

Photography for Everyone

How to take your photos to the next level with what you have.

by **Grace Jacobson**

Before junior members loaded cattle for Kansas City, they were able to participate in the photo contest sponsored by *Hereford World* and the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA).

The top three photos in each category and age division were displayed in Hale Arena at the 2021 VitaFerm® Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE). Photography categories included Hereford cattle, people and enhanced.

While it may feel like the average person lacks the know-how and equipment to capture high-quality photos like the professionals, photography is a learned skill that improves with practice.

Practice makes progress

Individuals do not pick up a camera for the first time and take their best shots. Much like showmen must spend time with their calves to make a great team, photographers must learn the ins and outs of their camera through lots of practice.

Set aside some time at least once a week or once a day to shoot photos. Snapping shots of subjects you are interested in is a great way to practice

your skills. The photos could be of anything from your Hereford cattle on pasture to a parent cooking in the kitchen.

Challenge yourself by looking up photography tips and focusing on one new concept at a time. For example, if you learned about the rule of thirds, use the grid on your camera to focus your photo on the lines and intersections of the grid. Learn, practice, challenge yourself and have fun!

Photographer over equipment

The initial cost of camera equipment can be discouraging to beginners. However, with the advancements in technology, we carry quality cameras in our pockets. Phone camera technology has advanced greatly in the past years, and you can take well-composed, high-quality photos with your phone.

After all, photography is not always about the best equipment, but rather about the skill of the person using it, such as composition, lighting and originality. A camera is only as good as its photographer.

If you want to upgrade your equipment, try renting the photo gear

at first. By renting equipment, you can see if a certain lens or camera body would be a good fit for you and the kind of photos you take.

Tips for success

A helpful tip is to try to pay attention to the lighting in your photo. Light can highlight the subject in different ways and affects the exposure of your shot. Experiment behind the lens — capturing shots of both moving and still subjects, close-ups and sweeping panoramas, back-lit silhouettes, and bright detail shots.

A good attitude and a learning spirit are all you need to learn photography tips and guidelines. Once you learn a few new techniques, you can start experimenting with them. If you are comfortable with the basic concepts, you can try to branch out to create a more interesting shot.

Finally, instead of trying to duplicate a popular photo, take the concepts and ideas from your favorite photo and put your own twist on it. You have your own unique perspective, so let it come through in your photos. **HW**

Other helpful resources:

For more information to grow your photography skills, check out these articles. Happy picture taking!

47 Essential Photography Tips for Beginners

<https://www.borrowlenses.com/blog/photography-tips/>

Tips for Taking Great Livestock Photos

<http://www.legendarylivestock.com/Resources/Photo-Tips/>

10 Tips for Taking Better Smartphone Photos

<https://time.com/5660278/smartphone-camera-picture-tips/> **HW**



Peewee Hereford Cattle

1st place

"A Watchful Eye"

by **Sterling Ipsen**, New Plymouth, Idaho



Peewee Hereford Cattle

2nd place

"My Cow and Baby"

by **Weston Grace**, Humboldt, S.D.

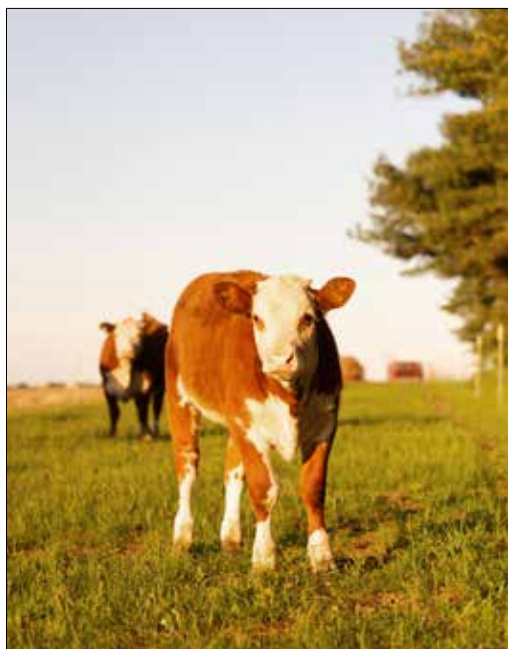


Peewee Hereford Cattle

3rd place

"Hey, Baby Girl!"

by **Caroline Lee**, Wellington, Ill.



Junior Hereford Cattle

1st place

"Cute Little 86"

by **Kinsley Gillig**, Blue Rapids, Kan.



Junior Hereford Cattle

2nd place

"Hey Fergi"
by **Alison George**, Mondovi, Wis.



Junior Hereford Cattle

3rd place

"Found You"
by **Crystal Mitchem**, Vale, N.C.



Intermediate Hereford Cattle

1st place

"Red Eyed Beauties"
by **Kendall Boatman**, Rockford, Ill.



Intermediate Hereford Cattle

2nd place

"Dusk"
by **Sadie Holman**, Hebron, Ohio



Intermediate Hereford Cattle

3rd place

"I Love You, But These Fly's are Annoying"
by **Brenna Perkins**, LaGrange, Ky.



Senior Hereford Cattle

1st place

"Red & White Cattle and Pink Skies"
by **Molly Minihan**, Wheaton, Kan.



