



Picture This

National Junior Hereford Association members frame people and cattle in photo contest entries.

by *Brooke Roberts*

During the seven days of the Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE), thousands of images are captured of junior members, their families and their cattle. But prior to each year's junior national, the roles reverse and junior members step behind the camera to try their hand at snapping meaningful photographs for the JNHE photo contest. National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) members strive to perfectly combine the right lighting, photo composition and camera settings to snap an image worthy of topping the competition.

Aspiring photographers compete in four age divisions and are allowed to submit photos fitting into one of three categories — Hereford cattle, people and enhanced. This year's young photographers submitted more than 160 photos captured in various locations across the country.

The judges were impressed with the depth of quality — and creativity — represented within this year's entries. Particularly impressive were the images submitted from the peewee participants, a large division with substantial quality throughout — especially considering the young age of these competitors. Each category resulted in intriguing submissions from all age divisions. The people category resulted in fun images of family members, friends and mentors; while the cattle images spanned newborn calves to powerful herd bulls. The enhanced division allowed for increased creativity by granting exhibitors the ability to edit their original images.

Every photo submission carries its own unique story, and the judges thoroughly enjoy the snapshots into lives of Hereford youth conveyed within the photo contest. The judges strongly encourage any NJHA members with even a slight interest to submit images for next year's contest. With the amount of technology available today, expensive equipment is not necessary to shoot high-quality images worthy of submission.

Ultimately, the judges say the best entries evoked emotion, were unique and showed personality. Yes, the winning entries are all clear, high-quality images, but more importantly, the images that surface to the top portray the photographer's passion for Hereford cattle and the people in their lives that share their love of the breed.

Memories captured with a camera can last forever. The judges encourage Hereford youth to grab a camera and document their Hereford experiences for the photo contest so they can remember them years after their last JNHE experience. **HW**

Pointers from the pros

"So many people always try to take the same shot. Instead of just standing in front of what you are taking a picture of, try taking it from another angle. Maybe it is from the ground shooting up or even looking down from on top of a trailer or out of a window. You would be surprised by how much it can change a photo. Whether you are taking a photo of Hereford cattle during a show or a sunset picture back at home, always think outside of the box.

"Depending on the type of camera and lens you are using, think about what you want to be in focus. Some cameras allow you to choose what you want in focus. Maybe focus on the showman or on the eye of a calf and let the background be blurred using different f-stops.

"While the photo you are trying to take might be the reason you took the photo, sometimes a shot you took by accident might be the best one — whether it is a photo that focuses on the background instead of the calf or maybe something completely random. Just this past week at Maine-Anjou/Chianina Junior Nationals, I took a photo of the Rodgers family following their big win. When I took the photo it was of the mom and daughter hugging. When I went back and edited the photos, I noticed their young son Layton was reaching out touching their heifer's head. It was a completely different photo than the one I thought I took."

— Brian, Laurie and Lisa Reid, *The Showtimes*

"To get the quality of photo to stand up well in any photography contest, you need to make sure that you don't use a cell phone photo. A 1 MB file or more is of best quality.

"If you are photographing cattle, make sure you are aware of your lighting outside. Lighting is critical, and it's best to photo [shoot] with sunlight. Mid- to late-morning is best.

"Make yourself aware of your background. Whether you're taking photos of cattle for a catalog or a candid shot, a clean or not too blurry background helps the quality and expression of the photo."

— Darla Aegerter, *The Show Circuit*

"Making the calves look nice and natural is one of the things I try to focus on. Try to make sure the calf's ears are forward, and their mouths are closed, and they're standing in a way that is comfortable for them.

"Good lighting will always help photos look better. Showings can be difficult with them being dark and dusty. If you are shooting in manual mode, do your best to keep your ISO low without having dark photos. Adjusting your shutter speed and aperture can help with this immensely.

"When I'm taking photos I try to get them right so I have to do only small edits. The less you have to edit a photo the better, they will look more natural and credible. My personal preference is to only edit to enhance the photo to bring out the best parts — the more natural the better."

— Kendra Davis, American Hereford Association

Peewee Hereford Cattle

1st place

"Red Alert" by
Cora Belle Chapman, Seneca, Ill.



Peewee Hereford Cattle

2nd place

"Look Out World, Here I Come" by
Nolan Lee, Wellington, Ill.



Peewee Hereford Cattle

3rd place

"Can I Help You?" by
Cooper Miller, Newcastle, Wyo.



Junior Hereford Cattle

1st place

"Bath Time" by
Madelyn Grimmel, Jarrettsville, Md.





Junior Hereford Cattle

2nd place

"Momma's Girl" by
Waylon Lee, Wellington, Ill.



