



**Overall Contest/Junior Division: 1st/Landscape: 1st — *Big Sky Barn*,  
Danika Gordon, Whitewood, S.D.**

# Let Me See!

Winners are selected in the 2014 NJAA/Angus Journal Photo Contest.

by Paige Nelson, editorial intern

‘P’ictures that won had minimal, if any, technical mistakes and both captured my eye and told a story,’ said Austin Black, photo journalist for *Today’s Farmer* and one of three National Junior Angus Association (NJAA)/*Angus Journal* Photo Contest judges.

All NJAA members were invited to participate in the annual photography contest. The purpose of the contest is to help NJAA members increase their communication skills through the creative display of a message or feeling through photography.

This contest, along with several others, is judged prior to the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), providing those who cannot attend the show an opportunity to still participate.

It also offers the *Angus Journal* a means to spotlight the talents of junior members by publishing their photos throughout the year in the pages of the *Angus Journal* and the *Angus Beef Bulletin* and within the *Journal’s* electronic media outlets. Several contest entries have graced the cover of the *Angus Journal* in recent years.

The 389 entries of Angus cattle or breeders, farms, ranches, shows, sales or scenes were judged 60% on creativity, communication power and composition of the photo and 40% on technical quality of the photo, including light exposure, true color, focus and cropping. Austin, Carrie Heitman, Angus Productions Inc. (API) Creative Media communications coordinator, and Mary Black, *Angus Journal* editorial artist, judged this year’s entries.

The photos were evaluated by age division (junior, intermediate and senior), as well as by category (Angus cattle, people, landscape, and around the farm or ranch), with overall winners selected in each age division and then over all age divisions.

Photographers placing first in a category won \$30; second, \$20; and third, \$10. All of the photo entries were on display at the NJAS in Indianapolis, Ind., and winning photos and a few of the “Editor’s Picks” are displayed on the following pages.

To see all the winning photos and all of the Editor’s Picks, use the pull-down menu for “Angus Online” at [http://api-virtuallibrary.com/njaa\\_photo\\_contest.html](http://api-virtuallibrary.com/njaa_photo_contest.html).

Upon completion of the contest, the judges provided some tips for next year’s submissions.

## What set the winning photos apart?

“I looked at the initial impression or mood of the picture, and if it grabbed my attention or showed obvious skill,” says Austin.

Mary says a winning photograph had several elements: mood, well-composed/cropped images, defined focal point, quality photo processing and printing, and sharpness and focus.

Describing a winning photo, Heitman says, “The photo excelled in the technical aspect of photography and also demanded my attention with the composition and colors.”

## What could be improved upon for next year?

Austin suggests absolutely no selfies and more photos using natural light to expose vivid colors. Consistently maintaining a sharp focus is key.

Mary adds that more spontaneity in getting different angles of the subject matter would improve a photo’s chances. “No more noses; it’s been done!” she adds.

Heitman says fewer photos that include the backs of people’s heads or the hind ends of cattle would be welcome. “Don’t be afraid to get in front of the subject and capture a really great moment.”

The judges also note that a better understanding of subject matter for each category is needed.

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**Overall Contest: 2nd/Senior Division: 1st/  
Landscape: 1st — Dinner for Two,  
Olivia Wilson, Ogden, Ill.**

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**Above: Overall Contest: 3rd/Senior Division: 2nd/Angus Cattle: 1st – Model in the Making, Taylor Clarke, Rocky Ridge, Md.**

**Right: Overall Contest: 5th/Intermediate Division: 1st/ Around the Farm or Ranch: 1st – Time and Effort, Catie Hope, Berryville, Va.**



**Above: Overall Contest: 4th/Junior Division: 2nd/Angus Cattle: 1st – A Different View, Jenna Hamilton, Buena Vista, Va.**



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**1st Place:** *A Different View*,  
Jenna Hamilton, Buena Vista, Va.  
(see page 152)

**Right: 2nd Place:**  
*What Are You Looking At?*  
Kady Figge, Onaga, Kan.



**Below: 3rd Place:**  
*Cream of the Crop*,  
Bridger Gordon,  
Whitewood, S.D.



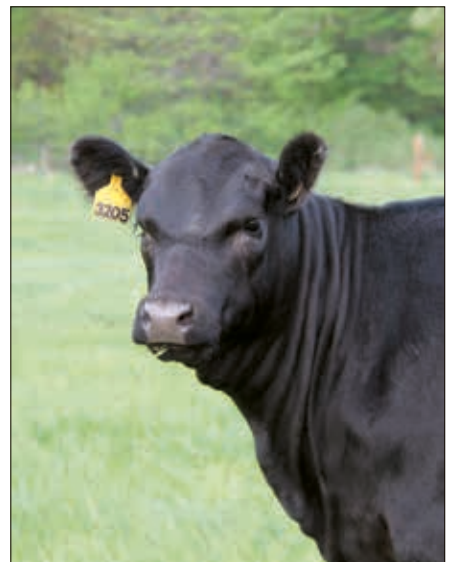


**Above: Honorable Mention:** *Sleepy Head*, Landry Hinkson, Cottonwood Falls, Kan.

**Below: Honorable Mention:** *Picture Perfect*, Skylar Lienemann, Princeton, Neb.



**Above: Honorable Mention:** *Another Snow Day*, Courtney Keaton, Anderson, Mo.



**Above: Honorable Mention:** *Pretty Sky*, Isaac Rhode, Gower, Mo.

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**Junior Division  
Angus People**

**Right: 1st Place:**  
*Waiting His Turn,*  
Isaac Rhode,  
Gower, Mo.



**Above: Editor's Pick:** *Practice Makes Perfect,*  
Jenna Hamilton, Buena Vista, Va.



**Below: Honorable Mention:**  
*Feeding Time,*  
Madison Rechtermann,  
Polo, Mo.





**Above: Honorable Mention:**  
*Lookin' at the Future,*  
Danika Gordon,  
Whitewood, S.D.



**Left: 2nd Place:**  
*Getting Ready,*  
Ella Jordan, Saint  
Joseph, Mo.

**Right: 3rd Place:**  
*Two Beauties,*  
F. Hayden Weaver,  
Ephrata, Pa.



**Below: Editor's Pick:** *Baby Buffet Time,* Rachel Smith, Osecola, Neb.



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**1st Place:** *Big Sky Barn*, Danika Gordon, Whitewood, S.D. (see page 150)

**Right: 2nd Place:**  
*Cold Morning*,  
Callie Keaton,  
Anderson, Mo.



**Editor's Pick:** *Babbling Brook*, Matea Gordon, Whitewood, S.D.



**Editor's Pick:** *Peek-A-Boo*, Kelby Petersen, Marshall, Wis.



**3rd Place:** *Misty Morning*,  
Jace Stagemeyer, Page, Neb.





**Honorable Mention:**  
*Location, Location, Location,*  
Skylar Lienemann, Princeton, Neb.



**Honorable Mention:** *The View,*  
Savannah Page, Jefferson, Ga.



**Honorable Mention:**  
*The Dorsey Barn,*  
Isaac Rhode, Gower, Mo.



**Honorable Mention:** *Guinea at Sunset,*  
Marcie Harward, Richfield, N.C.



**Honorable Mention:** *Out from the Storm,*  
Samantha Wallace, Kansas, Ohio