SEW WITH COTTON CONTEST
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Sponsored By:
Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation
University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture
Extension Family, Youth & 4-H Education
In Cooperation With:
SUGGESTIONS FOR ORGANIZING
A COUNTY SEW WITH COTTON CONTEST

1. Set up a county Sew With Cotton Contest committee of three or more persons and name a chairman. Preferably, the chairman should have participated in a previous contest. If there have been no previous participants from the county, select a person who likes to sew and can organize the county contest. The chairman may want two or more advisers to work with the county committee. They can be Extension Family and Consumer Sciences agents or Family and Consumer Sciences teachers. The committee should arrange for county contest prizes. The chairman should be responsible for furnishing information concerning the contest to the committee and advisers.

2. Set a date for county activity when cotton garments will be judged. County judging should be set up by September or October to give contestants time to construct garments and to allow enough time for winners to be submitted to Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation. Submit winners to: Brandy Carroll, Assistant Director of Commodity Activities, Farm Bureau Center, P.O. Box 31, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203, by Monday, October 26, 2015. Should you have any questions, please call Mrs. Carroll at (501) 228-1268 or Amber Martin, Commodity Activities Assistant at (501)-228-1300.

3. Immediately after the contest committee has completed plans for the county contest, the activity should be publicized. Give information on the contest to newspapers, television and radio. Posters can be made and letters mailed to key leaders.

4. Place a supply of contest entry forms at local fabric centers, in stores where cotton fabrics are sold, Family and Consumer Sciences departments of local high schools, county Extension offices and county Farm Bureau offices.

5. Extension Family and Consumer Sciences agents, Family and Consumer Sciences teachers, professional seamstresses, and professional tailors are not eligible to enter
the 2015 Sew With Cotton Contest unless retired or not employed in these professions since 2008.

6. Be sure to give credit in local publicity to sponsors furnishing county and state prizes.
and bottom. **No ready-made garments may be worn to complete an outfit.** Ready-made accessories are acceptable.) The participant **must construct all parts** of the entry, and **the person for whom it was made must model each garment/ensemble entered.** (Children too young to walk on their own may not model garments, thus no **infant clothing** may be entered in the competition.)

**QUILT/WALL HANGING:** Participants may be an adult or youth (see above for requirements). Participants in this category will not be eligible for the sweepstakes competition.
FABRIC FACTS

FASHION FABRIC MUST BE 100 PERCENT COTTON. An all-cotton or cotton-blend thread may be used. Garment may be lined or unlined. Tapes, linings, ribbons, underlinings and interfacings may be of any fiber content. The fabric used and the style of the garment will determine whether linings, underlinings or no lining is needed. All fabric trims **sewn to the garment** (lace, eyelet, artificial flowers, ribbon, etc.) must be 100 percent cotton or a cotton-blend. Other trims (pearls, nail heads, buttons, zippers, decorative thread, etc.) are acceptable since these are generally not made of cotton. Fabric **accessories sewn** to the garment must be 100 percent cotton or a cotton-blend. Artificial flowers **pinned, not sewn**, onto the garments are considered accessories and do not have to be made of cotton. Belts, scarves, and collars **not sewn** to the garment are considered accessories and do not have to be made of cotton. Belts, scarves, and collars **sewn** to the garment are a component of the garment rather than accessories, and must be 100 percent cotton. The use of iron-on flexible vinyl is acceptable; however, swatches of fabric attached to all entry forms should be of 100 percent cotton fashion fabric **BEFORE** the vinyl is bonded to the fashion fabric. Use of iron-on vinyl should be noted in the commentary.

Each participant is responsible for determining fiber content of all components of the garment. Always check label for fiber content before purchasing fabric. Fabric swatches of all participants will be tested to determine if they are 100 percent cotton.