Junior Hereford Cattle

3rd place

"Underneath Western Skies" by
Chase Harker, Hope, Ind.



Intermediate Hereford Cattle

1st place

"Sweet Caroline" by
Molly Biggs, Dixon, Ill.



Intermediate Hereford Cattle

2nd place

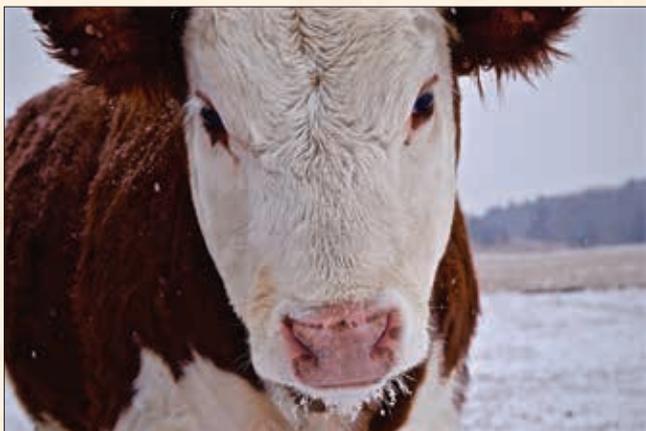
by **Molly Minihan**, Wheaton, Kan.



Intermediate Hereford Cattle

3rd place

"Frozen Focus" by
Hannah Tremaine, Oconomowoc, Wis.



Senior Hereford Cattle

1st place

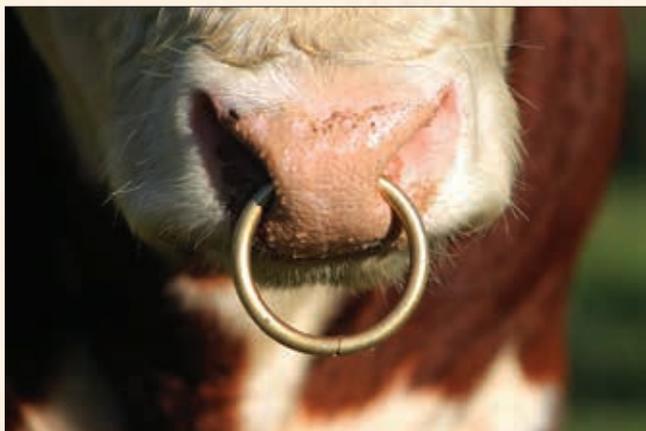
"Summertime Sunshine" by
Lindsey Wolles, Dell Rapids, S.D.



Senior Hereford Cattle

2nd place

"The Bull Ring" by
Abby Anderlik, Dayton, Iowa



Senior Hereford Cattle

3rd place

"Day Dreaming" by
Kelsey Decker, Pickerington, Ohio





Peewee People

1st place

"Girl Time" by
Nolan Lee, Wellington, Ill.



Peewee People

2nd place

"Morning Walk" by
Landon Lienemann, Hildreth, Neb.



Peewee People

3rd place

"She Isn't As Nice As She Looks" by
Cruz Colyer, Bruneau, Idaho



Junior People

1st place

"A Special Bond" by
Waylon Lee, Wellington, Ill.



Junior People

2nd place

"Home, Home On the Range" by
Piper Colyer, Bruneau, Idaho



Junior People

3rd place

"My Daddy" by
Delaney Figue, Onaga, Kan.



Intermediate People

1st place

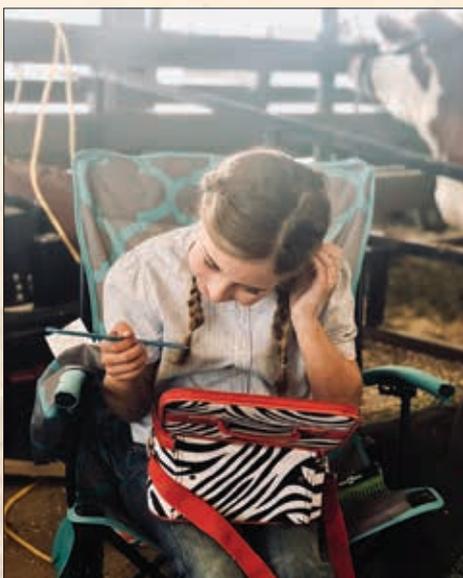
"Let's Get Her '12 O'Clock'" by
Lauren McMillan, Tiskilwa, Ill.



Intermediate People

2nd place

"Royalty Ready" by
Kathryn Coleman, Modesto, Calif.





Intermediate People

3rd place

by **Molly Minihan**, Wheaton, Kan.



