

Picture Perfect Patience

Winners are selected for the 2017 NJAA/*Angus Journal* Photo Contest.

by **Mayzie Purviance**, editorial intern

Three pictures compete for attention on screen in the McHenry Room at Angus Media headquarters as judges evaluate the final round of photos for the 2017 National Junior Angus Association (NJAA)/*Angus Journal* Photo Contest.

“Who’s our overall winner?” asks Mary Black, editorial artist for the *Angus Journal* and a veteran judge of the contest. She and fellow judges Shelby Mettlen, assistant editor, and Shauna Hermel, editor, examine each photo. They discuss the lighting, compare the angles in which the photos were taken, study the composition of each photo and consider the photographer’s effort and creativity. Gazing up at the photographs, one word comes to mind: timing.

Yes, *The Grass Is Greener!* secures the title of overall winner. The photo captures the

judges’ favor because the photographer was able to capture the moment of a calf reaching under the fence to nab the greenest grass it can reach. The judges note the great focus, composition and action of the photo.

Sometimes it’s careful planning that makes a photo. Sometimes it’s luck, like the emotion captured in *It’s A Love Without End*. Other times, the moment just calls to you, like the protective pup, subject of another finalist, *The Sentinel*.

There are many different elements that make up a good photo: lighting, composition, resolution, angle. Yet, perhaps the most important factor in determining a basic photo from an extraordinary photo is timing. You can have all the ingredients to make a good photo, but nothing substitutes for being in the right place at the right time.

Elements of the contest

Members of the NJAA were invited to participate in the annual photography contest, which was created to allow members of the NJAA to express their creativity and capture their personal experiences through photos. The contest is judged prior to the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), providing those who cannot attend the show an opportunity to participate.

This contest is not only a great resource to help NJAA members get involved, it also allows the *Angus Journal* many opportunities to show off some of the winning photos and various editor’s picks. Throughout the year, many of the photos submitted will grace the pages of the *Angus Journal*, the *Angus Beef Bulletin*, and several electronic media outlets used by Angus Media.



► 1st Overall; 1st, Intermediate Division; 1st, Angus Cattle: *Yes, The Grass is Greener!*, Jenna Hamilton, Buena Vista, Va.

Overall Contest Winners

In the past, contestants were required to submit their entries as a hard copy in the mail. This year, things were done a little differently: All submissions were required to be submitted electronically, eliminating the need for photographers to print, mount and mail their photos.

The new process also presents more options for judging the contest and for displaying the entries at the NJAS, Hermel says.

"I was very happy to see that our new system of electronic photo submission didn't deter our junior members from entering this year's photo contest," says Hermel. "The 403 entries provided stiff competition, especially in the junior and intermediate divisions."

For each category within each age division, judges selected a first, second, third, and a few honorable mentions then designated editor's picks. Considering the top photos in each category as if division winners in a heifer show, the judges selected five overall winners from each age division.

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► **3rd Overall; 3rd, Intermediate Division; 1st, Around the Farm or Ranch:** *The Sentinel*, Mardee Sadowsky, Eagleville, Mo.



► **Above: 2nd Overall; 2nd, Intermediate Division; 1st, Angus People:** *It's A Love Without End*, Alexandria Cozzitorto, Lawrence, Kan.

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In similar fashion, the judges evaluated the winners of each age group to select the overall contest winners, naming five top photos.

Prize money was awarded to the winners of each category: first place won \$30; second, \$20; and third, \$10. All entries will be on display at the NJAS in Des Moines, Iowa. Winning photos are published here, with additional winners and editor's picks featured

in supplemental pages available in the digital *Angus Journal*.

A new contest was also added to the mix this year. Traditionally, there have been three divisions — junior, intermediate and senior — with four categories — Angus Cattle, Landscapes, Around the Farm or Ranch and People. This year, a separate contest for digitally enhanced photos was introduced

with divisions for intermediate and senior entries. This contest focused on manipulating a raw image in order to enhance the image. The digitally enhanced contest was not factored into the overall results.

