



American Royal Livestock Photography Contest

Entry Deadline: 11:59 PM CST on September 14, 2026

About

The purpose of the American Royal Livestock Photography Contest is to encourage Youth Exhibitors to improve their creativity and photography skills. These skills can set them up for careers in marketing and communications or act as a promotional tool for telling the story of food and agriculture to the public.

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Rules

1. Participants must be a Youth Exhibitor of the American Royal Fall Livestock Show, i.e. participants must, or will, have competed in the American Royal Fall Livestock Show Event from October 15, 2026, to October 17, 2026, to be eligible. No outside entries will be accepted. Age divisions are listed below.
2. No participant will be eligible to compete in any contest at the American Royal if they have any sanctions or disciplinary action taken against them by the North American Livestock Show & Rodeo Managers Association, The International Association of Fairs and Expositions, 4-H, FFA, and/or breed association(s).
3. The contest coordinator and the management of the American Royal reserve the right to rule on any question of eligibility not covered in the preceding rules.
4. All work must be that of the entrant.
5. Photos must be taken between October 1, 2025, and September 14, 2026.
6. Photos with minimal alterations including cropping and lighting adjustment/exposure are allowed.
7. Photos cannot be submitted from previous contests held at an American Royal Event.



8. Photos will be submitted online through the submission form link provided below by the American Royal Association by 11:59 PM CST on September 14, 2026. This is a completely virtual contest.
9. Only one submission is allowed in each category, allowing up to three entries per contestant.
10. When entering, the individual should declare which category they want to enter the photo for consideration. Category explanations are listed below.
11. Contestants must list the title of their photo in the provided area of the submission form.
12. Files must be 300 dpi or higher resolution and submitted electronically by 11:59 PM CST on September 14, 2026. The photo must be saved in a .jpeg or .jpg format.
 - a. The file name must include first initial and last name, i.e., JDoe_PeopleInAgriculture or JDoe_LivestockInAgriculture or JDoe_AgricultureInTheCommunity.
13. All content submitted may be utilized by the American Royal Association for promotion and use throughout the year.
14. A panel of qualified judges selected by the American Royal Association will judge entries virtually. This is a completely virtual contest.
15. Photos will be critiqued based on the following.
 - a. Uniqueness of photo, creative look, overall communicative power of the image, sharpness, color, exposure, composition, and overall technical quality
16. In the event of a tie, judges will determine the tiebreaker.
17. A 1st-3rd place will be selected for each category in each age division.
18. Only the top three winners from each category and age division will be notified of their ranking.
19. An overall photography winner will be selected from each age division that the judges deem as the best composition, most impactful storyline, and most artistically creative photo.
20. The top three winners from each age division and category will be recognized on October 17, 2026, before the Royal Elite Drive. The overall winner from each age division will sell a canvas print of their winning photo in the Junior Premium Livestock Auction.



Age Divisions

Based on the age of the individual on January 1, 2026.

- Junior: 7-12
- Intermediate: 13-16
- Senior: 17-21

Photography Categories

People in Food and Agriculture

- Photographs should highlight people of the agriculture community actively involved in their farming or ranching operation.
- Tell the story of the American farmer/rancher in the photo.

Livestock in Agriculture

- Photographs should highlight livestock of any species.
- Mindfully promoting animals throughout the livestock and agriculture industry.

Food and Agriculture in the Community

- Photographs could include an educational or community event that relates to food and agriculture (*Examples:* FFA Conference, Field Day, Community Garden, etc.). This category also includes landscape photos.
- Telling the story of food and agriculture education to the consumer.

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