FABRIC BURN TEST: Pull threads from both lengthwise and crosswise directions of the fabric and test separately. (Many blends have different fiber contents in the lengthwise and crosswise threads.) Light a candle or match, hold the threads with tweezers, and burn the threads, watching for the following characteristics. As cotton threads approach the flame, they begin to scorch and ignite quickly. While in the flame, cotton burns quickly and produces a yellow flame. When removed from the flame, cotton continues to burn rapidly and has an afterglow when the flame dies out. Burning cotton has the odor of burning paper. When burned, cotton produces a light feathery ash, either gray or black in color. **If the burning thread produces any type of hard or crushable bead, or melts and/or sputters when burning, it is a synthetic or a synthetic-blend.** Because linen, rayon, and cotton are all cellulose fibers, it is difficult to distinguish between them in a burning test. Rayon produces a brighter yellow flame, and burns more quickly than cotton or linen. Rayon has **no afterglow** when the flame is extinguished; however, a cotton/rayon-blend or a linen/rayon-blend produces an afterglow. It is extremely important, therefore that you check the label to be sure the fabric is 100 percent cotton. If you did not check the label, or do not remember the fiber content, choose a fabric you know is 100 percent cotton. **If the burning test leaves any doubt about the fabric being 100 percent cotton, the participant will be disqualified.**
ENTRY INFORMATION

HOW TO ENTER

The state contest will be open to first place winners in each division and the Special Category selected by an official judging committee in each county. Garments must be constructed and modeled by the person entering the garment contest; (other than those entered in the Special Category). The garment that wins the county contest must be the same one entered in the state contest (That is, the garment submitted by Monday, October 26, 2015, must be the garment that is judged at the state contest on December 03, 2015). A person may enter only one division and only one category of the county or state contest State sweepstakes winners of both the Adult and Youth Divisions may not enter either of those divisions again for two years (Youth winners cannot move up to the Adult contest until two years have elapsed). State sweepstakes winners are eligible to enter the Special Category but are not eligible for any other division.

TIMETABLE

Entries of the county winners in the state contest must be received no later than Monday, October 26, 2015. Entry forms should be mailed to: Brandy Carroll, Assistant Director of Commodity Activities, Farm Bureau Center, P.O. Box 31, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203. Should you have any questions please call Ms. Carroll at (501)-228-1268. County winners may be determined by a county contest. If a county contest is not held, a committee of at least three qualified judges approved by the county Farm Bureau must select winners. Extension Family and Consumer Sciences agents, Family and Consumer Sciences teachers, professional seamstresses and professional tailors should serve as judges where available.

ENTRY FORM AND SCORECARD

The entry form on page 10 must be completed and submitted in triplicate with original fabric samples attached to each of the three forms for all categories of the state contest. All sample swatches must be 3” x 3”. This will be safer for the person responsible for doing the burn test to determine if the material is 100% cotton. Garments will be judged according to criteria on the scorecard (page 13). The entry form and scorecard may be copied for use in county contests.
AWARDS AND SCHEDULE

STATE JUDGING AND AWARDS

State judging will be December 3, 2015, during Arkansas Farm Bureau's state convention. During judging, each garment (other than those entered in the SPECIAL CATEGORY) will be modeled by the person who constructed it. In the SPECIAL CATEGORY, the persons for whom they were constructed will model the garments. Various college and university clothing and textile professors, professional seamstresses, and Extension clothing specialists will judge the state contest. Two judges will score each category. First place winners in each youth category and first place winners in each adult category will compete for sweepstakes prizes. A three-judge panel will select the sweepstakes winners. **Decisions of the judges are final.** The top five places in the two youth and two adult categories, and the persons for whom the SPECIAL CATEGORY garments were made **must** model their garments at the Farm Bureau Women's Luncheon the day of the contest. Winning entries in the Quilt/Wall Hanging competition will be displayed at the Women’s Luncheon.

AWARDS paid by Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation for each of the categories (2 youth, 2 adult, special and quilt/wall hanging) are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Place</td>
<td>$400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Place</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Place</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Place</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th Place</td>
<td>$ 50.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The sweepstakes winners for the youth and adult divisions (selected from the first place winners in each category) receive a portable serger valued at $750.00. Winners in the quilt/wall hanging category will not be eligible for sweepstakes prizes (Farm Bureau reserves the right to pay an additional place in another division if there are divisions that have less than 5 contestants).