To view online galleries of all winners and editor's picks, visit: www.api-virtuallibrary.com/njaa_photo_contest.html.



— 2017 NJAA/ANGUS JOURNAL PHOTO CONTEST —



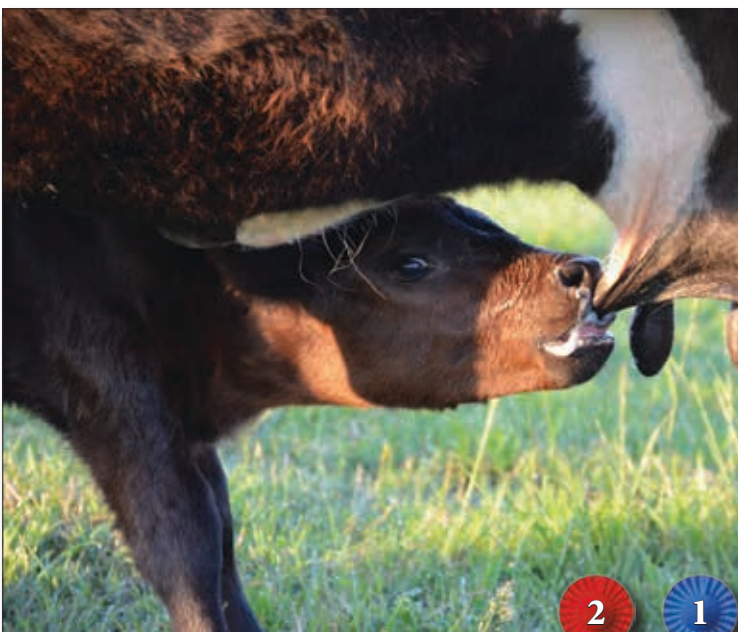
► **Opposite page: 4th Overall; 4th, Intermediate Division; 2nd, Angus People: *My Brother*, Lauren Gilbert, Oldfield, Mo.**

► **Above: 5th Overall; 1st, Junior Division; 1st, Angus People: *My Girl*, Samuel Jordan, Saint Joseph, Mo.**

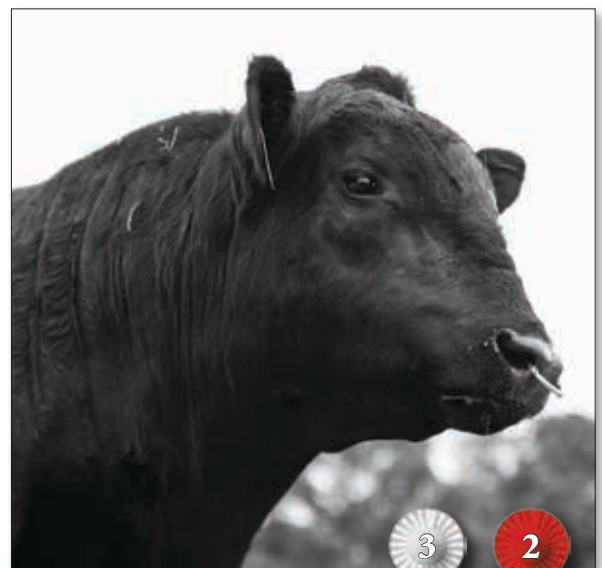
Tips for future submissions:

- Look for unique pictures that capture a special moment, emotion or scene.
- Make sure the entry fits the category specified upon submission.
- Try to position your subject off center, following the rule of thirds.
- Black and white photos did well this year, but that doesn't mean they always will.
- Unless there's something really special about it, all else being equal, setting/themes we've seen before don't do as well. So, don't just mimic last year's winner.
- Make sure you save the photo to its highest resolution, especially if using a cell phone.
- Turn off the date stamp feature.
- Turn off any filter effects prior to taking the photo.
- Posed shots tend to be less impactful.
- No selfies, please.
- With a landscape photo, you still need a purpose. What makes that landscape beautiful?
- Change your depth of field for a different look.
- Watch out for distracting elements in the background.
- Take multiple photos of your subject from different angles to play with lighting, positioning, backgrounds and other technical and structural elements.
- Remember, timing is key.

