

Fantastic Photography

Winners are selected in the 2015 NJAA/Angus Journal Photo Contest.

by **Raney Lovorn**, editorial intern

National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members aspiring to be photographers were invited to show off their skills through the annual NJAA/Angus Journal photography contest. One of the few contests judged prior to the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), the photography contest provides opportunity for junior members to be involved and to gain valuable experience, even if they personally cannot attend the show.

The *Angus Journal* celebrates the talents

and abilities of NJAA members by publishing photos entered in the contest throughout the year in various outlets, including the *Angus Journal*, the *Angus Beef Bulletin*, the *Angus Beef Bulletin EXTRA*, the *Journal's* Facebook page, and other online and print outlets. Photographing the cover photo of a magazine by the age of 21 is quite a distinction, and several contest participants have earned the honor. The *Angus Journal* proudly displays their photos as a tribute to the strength of NJAA members' skills.

The purpose of the photography contest is to help NJAA members increase their communication skills through the creative display of a message or feeling through photography. In keeping with that purpose, the contest is critiqued 60% on creativity, communication power and composition of the photo and 40% on the technical quality of photo, such as proper light exposure, true color, sharp focus and correct cropping. Mary Black, Angus Media editorial artist, Leann Schleicher, Angus Media special services artist, and Kathrin Gresham, Angus Media photo services, judged this year's contest.

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 overall 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 Tulsa, Okla. Winning photos and those receiving honorable mentions follow this article. Photos placing, receiving an honorable mention and selected as editor's picks are posted online in the *Angus Journal's* Virtual Library at www.api-virtuallibrary.com. Use the "Angus Online" pull-down menu to navigate the page.

Judge's perspective

"We had some great photos this year," Gresham says. "There was a lot of thought put into the composition, focal point and clarity of the images."

Achieving a nice clear image goes a long way in the photo contest, Gresham says. A few of the images had no focal point or were overly blurry. Some simple techniques can change the photos drastically.

"Take some time to steady your hand and focus the camera," Gresham says. "A couple of ways to steady your camera are to lean on something solid and hold your breath when you snap the photo. Less movement of the camera will create a well-focused image."

With 426 entries, this year's competition contained a depth of quality that surpassed previous years and the judges' expectations. For more photo contest tips see "Top Ten Photo Tips" on page 316 of this issue.

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Overall Contest: 1st
Junior Division: 1st
Junior Landscape: 1st —
Silo, Kady Figge, Onaga, Kan.

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**Right: Overall Contest: 4th
Intermediate Division: 1st
Intermediate Angus Cattle: 1st —
Untitled, Keegan Cassady, Normal, Ill.**



**Overall Contest: 2nd
Senior Division: 1st
Senior People: 1st — *Checking The Cows: TeamWork*,
Christopher Kahlenbeck, Union, Mo.**



**Left: Overall Contest: 3rd
Senior Division: 2nd
Senior Angus Cattle: 1st —
Man in Black, Taylor Clarke,
Rocky Ridge, Md.**



**Below: Overall Contest: 5th
Junior Division: 2nd
Junior Angus Cattle: 1st — *Curious Angus*,
Thea Zellmer, Nashville, Mich.**



