

A Lens for Creativity

Here are four pro tips to learn your way around a camera.

by **Grace Vehige**



It does not matter if you are photographing cattle or a landscape of your ranch — there are guidelines to follow which help photographers shoot quality photos. There is no better way to capitalize on creativity than through the lens of a camera.

The National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) and the *Hereford World* sponsor a photo contest in conjunction with the Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) for juniors to compete in. JNHE may have come and gone, but it is never too early to start capturing the moments that mean the most to you.

Check your background

When capturing a photo, it is important to check for distracting objects or elements in the background. Photographing in open spaces or filling the frame with your subject are two easy tips for ensuring a clean background. However, there are many times where the moments you want to capture occur in congested areas. If this complication presents itself, try shooting at new angles. For example, if you are capturing a ring photo of

an individual at the National Western Stock Show, there are many other subjects moving in and out of the ring. Try stepping up on the fence or shooting from the stands to create a new angle for your subject. This way, you can capture a creative photo and have the opportunity to blur interfering subjects. Another option is to blur the background using a wide aperture.

Find a point of interest

Composing a quality photo is best done by identifying a point of interest. The focal point is what draws the eye of the audience. When preparing to capture a photo, ask yourself a few questions. What is my subject? What will draw the attention of the audience? What is the central point of interest?

Another important note about focal points is that they can be anything from a person, to a building, to a flower, etc. An option for strengthening a focal point in a photo is to utilize contrasting colors as a means of separating your focal point from the rest of the image.

Utilize the rule of thirds

The rule of thirds is one of the most important components to a quality photo and is a stepping stone to help capture great shots.

Essentially, the rule of thirds is exactly what it sounds like. When you look at a photo, imagine splitting the image three ways. Scientific studies show that a viewer's eye is most commonly drawn to the intersecting points of the "lines" in a photo. By off-centering a photo, you can create leading lines for viewers. Just remember, a good photo does not have to follow the rule of thirds; it is just recommended for beginners who are still learning their way around a camera.

Change your perspective

Yes, cameras have zoom capabilities, but it is hard to beat a photo with a unique perspective. One of the most important components to capturing a quality photo is not locking your feet or body in one place. Allow yourself the freedom to squat or move around can help create a new perspective in a photo. Be safe, though!

Other useful tips

Aside from the basic tips previously provided, there are many other things to consider when capturing images. A few other useful tips include:

- Do not stage photos
- Have patience
- Take lots of pictures rather than just one
- Tell a story with your photo
- Hold the camera straight
- Be safe

When it comes to photography, the most important thing is to practice and to keep an open mind. So, pick up a camera, and start shooting. You never know what you might find through its lens. **HW**

Photography resources

For more information on photography tips or for resources linked to online photography courses, refer to the blogs and websites below. Always ask questions, and never stop learning!

Expert Photography

ExpertPhotography.com/a-beginners-guide-to-photography/

Borrow Lenses

BorrowLenses.com/blog/photography-tips/

Digital Camera World

DigitalCameraWorld.com/tutorials/photography-tips-for-beginners

Light Stalking

LightStalking.com/basic-photography-tips-for-beginners/

Bob Books

BobBooks.co.uk/blog-post/20-essential-photography-tips-for-beginners-1

Canon

Shop.Usa.Canon.com/shop/en/catalog/education

Nikon

Online.nikonschool.com/ **HW**

Peewee Hereford Cattle

1st place



"Feeding Time"
by **Brinley Davis**,
Maple Hill, Kan.

Peewee Hereford Cattle

3rd place

"Tell Me How Much You Love Me... I'm All Ears"
by **Cora Belle Chapman**, Seneca, Ill.



Peewee Hereford Cattle

2nd place

"Reflections"
by **Nicholas Jones**, Darlington, Wis.



Junior Hereford Cattle

1st place



"Hereford King"
by **Kade Boatman**,
Rockford, Ill.



Junior Hereford Cattle

2nd place



“Such a Stud”
by **Kaisha Alber**,
Guide Rock, Neb.

Junior Hereford Cattle

3rd place



“The Open Pasture”
by **Kinsley Gillig**,
Blue Rapids, Kan.

Intermediate Hereford Cattle

1st place

“In the Meadow”
by **Ashlee DeMolles**, W. Bridgewater, Mass.



Intermediate Hereford Cattle

2nd place

“Mom Cow”
by **Hailey Keller**, Portland, Ore.



Intermediate Hereford Cattle

3rd place

“Jezebel Scramble Calf Tag”
by **Makayla Luckie**, Alvarado, Texas



Senior Hereford Cattle

2nd place

“Miss Manhattan”
by **Megan Underwood**, Campbellsville, Ky.



Senior Hereford Cattle

1st place



“Freckle Nose”
by **Hattie Duncan**,
Wingate, Ind.



Senior Hereford Cattle

3rd place



“Nested Pasture Babe”
by **Schelby Beach**,
Forest, Ohio



Peewee People

1st place



“Land of the Free”
by **Caroline Lee**,
Wellington, Ill.



