

PHOTO JUDGE INSIGHTS

Tips for Hereford juniors.

by *Sydnee Shive and Kelsey Vejraska*

Think about photo composition

This can mean a variety of things, but for us, it's asking ourselves questions like, "What should my viewer think after seeing my photo?" and "Where should my focus point be?" Take a few seconds to compose the photo in your mind before snapping the image.

Be intentional

If you want a headshot of a cow, go for a closeup. Do you want a calf's full

body in the image? Be careful not to cut off feet, toes and ears. Go into a shoot prepared with intention and ideas. You'll have better luck; we promise.

Know the rules, but don't be afraid to take risks

Photos should never be crooked. The subject of your photo should be sharp and in focus. Utilize the rule of thirds or the golden rule. Learn about depth

of field and experiment with leading lines and symmetry. Try framing your subject with something in the foreground — it adds interest to a photo. We rewarded those who took risks.

Go easy on yourself

Remember, even if your photo isn't perfect or doesn't match the image in your mind — that's OK. It doesn't mean the shot is bad or unusable. Imperfections are human; they help tell stories. As photographers, we often forget this.

Your settings matter

Manual settings can be complicated. But with a little practice, you'll have it figured out in no time. Some of our rules of thumb: don't drop your shutter speed below 1/200; anything slower doesn't account for shaky hands. If the environment is bright, your ISO should be a low number. If it's a dark environment, your ISO should be a high number. A low f-stop means your background will be blurred (in a good way), and your subject will be in focus. A high f-stop means more of your background will be sharp, along with the subject.

Practice, practice, practice

The best way to enhance your photography skills is through practice. Try taking a photography class through your local Extension office or community college. Even better, reach out to your favorite photographers and ask questions; they are almost always willing to help. **HW**

Editor's Note: The top three photos in each category and age division were displayed at the 2022 VitaFerm® Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE).

About the judges ...

Kelsey Vejraska (bottom photo), American Hereford Association (AHA) audio-visual specialist, and Sydnee Shive (top photo), *Hereford World* managing editor — both superior, professional photographers — judged this year's photo contest sponsored by the National Junior Hereford Association and *Hereford World*. They were impressed by the talent Hereford juniors displayed in their entries. Based on the contest photos, they offer these tips and emphasize that judging photographs, like judging cattle, is necessarily a subjective process. **HW**



Peewee Hereford Cattle

1st place

“Just a Little Frosty”
by **Jorie Miller**, Newcastle, Wyo.



Peewee Hereford Cattle

2nd place

“On Target Bull”
by **Lexi Schmidt**, Blue Rapids, Kan.



Peewee Hereford Cattle

3rd place

“Baby Face”
by **Brenlee Alber**, Guide Rock, Neb.



Junior Hereford Cattle

1st place

“Dinnertime”
by **Nolan Lee**, Wellington, Ill.



Junior Hereford Cattle

2nd place

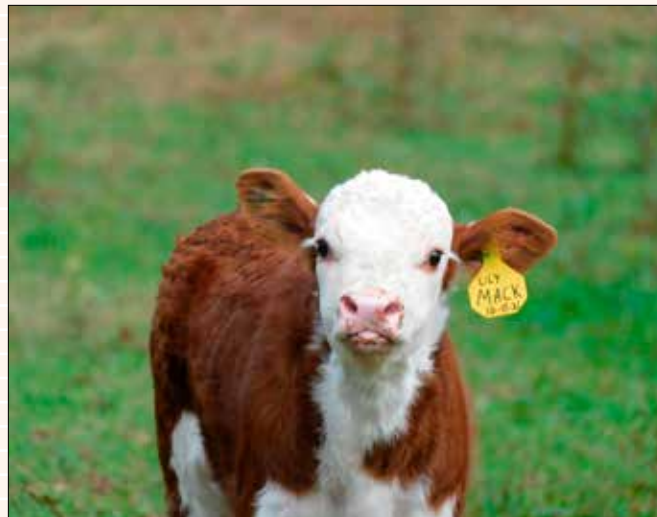
“Late Evening Snack”
by **Baylee Dobbs**, Franklin, Texas



Junior Hereford Cattle

3rd place

“Smile for the Camera”
by **Emily Troyer**, Pylesville, Md.



Intermediate Hereford Cattle

1st place

“Hey Good Lookin’”
by **Kendall Boatman**, Rockford, Ill.



Intermediate Hereford Cattle

2nd place

“Between the Lines”
by **Kade Boatman**, Rockford, Ill.



Intermediate Hereford Cattle

3rd place

“Eyes on You”
by **Dustin Denton**, Blue Rapids, Kan.



Senior Hereford Cattle

1st place

“Bull Nose”
by **Jessica Jensen**, Courtland, Kan.



Senior Hereford Cattle

2nd place

“A Watchful Eye”
by **Milly Minihan**, Wheaton, Kan.



Senior Hereford Cattle

3rd place

“Eyes on the Prize”
by **Dellana Muck**, Caledonia, Ill.



Peewee People

1st place

"Friends"

by **Brenlee Alber**, Guide Rock, Neb.



Peewee People

2nd place

"Penny and Blaze"

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



Peewee People

3rd place

"Who's the New Guy"

by **Ava Doig**, Saint Paul, Ind.



Junior People

1st place

"Chute Views"

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



Junior People

2nd place

“When Hard Work Pays Off”
by **Emma Helsinger**, West Manchester, Ohio



Junior People

3rd place

“The Art of Fitting”
by **Elayna Aue**, Auburndale, Wis.



Intermediate People

1st place

“Best of Friends”
by **Waylon Lee**, Wellington, Ill.



Intermediate People

2nd place

“Evaluation”
by **Mason Glascock**, Fraziers Bottom, W.Va.



Intermediate People

3rd place

"Behind the Scenes"
by Beau Ann Graves, Chillicothe, Mo.



Senior People

1st place

"Sale Day"
by Jessica Jensen, Courtland, Kan.



Senior People

2nd place

"Hereford Happiness"
by Payton Farmer, Brownstown, Ind.



Senior People

3rd place

"A Steady Hand"
by Molly Minihan, Wheaton, Kan.

