

Picture Perfect

Readers highlight the everyday joy found in work and play.

WHEN WE DREAMED UP THIS PHOTO CONTEST, we knew *Farm & Ranch* readers would deliver some fantastic shots. Truth be told, we were bowled over by the spectacular submissions you sent. These were not easy choices to make, but here are the winners... and a few honorable mentions for good measure.

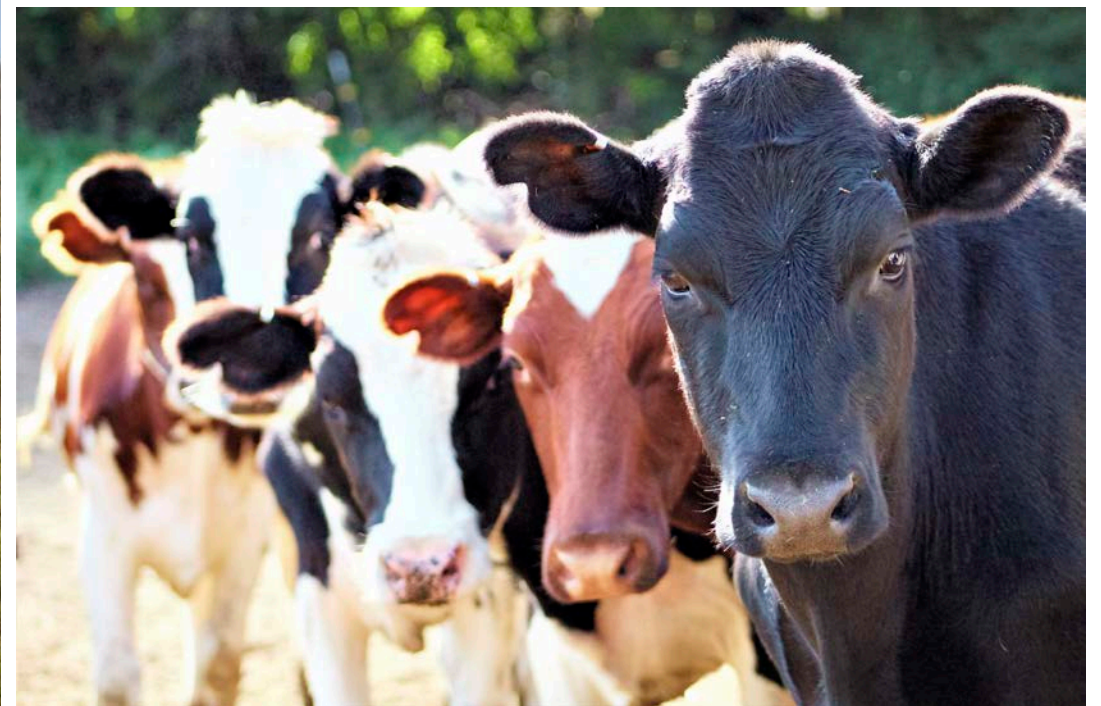
WINNER
SADDLE UP

Gus, our border collie puppy, sits on my quarter horse mare, Tazzi, at Snake River in Hells Canyon. The only way to get salt to the cattle is to pack it. Even on the foggiest days, the job needs to be done. We set Gus on Tazzi for this photo and Gus, an energetic and fun-loving pup, was happy to play along.

AMBER ANDERSON
COTTONWOOD, IDAHO



PEOPLE & PALS
WINNER



HONORABLE MENTION
RISE AND SHINE

TOP: This image by photographer Heather Gallagher perfectly captures what an early morning on our farm looks like. Everyone has chores; our daughter cares for the chickens before school.

BRITTANY JONES
MANOR, TEXAS

HONORABLE MENTION
MODEL BEHAVIOR

ABOVE: My sister, her husband and their two daughters have a small dairy operation to the south of Sauk Centre, Minnesota. They raise mainly Holsteins, but my nieces have brought milking shorthorns, Guernseys and Jerseys into the herd, too, hence this lovely array of color.

LINDA SHURTLEFF
LINO LAKES, MINNESOTA

**HONORABLE MENTION
HAPPY TRAILS**

BELOW: My husband, Bart, works for Mooncrest Ranch outside of Cody, Wyoming. I enjoy helping out and work with him as much as I can. On this day we were up on Rattlesnake Mountain, checking the cows.

CAITLYN McCOLLUM
CODY, WYOMING



**HONORABLE MENTION
MINI HARVESTER**

LEFT: My son, Tate, almost 2, was helping me gather up some collard greens for supper. He insisted on toting them all by himself, even though they were almost as big as him. With his determination and strong work ethic, he definitely has farming in his blood.

SHAYE COBB
BLAIRSVILLE, GEORGIA



**WINNER
BEAUTY CALLS**

ABOVE: While out planting corn, my husband called me to come and help fill the planter. The sky was starting to look like there would be a colorful sunset, so I took my camera along. He ended up not getting much help, and I ended up with some nice photos.

KATHERINE PLESSNER
VERONA, NORTH DAKOTA

HONORABLE MENTION SUMMERTIME MOOS

TOP RIGHT: My wife, Amber, is getting cattle topped up to pasture on Joseph Plains, which is like a plateau between the Snake and Salmon rivers. The horse, Pistol, had been a stud for the previous seven years of his life; the owner, a friend of ours, had him gelded, and Amber was acclimating him to his new life. He's a complete gentleman now.

RYAN ANDERSON COTTONWOOD, IDAHO

HONORABLE MENTION FAMILY THAT WORKS TOGETHER

BELOW LEFT: Our grandfather purchased this dairy farm in the '40s, and we are now the fourth generation, farming 900 acres. Large cottonwood and oak trees line the pastures, with the Cascade Range in the background. Here, my three brothers, Jim, David and Steve, are preparing to put in seed—a mix of grass and clover—for summer grazing.

PATRICIA DONALD WOODLAND, WASHINGTON

HONORABLE MENTION HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL

BELOW RIGHT: The start of the growing season is such a hopeful and exciting time. I took this photo a few years ago, when I was back home after my junior year in college. I was spending the afternoon tagging along with my dad, Phil Blum, shown here planting corn near Manilla, Iowa.

EMILY SCHROEDER SCHLESWIG, IOWA