Overall Junior Division Winners



► **Above: 2nd, Junior Division; 1st, Angus Cattle: *Got Milk?* Courtney Keaton, Anderson, Mo.**



► **3rd, Junior Division; 2nd, Angus Cattle: *Bowtie*, Mary Wood, Willow Spring, N.C.**

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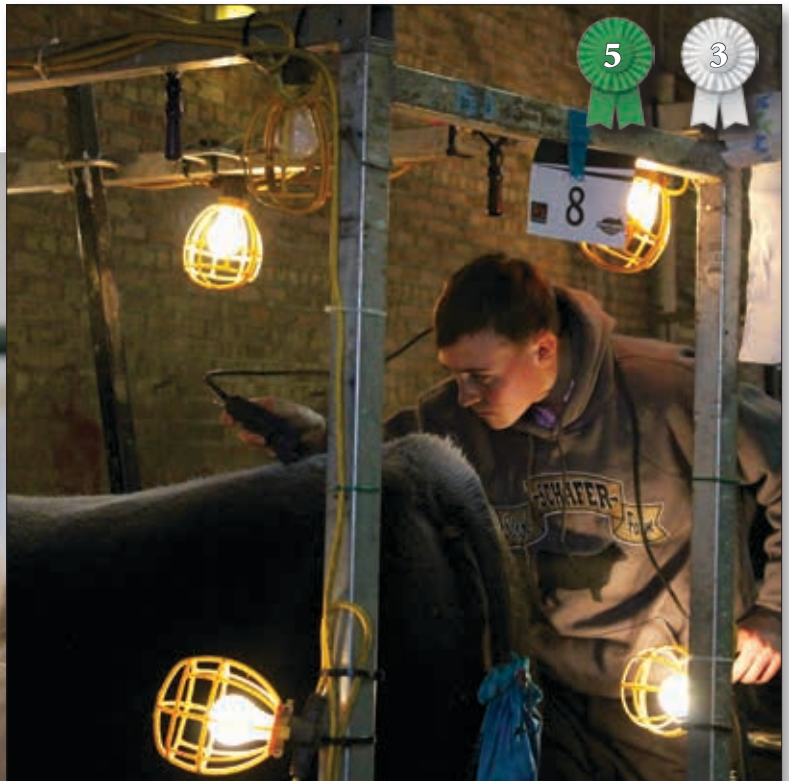
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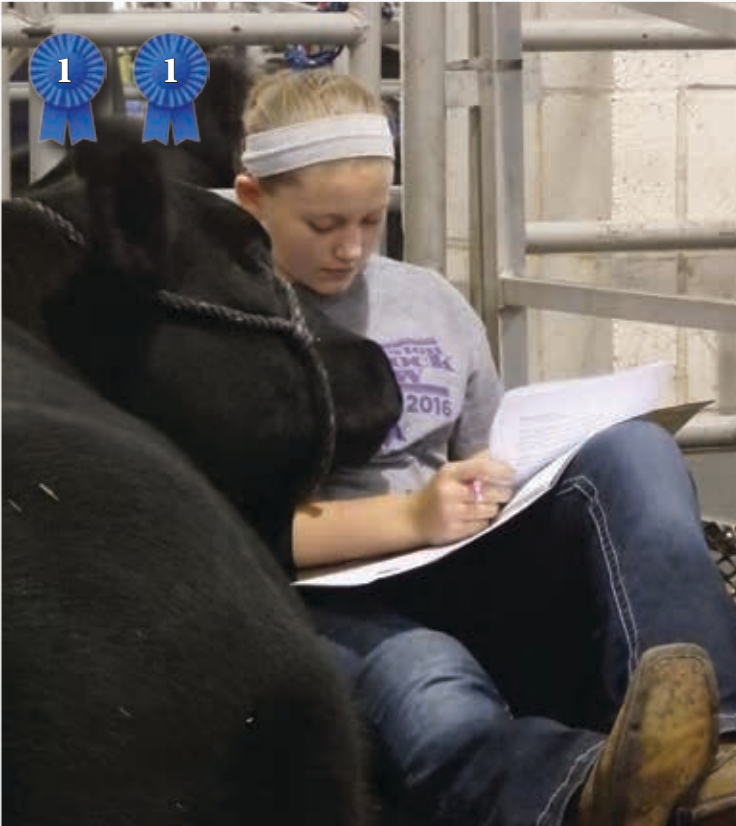
►Above: 4th, Junior Division, 1st, Around the Farm or Ranch: *Pedi Time*, Ella Jordan, Saint Joseph, Mo.