Peewee People

3rd place



“There, There Curly”
by **Allie Perry**,
Onaga, Kan.



Peewee People

2nd place



“Checking the Herd”
by **Brenlee Alber**,
Guide Rock, Neb.



Junior People

1st place



“Hereford Pedicure”
by **Dustin Denton**,
Blue Rapids, Kan.



Junior People

2nd place



"Bossman"
by **Kaisha Alber**,
Guide Rock, Neb.

Junior People

3rd place

"Spray Once, Comb Twice"
by **Jordan Mitchem**, Vale, N.C.



Intermediate People

2nd place



"A Pop of Color"
by **Salem Sifford**,
Goldvein, Va.



Intermediate People

1st place



"The Best of Friends"
by **Waylon Lee**,
Wellington, Ill.

Intermediate People

3rd place

“Into the Unknown”
by **Brittany DeMolles**, W. Bridgewater, Mass.



Senior People

2nd place



“Mamas, Please Let Your Babies Grow Up to Be Cowboys”
by **Schelby Beach**, Forest, Ohio

Senior People

1st place

“Clear Sky at Night, Rancher’s Delight”
by **Ashton McMillen**, Walnut Grove, Mo.



Senior People

3rd place



“Happily Ever Hereford”
by **Kelsey Decker**, Pickerington, Ohio



Peewee Enhanced

1st place

“Steer in the Light”
by **Kane Grace**, Humboldt, S.D.



Peewee Enhanced

2nd place

“Eye of the Hereford”
by **Ella Crane**, LaSalle, Ill.



Peewee Enhanced

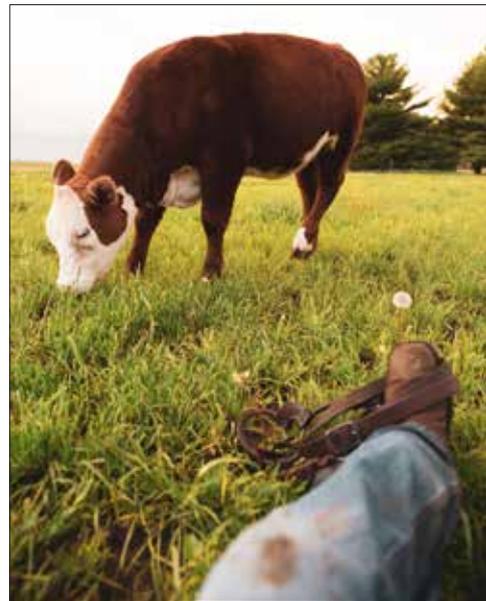
3rd place

“A Cow Portrait”
by **Weston Grace**, Humboldt, S.D.



Junior Enhanced

1st place



“A Cowboy’s
Chance to Relax”
by **Nolan Lee**,
Wellington, Ill.



Junior Enhanced

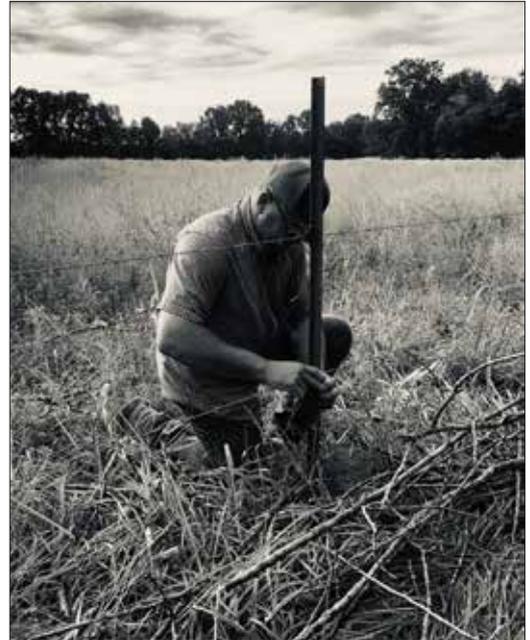
2nd place

“Building a Brand”
by **TyMBER Billman**, Rigby, Idaho



Junior Enhanced

3rd place



“Best Place to Be — Fixing
Fence with My Dad”
by **Beau Ann Graves**,
Chillicothe, Mo.



Intermediate Enhanced

1st place

“Don’t Judge – It’s My Quarantine Face!”
by **Chase Harker**, Hope, Ind.



Intermediate Enhanced

2nd place



“Tell Me More, Daddy”
by **Waylon Lee**,
Wellington, Ill.



Intermediate Enhanced

3rd place

“Can I Get Out of Here?”
by **Jalyn Davis**, Maple Hill, Kan.



Senior Enhanced

1st place



“Kindness”
by **Kelsey Decker**,
Pickerington, Ohio



Senior Enhanced

2nd place



“King of Kings”
by **Tar Tut**,
Rushford, Minn.

Senior Enhanced

3rd place

“Fitting for Excellence”
by **Megan Underwood**,
Campbellsville, Ky.

