

## **JUDGES SCHOOL HELD**

**By Beverly Gruber**

One hundred seven folks participated in the 2019 Judges School held at the PSACF/PSSA Convention in Hershey in January. Courses were offered in six categories and in each session the participants actually were required to make some judging decisions on items presented. The six areas presented and the instructors were:

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|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Baked Goods            | Shirley Moyer & Marie Haas |
| 2. Photography            | Harold Hoch                |
| 3. Hand Crafts            | Susan Hahn                 |
| 4. Grain, Hay, Eggs       | Gary Long                  |
| 5. Needlework & Needleart | Barb Warden & Barb Gross   |
| 6. Queen Contest          | Lynn Talbert               |

Each school attendee could go to two of the sessions. A course handout and a completion certificate is given to each participant.

A 45-minute “Intro to Judging” course is given before the classes. Competitive Exhibits, the backbone of all agricultural fairs, is discussed and if you have competition you must have a judge so qualifications of a good judge are reviewed. Most important is the ability to make a relatively quick decision and be able to back it up with fact. Ethics also enter into the equation. You must be consistent, be fair and have respect for what you judge. Another “trick of the trade” is to not comment on items or allow your facial expression reveal your feelings.

At the conclusion of the workshop participants turn in a sheet indicating that they are interested and feel qualified to be able to come to your fair to judge. We had 70 participants to add to the judging school list. A new addition this year will be the Queen Judging category. This was added to assist fairs in locating judges who are familiar with the Fair Queen program. The list can be found on the PSACF website. To locate go to [www.pafairs.org](http://www.pafairs.org) and log in to the members area. If you do not have a login, contact Harry Reffner at 717-861-3071.