**NOTE:** Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation will NOT pay travel expenses.

JUDGING SCHEDULE

DATE: Thursday, December 04, 2014
PLACE: Statehouse Convention Center, Little Rock, Arkansas
7:30-8:30 a.m. Registration for all entrants
8:30 a.m. Judging Begins (Dressing Rooms will be Available)
11:30 a.m. Judging Completed. (Top five winners in each category should report to style show commentators for further instructions.)
Rehearsal for style show
Presentation at Women’s Luncheon
YOUTH DIVISION

A maximum of three contestants per county (one per category) may enter the state contest. Participants may enter only one garment in the state contest.

Fashion fabrics must be made of 100 percent cotton. Trims and tapes may be cotton-blends. An all-cotton or cotton-blend thread may be used. Any garment may be lined or unlined. Tapes, linings, ribbons, underlinings, and interfacings may be of any fiber content. Fabric used and garment style will determine whether linings, underlinings or no lining is used. Sweaters are acceptable in any category, but must be handmade of 100 percent cotton. (Ready-made blouses and sweaters are not acceptable.) The participant is responsible for determining the fiber content of the garment.

HOW TO ENTER: The state contest is open to any youth (as defined on Page 3) who is selected by an official judging committee in each county as a first place winner in one of the following three categories:

Dressy Cotton Ensemble:
1. Dress, with or without a jacket
2. Prom/Evening
3. Sport coat/shirt and slacks combination

Cotton Sportswear/Schoolwear:
1. Shirt or blouse with shorts, culottes, skirt or slacks
2. Jogging suit
3. Other type of active sportswear

Participant must construct entire garment. Accessories do not have to be home sewn and depend upon color and type of garment being modeled.

ENTRY FORM AND SCORECARD: The form on Page 10 may be used to enter the state contest. It is also suitable for the county contest. Garments will be judged according to criteria on the scorecard on Page 13. Decisions of the judges are final.

See the Entry Information section on Page 5 for further instructions on HOW TO ENTER and the TIMETABLE. Also of interest is the SEWING TIPS section.
ADULT DIVISION

Participants may enter only one garment in the state contest.

**Fashion fabric must be made of 100 percent cotton.** Trims and tapes may be cotton-blends. An all-cotton or cotton-blend thread may be used. Any garment may be lined or unlined. Tapes, linings, ribbons, underlinings, and interfacings may be of any fiber content. Fabric used and garment style will determine whether linings, underlinings or no lining is used. Sweaters are acceptable in any category, but must be handmade of 100 percent cotton. *(Ready-made blouses and sweaters are not acceptable.)* The participant is responsible for determining the fiber content of the garment.

**HOW TO ENTER:**

The state contest will be open to adults (as defined on Page 3) who are selected by an official judging committee in each county as a first place winner in one of the following three categories:

- **Dressy Cotton Ensemble:**
  1. Dress, with or without jacket
  2. Cotton Suit (pants or skirt)
  3. Formal/Evening

- **Cotton Sportswear:**
  1. Shirt or blouse with slacks or skirt
  2. Jogging suit
  3. Other type of active sportswear

**Participant must construct the entire garment.** Accessories do not have to be home sewn and depend upon color and type of garment being modeled.

**ENTRY FORM AND SCORECARD:** The form on Page 11 may be used to enter the state contest. It is also suitable for the county contest. Garments will be judged according to criteria on the scorecard on Page 13. *Decisions of the judges are final.* Extension Family and Consumer Sciences agents, Family and Consumer Sciences teachers, professional seamstresses, and professional tailors are not eligible to enter.

See the Entry Information section on Page 5 for further instructions on **HOW TO ENTER** and the TIMETABLE. Also of interest is the SEWING TIPS section.
SPECIAL CATEGORY

Participants in this category may be adults or youth (see Page 3 for requirements). One participant from each county may enter the state contest. An entry in this category must be a garment or ensemble constructed by the participant for another individual. (If it is a single garment, it must be a complete outfit; that is, a top and bottom. No ready-made garments may be worn to complete an outfit. Ready-made accessories are acceptable. Children too young to walk on their own may not model garments; thus, no infant clothing may be entered in the competition.) Participants may enter only one garment in the state contest.

Fashion fabrics must be made of 100 percent cotton. Trims and tapes may be cotton-blends. An all-cotton or cotton-blend thread may be used to construct the garment. Any garment may be lined or unlined. Tapes, linings, ribbons, underlinings and interfacings may be of any fiber content. Fabric used and garment style will determine whether linings, underlinings or no lining is used. Sweaters are acceptable, but must be handmade of 100 percent cotton. (Ready-made blouses and sweaters are not acceptable.) The participant is responsible for determining the fiber content of the garment.

