- ▶ We have streamlined the current process to become a Judge by changing the requirements to “**must successfully complete one (1) Judging School instead of the current two (2) for each Category**.” It was felt that three (3) apprenticeships were still necessary, but we have grouped together some of the Categories to help streamline that process as much as possible.
- ▶ We are still working on the Categories document - it will be posted on our website after it is completed and approved



- ▶ The ‘**Requirements**’ documents specifically spell out the Qualifications and Requirements to become a Certified or Apprentice Judge or Instructor. The documents also specifically spell out the requirements that a Judge or Instructor must follow to maintain their Certification (i.e. attending Judging Schools at least once every three (3) years for each Category), and the consequences for not fulfilling those requirements. The documents also clearly explain the steps required to recertify if a Judge or Instructor has been moved to “Uncertified” for any reason.
- ▶ **IMPORTANT:** We did not want to penalize Judges that had not attended a Judging School in 3 years perhaps because of the lack of Judging Schools in their District so this option was included in the updated Requirements document.
 - ▶ **NOTE:** Judges listed on the current “**OAAS Certified and Apprentice Judges Lists**”, who have not attended an OAAS Judging School in the last 3 (three) years will have until July 2020 to participate in a Judging School to maintain their certification.



- ▶ For more information on the changes please attend this afternoon's "How to become a Judge or Instructor" seminar and pick up a copy of the "Requirements for OAAS Certified and Apprentice Judges" and "Requirements for OAAS Certified and Apprentice Instructors" Draft documents
- ▶ **NOTE:** This meeting and this afternoon's seminar are an Overview of the "Requirements" document - it is important that you read the "Requirements" documents for the full details.
- ▶ In the future, we will be working on a document to evaluate persons with OAAS-equivalent Judging credentials outside the OAAS to allow them credit towards becoming an OAAS Certified Judge



- ▶ I am sure that there will be some people that are disappointed that the “Requirements” Documents did not make it even simpler and involved less work/time to become a Judge. And yes, perhaps that may have let us train more Judges faster.
- ▶ But we want to ensure that we are getting well trained Judges. We prefer to make it easier for the Judges to complete their training quicker by providing more Judging Schools and encouraging Judges and Fairs to accept Apprentice Judges.
- ▶ We need to look at ways that the OAAS can work with Districts or groups of Districts to hold more Judging Schools with an emphasis on the several Districts that are particularly understaffed for Judges and Instructors.



- ▶ And perhaps there are those that feel that say we should be concentrating on getting more Judges and Instructors now and then worry about getting the Requirements and Procedures in place. We feel if our emphasis on numbers rather than ensuring that we are putting programs in place first to make sure the training is consistent across all Judging Schools then we really are only doing half a job.
- ▶ Building a good program is like creating any good quality item - whether it be a quilt, or a jacket or building. If you use good quality material and workmanship - it costs more and takes longer but you have a product that wears well and still looks good years from now. Poor quality material and poor workmanship may look good initially but upon close inspection and after time, it is very evident you have a poor quality product and you must soon repair or replace it at added expense and time.
- ▶ Our Judging Program is the same way. We want to put time and work into it now to ensure that we have a top quality Program from the start so that we will have a product that will stand the test of time



NEXT STEPS



One of the OAAS's next priorities is to provide the training and materials and support to ensure that all our Judges at ALL Judging Schools in ALL Districts receive the same high quality, consistent training.

1) Develop 'Train the Trainer' sessions for our current Instructors as well as Judges interested in becoming an Instructors. I hope we can start providing these later this year.

- ▶ They will be held at various locations across the province and will provide the materials, lesson guides and training to allow our Instructors to provide guidance and CONSISTENT Training to our current and Apprentice Judges. These "Train the Trainer workshops will also help to encourage and begin the training process for interested Certified Judges with at least 5 years' experience to become Apprentice Instructors and eventually Certified Instructors.



2) Create Course Outlines for each Category within our Judging Schools to ensure that there is consistency in the Judging Schools to ensure that all Judges would receive the same instruction in any Category in any District.

- ▶ We will be concentrating on the Judging Standards and ensuring that all judges and Instructors are using them to train and Judge.
- ▶ We need to ensure that all Judges are being given the same training and proper tools so they will feel confident when Judging and, so Fairs know what to expect of each and every Judge they engage, and Exhibitors know what to expect when they show under an OAAS Judge.
- ▶ I expect to see the basic outlines in place for 2020 as well as the start of more specific course outlines for individual Categories.



3) Further define the ‘Categories’ document list that is part of the “Requirements” document as mentioned above.

4) AssistExpo Judging Program Module - in an effort to provide accurate up to date Judging Lists in a timelier fashion, make it easier to find and register for Judging Schools anywhere in the province and update Judges’ Contact Information, we are working with AssistExpo to create an online Judging Program Module

- ▶ One part of the Module, will help to ensure that Judging List information is more quickly updated while making less work for the District Directors.