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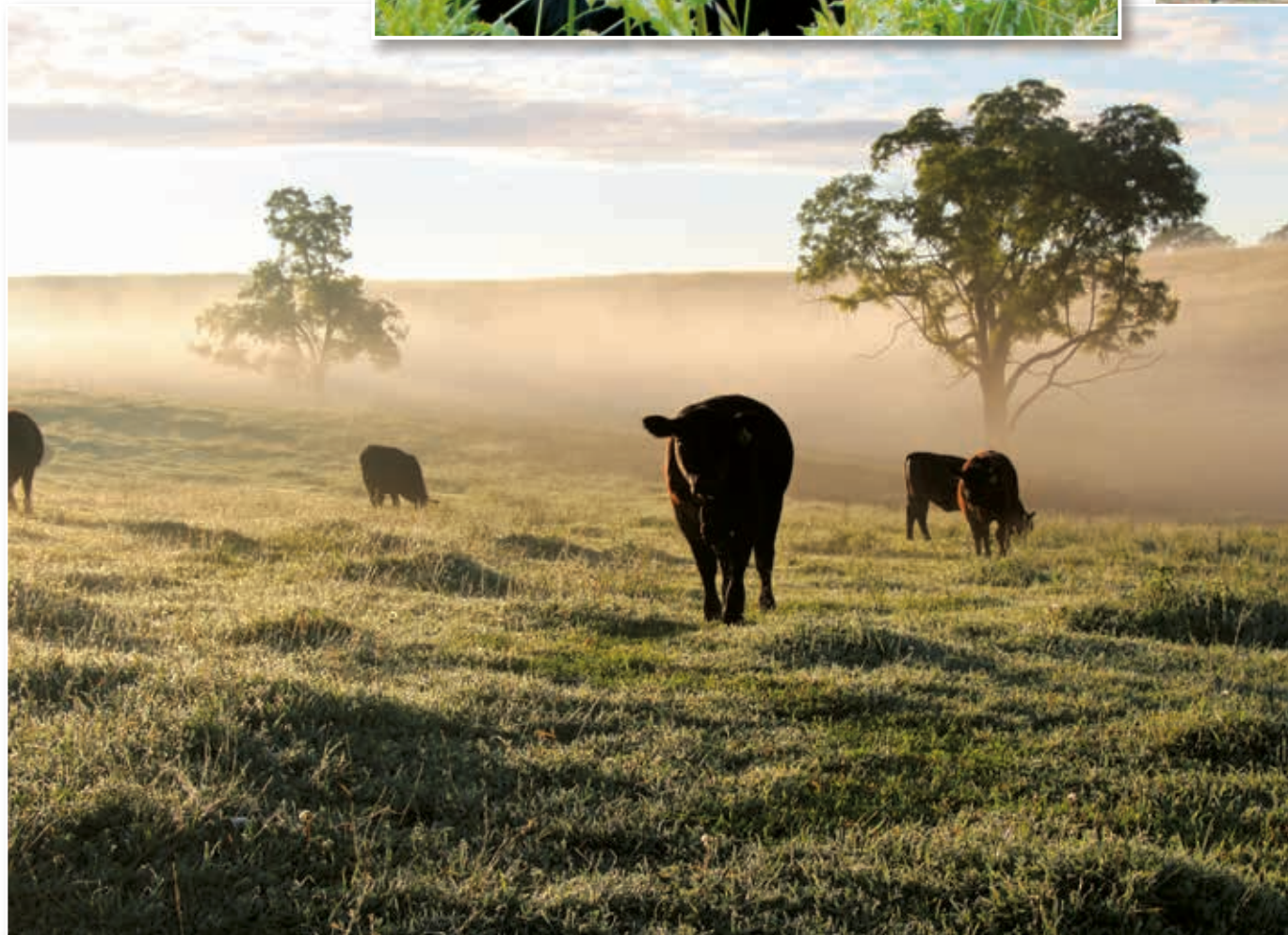
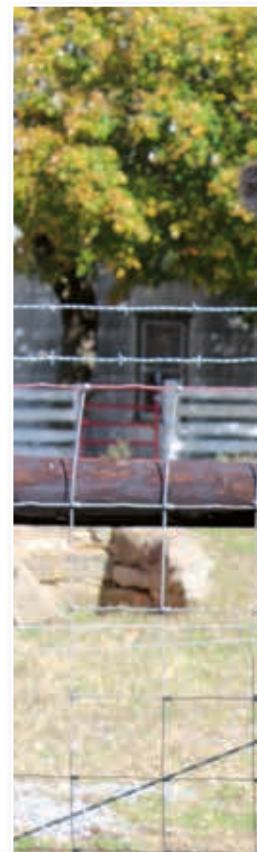
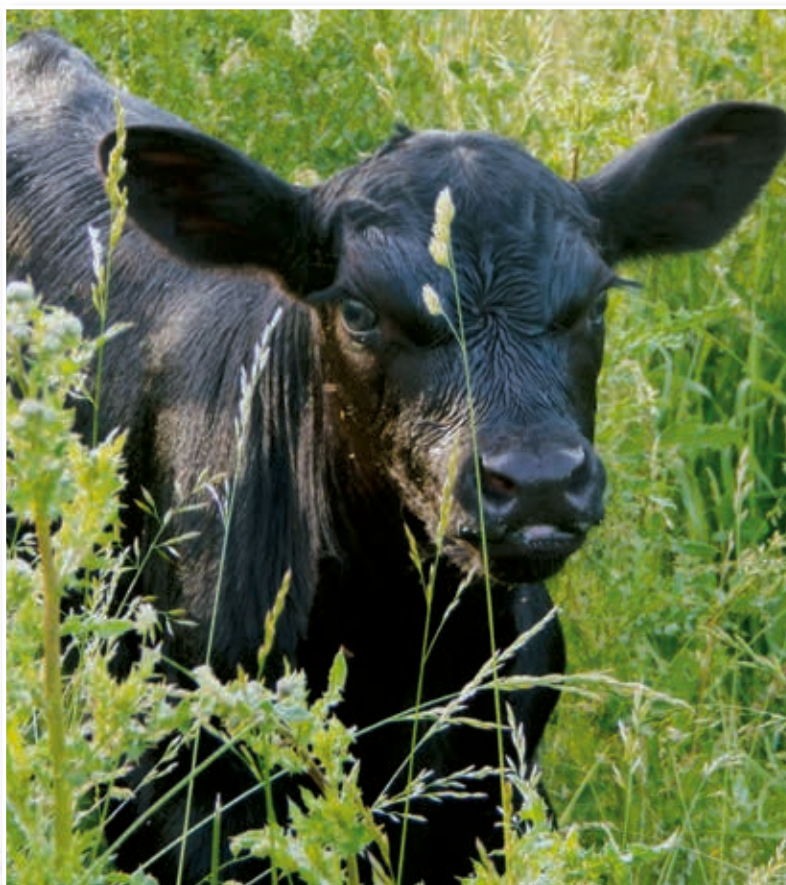
1st Place: *Curious Angus*,
Thea Zellmer, Nashville, Mich.
(see page 291)