►Below: 5th, Junior Division, 2nd, Around the Farm or Ranch: *Miss Ella*, Kasey Meyer, Blue Hill, Neb.

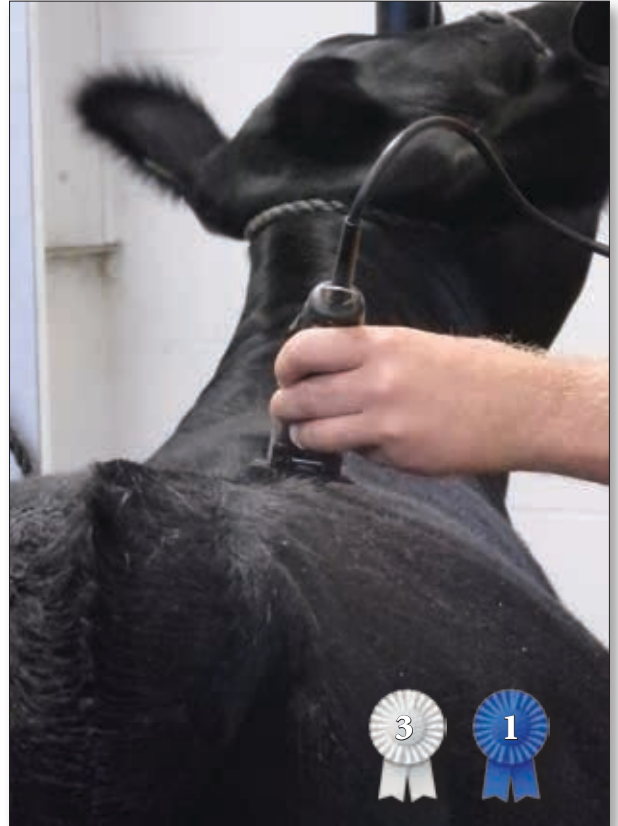


►Above: 5th, Intermediate Division; 3rd, Angus People: *Focus*, Maddie Fugate, Mahomet, Ill.

Overall Senior Division Winners



►1st, Senior Division; 1st, Angus People: *Studying with Love*, Chelsey Figge, Onaga, Kan.



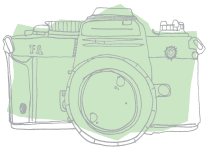
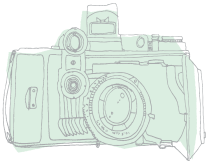
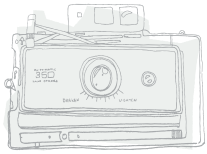
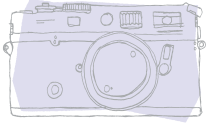
►3rd, Senior Division, 1st, Angus Cattle: *Final Touches*, Chelsey Figge, Onaga, Kan.



►2nd, Senior Division, 1st, Around the Farm or Ranch: *The Harvest is Plentiful*, Miles Stagemeyer, Page, Neb.