Senior People

1st place

"Show Bull" by **Kelsey Decker**, Pickerington, Ohio



Senior People

2nd place

by **Wade Minihan**, Wheaton, Kan.



Senior People

3rd place

"Looking Over the Cows" by **Rachel Buzanowski**, Pompeys Pillar, Mont.



Peewee Enhanced

1st place

"Momma's Love" by
Nolan Lee, Wellington, Ill.



Peewee Enhanced

2nd place

"After the Storm" by
Cooper Miller, Newcastle, Wyo.



Peewee Enhanced

3rd place

"Catching Some Shade" by
Cruz Colyer, Bruneau, Idaho



Junior Enhanced

1st place

"Quiet Contemplation" by
Chase Harker, Hope, Ind.

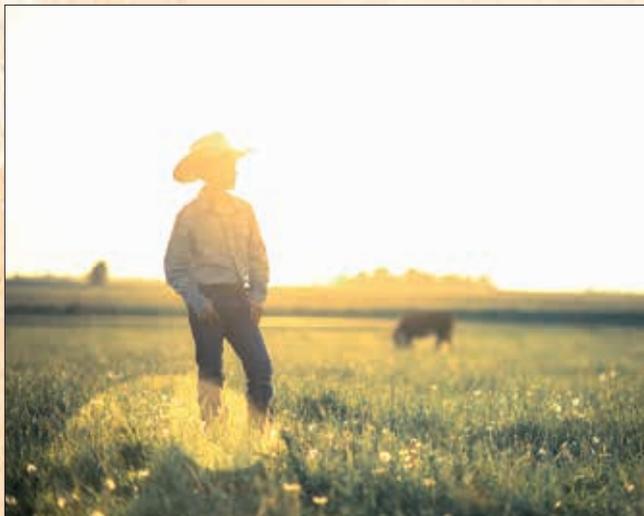




Junior Enhanced

2nd place

“Checking the Herd” by
Waylon Lee, Wellington, Ill.



Junior Enhanced

3rd place

“Herefords and Apple Blossoms” by
Taylor De Jong, Lebanon, Ore.



Intermediate Enhanced

1st place

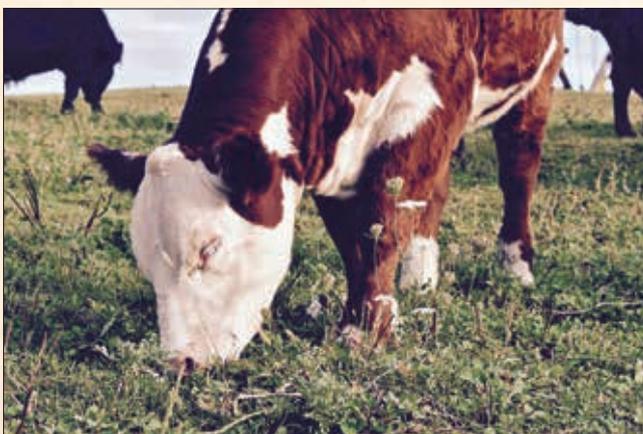
“Evening Feeding” by
Abigail Lewis, Palmyra, Neb.



Intermediate Enhanced

2nd place

“Sweet Annie” by
Hannah Tremaine, Oconomowoc, Wis.



Intermediate Enhanced

3rd place

"Just Chillin'" by
Jodi McMillan, Tiskilwa, Ill.



Senior Enhanced

1st place

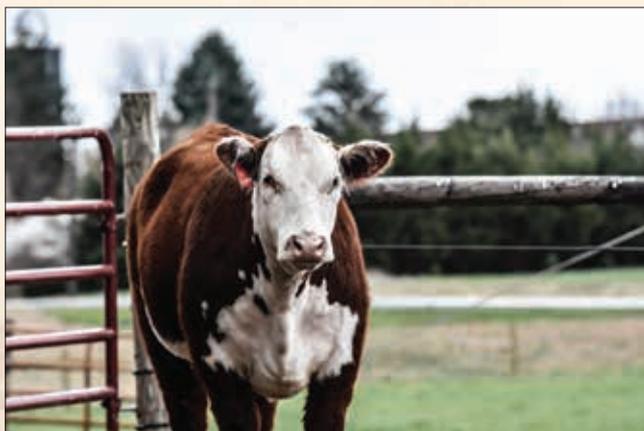
"Montana Winter" by
Rachel Buzanowski, Pompeys Pillar, Mont.



Senior Enhanced

2nd place

"Paisley" by
Christine Helm, Shippensburg, Pa.



Senior Enhanced

3rd place

"Cow Pedicure" by
Brooklyn Adam, Lathrop, Mo.



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