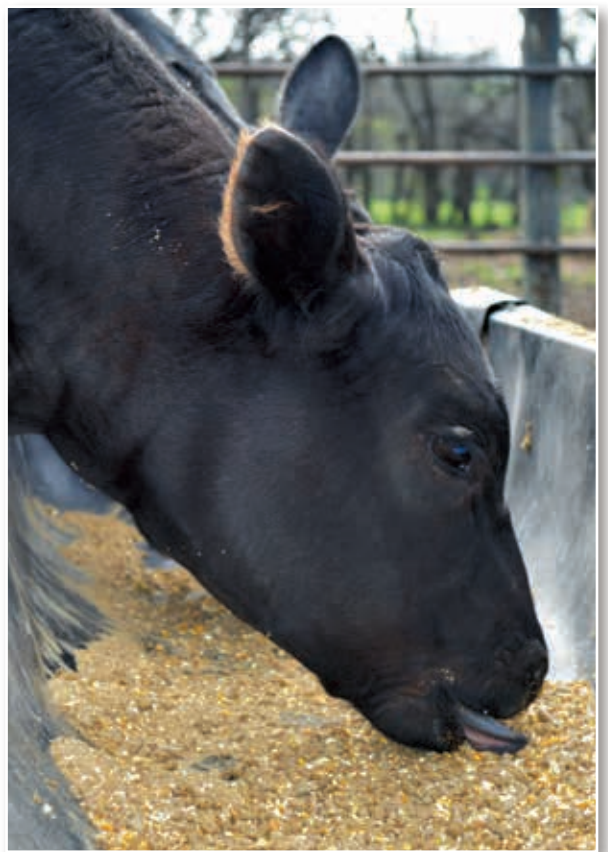


Right: Honorable Mention:
I'm Watching You,
Sarah Millikan, Napoleon, Ohio



Below: 3rd Place:
Path of Selection,
Kelly Gaffney,
Barneveld, Wis.