- ▶ With another portion of the Judging Module. each District will submit the details for their upcoming Judging Schools to the OAAS Office Manager and they will be input into AssistExpo.
- ▶ Anyone looking to attend a Judging Schools will log into AssistExpo and sign up for the Judging School. We have had numerous Judges indicate they would travel to another District to take Judging Schools - this will give them access to that information.
- ▶ **IMPORTANT:** If someone does not have internet access or perhaps they just really hate computers, they will still be able to register for Judging School as they have in the past and the District Director will enter them into the AssistExpo program. Anyone registering the day of the Judging School can still be accommodated as well.



- ▶ Our Judges' lists will also be stored on AssistExpo so once the Judging School is completed, the District Director will send the list of successful Judging School Participants to the OAAS Office Manager who will upload the participants to the Judges List and then upload the updated Judges List to the website.
- ▶ This should ensure that the Judges list is updated in a timely manner and the District Director will no longer be required to update the Excel Spreadsheet and submit it to the OAAS Office Manager.
- ▶ As well, if a Judge participates in a Judging School outside their District, their information will be updated on the website more easily.
- ▶ As well, (eventually) Judges will be able to log into AssistExpo and update their Contact information any time it changes so the District Director will only have to update information for a limited amount of people.



- ▶ We will be able to run queries of the information on AssistExpo to create the Excel spreadsheets that are posted on our website.
- ▶ AssistExpo Judging Program module should help streamline a lot of the manual inputting of information for Judging Schools, Judges Lists, etc.
- ▶ The Judging Module is still under development so I am not sure of all the details but I understand the Module will allow me to run a query for a District to create a list of the people registered for their Judging School. It would also allow you to easily send an email to the group registered. I think we are going to be really pleased with all the tools it will provide us with.
- ▶ Looking to the future, when we are able to modernize our website the transfers of information directly from AssistExpo to our website could mean that Judges Lists information would be updated seamlessly. Or instead of looking at all the Judges on a list - you could do a Query and look for any Egg Judges in the Province.



5) Update Judging Standards

- ▶ Yes, this too has taken more time than we had hoped but we do plan on having these available for the 2020 Judging Schools.



Everything you wanted to know about Judges Lists and where to find it!

- ▶ If you are looking for information on when the next Judging Schools are in your Districts or other Districts, check our webpage www.ontarioagsocieties.com and go to the Member Services tab, click the little arrow on the right hand side of the tab and select “General Information - Judging Lists & Schools and other Documents”.
- ▶ **REMEMBER** - we can't post it, if your District hasn't sent it to us.
- ▶ We will be posting the updated “Requirements” for Judges and Instructors shortly





Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies

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FAIRS

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ABOUT US



Home

CNE 2018 Ambassador Package

Bio Security

***** Competitions

2019 First Impression Program

At t Order OAAS Awards & Information

Parkwa **Hotel** **Conf** General Information - Judging Lists & Schools and other documents

Conf OAAS Logos

See you Order Judging Standards Books & Fair Passports

Pla Partnership Program

Katl Service Members Directory & Information

Convent Emergency Planning

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Ontario Agricultural Societies"

Ontario Agricultural Societies is a resource for its members through communication and education, and to promote a rural way of life in Ontario.

Updated June 2017





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- HOME ▾
- MEMBER SERVICES ▾
- BOARDS ▾
- COMMUNICATIONS ▾
- CONVENTION ▾
- FAIRS
- CONTACT
- ABOUT US



Home > Member Services > General Information - Judging Lists & Schools and other documents

General Information - Judging Lists & Schools and other Documents

Documents



Download these documents in pdf format

Judging Lists, Schools and District meetings are near the bottom of this page!

➡ OAAS Judging School Instructors List

- [OAAS Homecraft Judging School Instructors](#)
- [OAAS Ag and Hort Judging School Instructors](#)
- [OAAS District Meetings](#)

Other Information

- [Apprentice Judge form](#)
- ➡ ◦ [New Coming Shortly OAAS Requirements for Certified and Apprentice Judges](#)
- ➡ ◦ [New Coming Shortly OAAS Requirements for Certified and Apprentice Instructors](#)
- [New OAAS Judges and Instructors Code of Conduct F14.2 Sept 2018](#)
- [Organizing an OAAS Judging School](#)



Other Judges Lists

NOTE:

The following lists are not created or maintained by the OAAS and we **are not** responsible for the information contained in them. If you have any questions or concerns about these lists, contact the organization directly.