HOW TO ENTER: the state contest is open to adults and youth (as defined on Page 3) who are selected by an official judging committee in each county as a first place winner in the SPECIAL CATEGORY (garment or ensemble constructed by the participant for another individual). The garment or ensemble must be regular "street clothing"; that is, costumes, sleep wear, lounge wear and swimwear are not acceptable.

The complete garment must be made by the participant and modeled by the person for whom they were made. Accessories do not have to be home sewn and depend upon color and type of garment being modeled.

ENTRY FORM AND SCORECARD: The form on Page 11 may be used to enter the state Sew With Cotton Contest. It is also suitable for the county contest. Each garment/ensemble will be judged on the person for whom it was made. The participant (person who constructed the garment) must be present during judging to answer questions about the construction of the garment/ensemble. Garments will be judged according to criteria on the scorecard on Page 13. Decisions of the judges are final.

See the Entry Information section on Page 5 for further instructions on HOW TO ENTER and the TIMETABLE. Also of interest is the SEWING TIPS section.
Quilt/Wall Hanging

Participants in this category may be adults or youth (see Page 3 for requirements). One participant from each county may enter the state contest. An entry in this category must be a quilt or wall hanging constructed from 100% cotton fabric. Participants may enter only one quilt or wall hanging in the state contest.

Fashion fabrics must be made of 100 percent cotton. Trims and tapes may be cotton-blends. An all-cotton or cotton-blend thread may be used to construct the garment. The participant is responsible for determining the fiber content of the quilt.

HOW TO ENTER: the state contest is open to adults and youth (as defined on Page 3) who are selected by an official judging committee in each county as a first place winner in the Quilt/Wall Hanging category (garment or ensemble constructed by the participant for another individual).

The complete quilt/wall hanging must be constructed solely by the entrant.

ENTRY FORM AND SCORECARD: The form on Page 11 may be used to enter the state Sew With Cotton Contest. It is also suitable for the county contest. The participant (person who constructed the quilt/wall hanging) must be present during judging to answer questions about its construction. Quilts will be judged according to criteria on the scorecard on Page 13. Decisions of the judges are final.

See the Entry Information section on Page 5 for further instructions on HOW TO ENTER and the TIMETABLE. Also of interest is the SEWING TIPS section.
**THE DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES FROM COUNTIES IS OCTOBER 27, 2015**

NAME____________________________ STREE/T ROUTE____________________________

TOWN________________ ZIPCODE________ COUNTY________ PHONE_________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHECK DIVISION AND CATEGORY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>YOUTH DIVISION</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age-August 1, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_____Dressy Cotton Ensemble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_____Cotton Sportswear/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School wear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADULT DIVISION</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_____Dressy Cotton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensemble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_____Cotton Sportswear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_____Special Category</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_____Quilt/Wall Hanging</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FABRIC SAMPLE**

**PICTURE OF GARMENT**

***Youth entries must be 14 by August 1, 2015***

Attach a sample of each major fabric used in your garment in the squares labeled "Fabric Sample" (on each of the three entry forms). All samples must be 3" x 3." This will be safer for the person responsible in doing the burn test to determine if the material is 100% cotton. You do not need to include linings, underlings or interfacing fabric. Please glue a full-length photo of yourself in the garment you will be modeling in the square marked “Picture of Garment.”
COMMENTARY: On the back of all three entry forms, please type a commentary as you would like it read during the style show. It should be approximately 50 words long (no more than six lines double-spaced). See Page 11 for examples and helpful information.

Counties may duplicate this entry form and scorecard for use in county contests, and enter county winners in the state contest.

I have read the fiber content label(s) and performed the burn test and certify my garment fabric(s) is/are 100 percent cotton.

The garment is certified to conform with all rules and regulations of this contest.

CONTESTANT'S SIGNATURE

CHAIRMAN, JUDGING COMMITTEE

SUGGESTIONS FOR WRITING A COMMENTARY

Include your name, city and/or county, and a description of your garment. Your commentary should be approximately 50 words and take about 30 seconds to read. This is usually no more than 6 lines using a size 12 font.