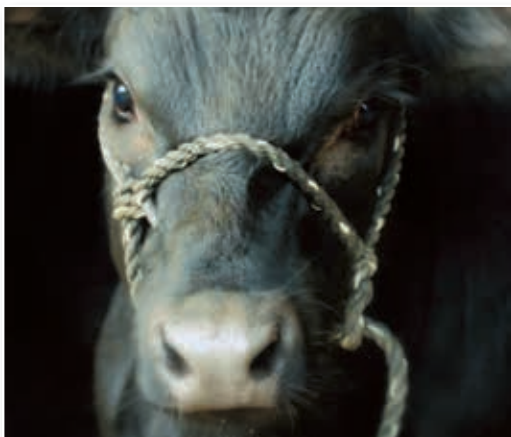
Left: 2nd Place:
Really People,
Lauren Wolter,
Aviston, Ill.



**Above: Honorable
Mention:** *Yum*,
Ella Jordan,
Saint Joseph, Mo.



**Below: Honorable
Mention:**
Munchies, Lexi Knapp,
Bloomfield, Iowa



Editor's Pick: *Wuv You*, Cammie Rone, Courtland, Miss.



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Right: 2nd Place:
Wait for It,
Clay Sabrowski,
Almont, Colo.



Above: Editor's Pick: *Another Day at Dawn,*
Lizzie Schafer, Owaneco, Ill.



Below: 1st Place:
It's Show Time, Callie Keaton,
Anderson, Mo.





Above: Honorable Mention:
Little Helper,
Suter Clark, Gretna, Va.



Left: Honorable Mention:
Game Plan,
Bree Gaffney,
Barneveld, Wis.

Below: 3rd Place:
All in a Day's Work,
Alexis Koelling,
Laddonia, Mo.



Below: Honorable Mention:
Everyone is Working,
Katie Rechtermann,
Polo, Mo.



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1st Place: *Silo*, Kady Figge,
Onaga, Kan. (see page 289)



Right: 2nd Place:
Home,
Madison Rechtermann,
Polo, Mo.
(3rd Junior Overall)



Editor's Pick: *Wild Weed*, Tanner Hite, Valley Center, Kan.



3rd Place: *Lilly Pads*,
Lauren Gilbert, Oldfield, Mo.



Editor's Pick: *Fence Post Beauty*,
Danika Gordon, Whitewood, S.D.



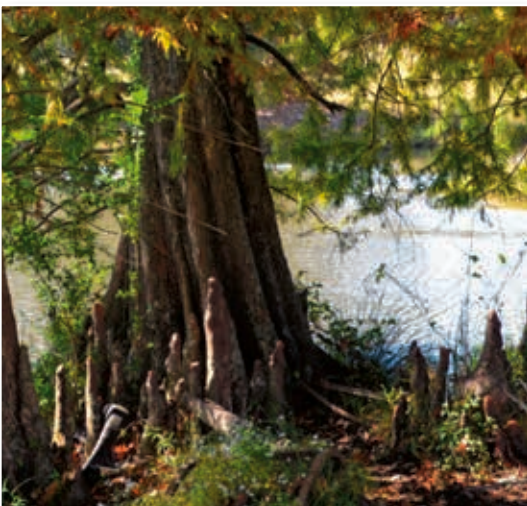
Editor's Pick: *The Fence*,
Sophia Santini, Leoma, Tenn.



Above: Honorable Mention:
Morning Dew,
Kelly Gaffney,
Barneveld, Wis.



Left: Honorable Mention:
Nothing but Miles,
Collin Petersen,
Marshall, Wis.



Editor's Pick: *At the Creek*,
Courtney Keaton, Anderson, Mo.



Honorable Mention: *Sunset Munchin'*,
Kasey Meyer, Blue Hill, Neb.

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