- Ontario Horticulture Judges (list at bottom of page updated 2018)
- Qualified Poultry Judges
- 4-H and Dairy Judges Lists
- The Canadian Goat Society Judges List

How to print Judges List on Letter Size Paper

We have created step by step instructions on how to print the Judges Lists on letter paper due to the number of concerns that they are on legal size paper. We have also included instruction on how to print in black and white instead of colour, if so desired.

[How to Print Judges List on Letter size paper](#) - Click here for instructions



- ▶ The OAAS has received questions about including livestock in our Judging Program. We do not plan to include any Livestock Judging in our Program. Anyone interested in learning to Judge Livestock or retain a Livestock Judge for their Fair should contact the appropriate Breed Organization.
- ▶ We listed the links to the Judges Lists that we have been given. If the Breed that you are looking for is not listed, please contact that Breed organization directly for assistance.

Judges Lists and Judging Schools

NOTE: All information in the Judges Lists and on the Judging School fliers have been provided by the local Districts.

Please contact your District Director to have Judge's information updated or for more information on the Judging Schools. Please do not contact the OAAS Office to have Judge's information updated as it must be verified by the District before it may be posted. The District Director's name is on the bottom of the Judge's List.

Judges List	Contact Link information	Judging Schools	2018 District Meetings
District 1 Homcraft updated May 2018 District 1 Ag and Hort updated May 2018	District 1 Directors		Fall AGM Saturday, Oct 27th Carp
District 2 Homcraft updated August 2018 District 2 Ag and Hort	District 2 Directors		
District 3 Homcraft updated May 2018 District 3 Ag and Hort	District 3 Directors		Fall AGM Saturday. November 3 Registration - 9:00am meeting starts at 9:30am Friendship United Church - 2765
District 4 Homcraft updated Sept 2018 District 4 Ag and Hort updated Sept 2018	District 4 Directors		Fall AGM Saturday, October 27, Registration - 9:30am meeting starts at 10:00am Centreville Presbyterian Church Hall
District 5 Homcraft District 5 Ag and Hort	District 5 Directors	District 5 Judging School information: Location: Bethel Church in Acton. Date: Sat. March 16th, 2019 Registration starts 8:00 AM (district supplies coffee, tea, sweets) morning seminar- Photography Brown Bag Lunch (district supplies coffee, tea, water) afternoon seminar -Flowers and Plants.	Fall AGM Saturday, October 27, Registration - 8:00am meeting starts 9:00am Christ Church Woodbridge, 8045 Islington Avenue, Woodbridge, Ontario L4L 1W4



- ▶ We will be making some modifications to the webpage to make it easier to find this information. We will be adding a new tab called “Judging”. All the information I just showed you will be available under that tab.
- ▶ Whenever there is any new or updated information related to our Judging Program, it will be posted here.
- ▶ Check Often!



- ▶ I would like to thank the Board - it has been very encouraging to have the Board behind the revitalization of the Judging Program
- ▶ I want to thank the Judging Panel for all their hard work and look forward to continuing the process.
- ▶ I would like to thank you - the Certified and Apprentice Judges and Instructors, the District Directors and Boards, and the Agricultural Societies for your patience and support. We are working very hard to create a Judging Program that will help all of us.
- ▶ But I also want to stress that you - the Districts, the Agricultural Societies, the Instructors, the Judges are ALL an important part of this process. We CANNOT do this without you and your support.



- ▶ So what can you do?
- ▶ Agricultural Societies can accept and encourage Apprentice Judges to assist at their fairs. Agricultural Societies are free to select what ever Judges they wish to Judge at their fair, and they often feel more comfortable working with Judges they know but we ask that you consider asking a different Judge(s) to Judge one of your classes. It is impossible to maintain new Judges if they are not given the opportunity to Judge.
- ▶ We realize that holding a Judging School is a lot of work for a District, but perhaps a couple of Districts could work together to hold one extra Judging School in your area. We realize that there is a lack of Instructors especially in some Districts and some Categories and the OAAS will be looking at ways of working around this until we have new Instructors available.
- ▶



- ▶ In closing, I would like to say, we have made a good start but we have a lot left to do but I know we are on the right track. Other Provinces have seen what we have started and they are very interested and want to work with us. Saskatchewan has asked me to speak at the Annual Convention in March,
- ▶ You should be proud - Ontario already has one of the better Judging Programs in the Country and once we are finished it will definitely be one of the best, if not the BEST
- ▶ Please continue to watch the OAAS website and newsletters for further information and updates.
- ▶ If you have comments, concerns, ideas - please take a few minutes to drop me an email at officemanager@oaasfairs.com or if you have a hate-hate relationship with computers, please send a letter to

Vince Brennan, OAAS Office Manager

1911 Foxboro-Stirling Rd.

Stirling, ON K0K 3E0



- ▶ Thank you for attending this seminar
- ▶ Questions, Comments



www.ontarioagsocieties.com

www.ontariofairs.com



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