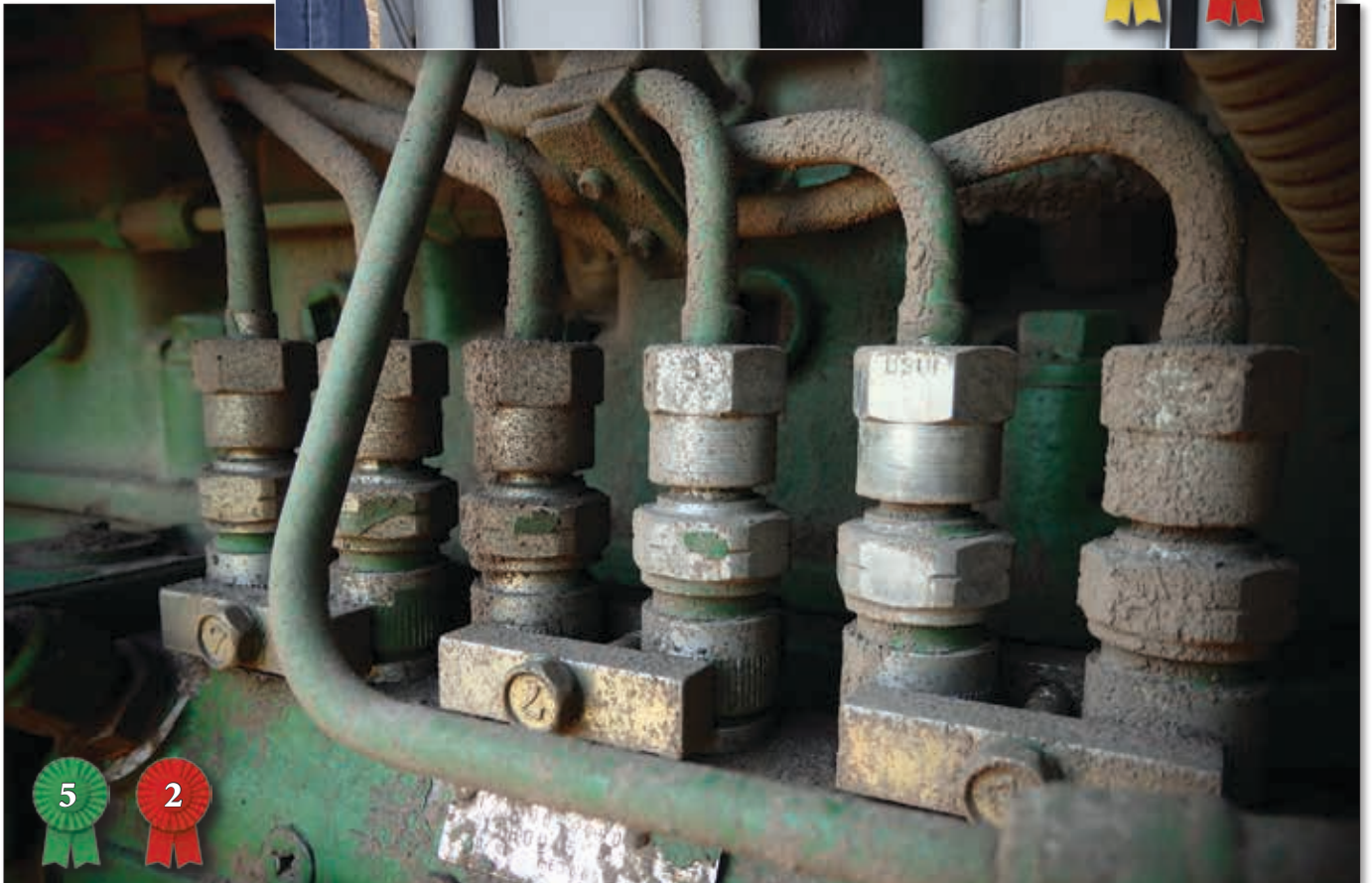
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► Right: 4th, Senior Division, 2nd, Angus Cattle: *A Bit Off the Top*, Morgan Fruge, Jennings, La.

► Below: 5th, Senior Division, 2nd, Around the Farm or Ranch: *Heritage*, Chelsey Figge, Onaga, Kan.



See additional winners and editor's picks in the supplemental section provided in the digital *Angus Journal*