The length of your commentary is very important, as longer commentaries mean you are walking around and around the stage while the narrator is reading - a very uncomfortable situation to be in. So think carefully and only include information you are sure you need.

The following are examples of commentaries, which do the following:

- Identify the participant
- Tell where she/he is from
- Describe the garment

MARIE CRAWFORD of Ozark is modeling a three-piece suit featuring a lined jacket with princess seams and a single, bound buttonhole closure. Her lined vest also features princess seams and has loop and button closures and welt pockets. A pair of lined pants with front pleats and a side pocket opening completes Marie's striking ensemble.

RUTHIE WILSON of Camden looks stylish in this purple dress she fashioned of 100 percent cotton pinwale corduroy. The flared skirt is attached to a lined, raised-waist bodice. Details include short cap sleeves and a back tie. Ruthie is the 10-year-old daughter of Lori and George Wilson.

TONI BAKER is modeling the 100 percent cotton corduroy jumper she made using Simplicity pattern 8030. It features a raised waist and long skirt. Toni met the challenges of sewing the curved scoop neck, gathered waist, pockets and a full-length zipper. Quite an accomplishment for a beginner! Toni is the daughter of Connie and Jason Baker of Lonoke.
SUSIE SMITH of Pulaski County made this charming pinafore for her niece, Courtney Jones, of 100 percent cotton embroidered eyelet. Beneath her pinafore, Courtney is wearing an old fashioned, red and white checked, 100 percent cotton gingham dress, also fashioned by her Aunt Susie. Courtney looks so sweet!

**SEWING TIPS**

The overall appearance of your garment is very important. It must be finished inside and out. Selecting compatible fabric(s) for your pattern is essential. Avoid those fabrics finished off-grain. Professional construction techniques should be followed during construction, and remember to press as you sew.

Seams should be finished if the fabric ravelles and if you want a professional touch to the inside of your garment. No one-seam finish is suitable for all fabrics. Test your finish to make sure it prevents raveling. Also, be careful the finish does not leave a pressmark on the right side of the fabric.

The garment should have a neat and attractive appearance, fit properly, be clean and free of wrinkles. How the garment looks on the individual wearing it is most important.

A well-made hem does not show on the outside of the garment. The hem finish should be suited to the fabric and to the garment design. Hems should be an even distance from the floor, even in width, finished to prevent raveling, and lightly pressed.

Tapes, linings, ribbons, underlinings and interfacings may be of any fiber content.

Accessories complete a garment and enhance the ensemble's "total look." Purses, shoes, scarves, hats, ties and jewelry are accessories. Belts and collars **not sewn** to the garment are considered accessories.

In selecting the category to enter, keep in mind the purpose of the garment. A garment that is becoming to the wearer, correctly sewn, and accessorized correctly will lose points if entered in the wrong category.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>PRESENTATION (50 POINTS)</strong></th>
<th><strong>TOTAL POINTS</strong></th>
<th><strong>YOUR SCORE</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Suitable to age, expresses personality</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colors coordinated, compliment skin, hair, etc.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lines of garment enhance figure, straight seams, well presses, hangs properly, etc.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appearance of garment is pleasing, hems inconspicuous: closures, top-stitching, etc.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garment suitable for appropriate category</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessories compatible with the garment</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poised, garment well-presented</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garment fits contestant well</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>CONSTRUCTION (40 points)</strong></th>
<th><strong>TOTAL POINTS</strong></th>
<th><strong>YOUR SCORE</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fabric and trim appropriate for garment</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garment cut on grain</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seams and darts securely sewn, pucker free, and appropriately finished</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hems even and appropriate in width, appropriate hemming for garment and fabric, hand stitching invisible from outside of garment</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interfacing used where needed, appropriate for garment and fabric, “invisible” from outside of garment</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closures smooth; buttons/fasteners attached appropriately; buttonholes well-made and correct size</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sleeves and facings smooth; collar correctly attached</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pockets well-formed and securely attached, topstitching evenly spaced, trim attached securely and inconspicuously</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY</strong></th>
<th><strong>TOTAL POINTS</strong></th>
<th><strong>YOUR SCORE</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>