Senior Hereford Cattle

2nd place

"The Calm Before the Storm"
by **Karstyn Cantrell**, Collinsville, Okla.



Senior Hereford Cattle

3rd place

"Allie"
by **Regan Mitchem**, Vale, NC.



Peewee People

1st place

"Barn Time"
by **Bryce Milligan**, Sallisaw, Okla.



Peewee People

2nd place

"Partners"
by **Caroline Lee**, Wellington, Ill.



Peewee People

3rd place

"Eying Up the Judge"
by **Crayton Chapman**, Seneca, Ill.



Junior People

1st place

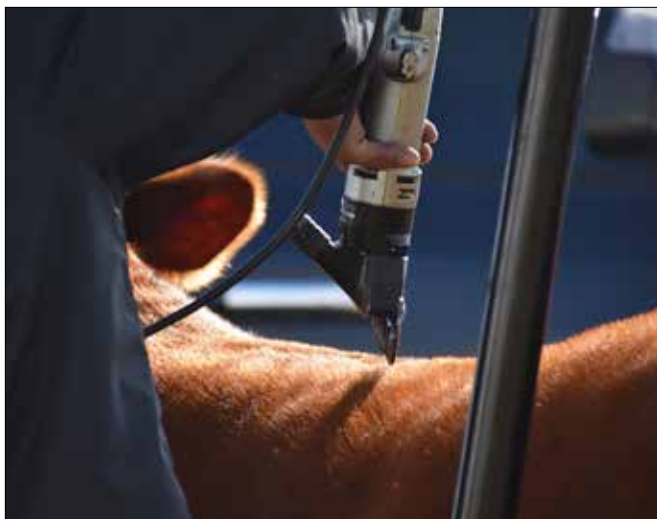
"That's a Darn Nice Cow, Daddy"
by **Nolan Lee**, Wellington, Ill.



Junior People

2nd place

"Believe in Magic"
by **TyMBER Billman**, Rigby, Idaho



Junior People

3rd place

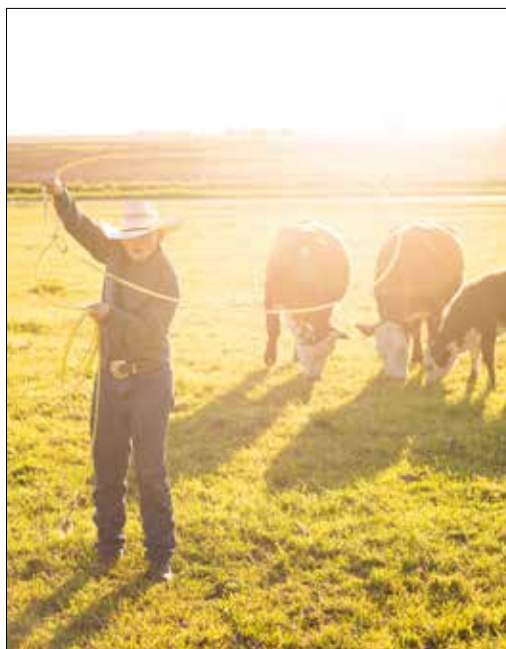
"Earnest Evaluation"
by **Jordan Mitchem**, Vale, N.C.



Intermediate People

1st place

"Cowboy Up"
by **Waylon Lee**, Wellington, Ill.



Intermediate People

2nd place

"Baby Got Cows"
by **Kiara Nichols**, Ovid, Mich.



Intermediate People

3rd place

“Start of a Friendship”
by **Ashlee DeMolles**, West Bridgewater, Mass.



Senior People

1st place

“Someone Little is Always Watching”
by **Halle Walsh**, DeGraff, Minn.



Senior People

2nd place

“I’ll Do the Tail”
by **Regan Mitchem**, Vale, N.C.



Senior People

3rd place

“Little Sister is Always Watching”
by **Molly Minihan**, Wheaton, Kan.



Peewee Enhanced

1st place

"American Dream"
by **Emma Helsinger**, West Manchester, Ohio



Peewee Enhanced

2nd place

"Enjoying the Last Rays"
by **Sterling Ipsen**, New Plymouth, Idaho



Peewee Enhanced

3rd place

"Baby Hereford"
by **Weston Grace**, Humboldt, S.D.



Junior Enhanced

1st place

"The Long Call"
by **Kinsley Gillig**, Blue Rapids, Kan.



Junior Enhanced

2nd place

"Cow and Calf"
by **Kane Grace**, Humboldt, S.D.



Junior Enhanced

3rd place

"Hereford at Sunset"
by **Jordan Mitchem**, Vale, N.C.



Intermediate Enhanced

1st place

"You 'Ain't' No Cowboy Without a Rope"
by **Waylon Lee**, Wellington, Ill.



Intermediate Enhanced

2nd place

"Finding Baby"
by **Cady Pieper**, Zurich, Kan.



Intermediate Enhanced

3rd place

"Marley"
by **Grant Brix**, Logan, Iowa



Senior Enhanced

1st place

"Show Ring Prep"
by **Molly Minihan**, Wheaton, Kan.



Senior Enhanced

2nd place

"Dreary, Dark, Rainy Days"
by **Karstyn Cantrell**, Collinsville, Okla.



Senior Enhanced

3rd place

"Hereford Gang"
by **Ceara Cull**, Hartland, Wis.

