



A Picture Says

Winners of the NJAA/*Angus Journal* Photo Contest are announced.

by *Tosha Powell*

They say a picture lasts a lifetime, but we all know that photos can fade. Digital photography has taken over, and the members of the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) have proven that photography can once again say a thousand

words, while creating memories that truly last a lifetime.

Junior members entered 540 photographs in the 2008 NJAA/*Angus Journal* Photo Contest, up from 411 photos last year and a contest record. Photos were submitted in one of four categories — Angus



Overall, Junior Division (9-13 years) & Junior Division/Angus Cattle Winner: Catie Hope, Berryville, Va. — *Mmm, Mmm, Good*



A Thousand Words

cattle, landscape, people, or around the farm or ranch.

Judges evaluated and ranked photos within their category and age divisions. Overall division winners and a winner over all divisions were also declared. The judges critiqued the photos, placing 60% emphasis on creativity, communication power and composition. The remaining 40% was made up of technical quality of the photo, such as proper light exposure, true color, sharp focus and correct cropping.

Judges for this year's contest were Jerilyn Johnson, managing editor of the *Missouri Ruralist* magazine; Kim Holt, beef cattle freelance writer from southwest Idaho; L.J. Ashorn, agricultural communications

graduate student at Texas Tech University; and Kori Conley, editor of the *Charolais Journal*.

The No. 1 comment from each judge was to make sure to enter your picture in the category that best fits the subject of the photo. For example, in the cattle category, the animal should be the focus of the photo; however, many of the entries focused on the landscape, of which cattle were a part. While still legally a cattle entry, the photos just don't compete as well within the category.

Suggestions were also made to frame your photos so you have a tighter focus on your subject. Focus is a key element in taking all photos. Remember that black cattle are hard

to take pictures of because of lighting. Be careful not to overexpose the background. In digital photography it is easy to manipulate photos; but please don't, except to take the time stamp off the photo.

There were many constructive comments, and there aren't enough pages in the *Angus Journal* to cover the amount of great things the judges had to say about each photo entered. Overall, the photos were taken with great creativity and style. The junior category won the hearts of each judge with unique pictures and great use of subjects.

Judges' comments on the top photos in each division and category were included in the contest summary distributed at the NJAS.

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Above: Junior Division/Angus Cattle/2nd: Quannah Gardiner, Ashland, Kan. — Over the Hills

