

HARRISON COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2710 Hwy. 127
P.O. Box 202
Logan, IA 51546
(712) 644-2210



Photo Contest

3 Classes: **FFA, 4-H, and Open Class**

Categories:

Harrison County Conservation Practices

Examples: Contour buffer strips, contour farming and stripcropping, cover crop, critical area planting, crop residue management, crop rotation, diversion, field borders, grade stabilization structures, grass waterways, livestock management, manure storage and runoff control, nutrient management, pasture planting, pest management, riparian buffer, rotational grazing, stream bank & shoreline stabilization, terrace, tree planting, upland wildlife habitat, water & sediment control basin, well abandonment, wetland restoration, wildlife food plot, windbreaks, woodlot management.

Harrison County Close Up Conservation

Examples: Aquatic insects, clean water, crops and plants and water/rain, dirty water/sediment, farm implements, hands/tools in soil, water, grains, farm animals, irrigation, plants and soil/residue, plants/flowers/crops, prairie plants, recycling, water drops/drips/splashes, worms/roots/compost, wildlife.

Harrison County Landscapes: Sunsets, Loess Hills, city parks and other impressive views are appropriate subjects for this category.

ALL PHOTOS MUST BE TAKEN IN HARRISON COUNTY

Guidelines:

1. The contest is open to amateur photographers (those who make less than 50 percent of their income from photography) who are residents of Harrison County or attend a school in Harrison County. Each participant may enter one photograph per category. **The winning photos will not be returned.**
2. Black-and-white prints, color prints and prints from digital photos are all acceptable and will be judged together. Do not send photo reproductions from a printed publication. **Photos must be 5x7 or 8x10 and be matted.**
3. Images must not have been digitally altered in any way other than necessary burning, dodging and cropping.
4. A completed entry form must accompany each photograph submitted.
5. A 3x5 note card containing the following information must be attached to the back of each photo.
 - a. **Photographer's name and phone number.**
 - b. **Title of photograph.** Please use same title as on entry form.
 - c. **Subject.** Names and titles are needed for each person in the photo. (Take care to identify each person and spell names correctly.)
 - d. **Location.** If the photograph is of a district technician helping a farmer, identify the farm, county and state. If the photo shows a park, mention the name of the park.
 - e. **Description.** Is the child with the magnifying glass examining a crack in the sidewalk or a line of ants carrying food?
 - f. **Date of photo.** Exact dates are not necessary, but at least give the year.

6. All winning entries become the property of Harrison County SWCD, and Harrison County SWCD reserves the non-exclusive right to use all photographs in publications or for promotional purposes. Entrants should keep negatives or extra prints of their photographs. All other photos can be picked up at the fair or at our office after the fair is over.
7. Judges will select one winner in each of the categories. Winning photos will be displayed at the Harrison County Fair. Each first place winner (blue ribbon) will receive \$10.00, second place (red ribbon) will receive \$7.50 and third place (white ribbon) will receive \$5.00. One grand place (purple ribbon) will be awarded and they will receive \$25.00.
8. All entries must be in the Harrison County office by July 20th. Placing a piece of cardboard in the envelope and writing "Photographs: Do Not Bend" on the envelope will help ensure that photographs arrive in good condition. Send entries to: Harrison County SWCD, PO Box 202, Logan, IA 51546. All entries will be judged at the Harrison County Fair on July 22nd.

Judging Standards:

For technical merit, judges may check to see if the photo is:

Well-framed – The photographer should be close enough to the subject to leave irrelevant or distracting items out of the shot. For example, photographs usually should not include unnecessary space above subjects' heads or the shoulder of someone not intended to be part of the photograph. However, objects like tree branches, tall grass or a railroad track can sometimes create a nice effect if carefully and purposely included in a picture.

Properly Exposed – Subjects' faces should not be washed out or shadowy. Backlighting, improper use of a flash and incorrect exposure settings on the camera often cause exposure problems.

Sharp and Clear – The center of interest should be sharp and clear; however, not everything in the photograph must be sharp. In fact, selective focus adds greatly to the appeal of some photographs. A blurred hand can sometimes be effective at showing action, for instance. Carefully adjusting your focus and correctly using shutter speed and f-stop settings will produce sharp photographs.

Composition:

For composition, judges determine if the photo features:

A recognizable Center of Interest – The photo should generally be well organized, so that the eye immediately recognizes one subject as the most important element of the picture. This element should not necessarily be in the center of the frame, but should follow the rule of thirds.

Action – A photograph should usually show some kind of action, particularly if people are the subject. However, some photographs, such as landscapes, do not require action.

Imagination and Creativity – An interesting camera angle or lighting effect can make the difference between a technically good but boring photograph and an award-winning photograph. For example, a photographer who lays on her back next to a row of carrots while the gardener is harvesting may capture the expression on the gardener's face and the soil falling away from the carrot as it is uprooted. An eye-level shot would probably show the top of the gardener's head and a bag of carrots. Many traditional photographic rules can be broken for the sake of creativity.

ENTRY FORM:

Please bring this form with your photo and the other materials listed in the “Guidelines” section of previous page.

Photographer’s name

Photographer’s phone number

Organization represented (if any)

Address

City, State, Zip

Category of this entry

Title of this entry (must correspond to title on 3x5 note card)

Class (FFA, 4-H, open class)

Send entries to:

Harrison County Soil & Water Conservation District, PO Box 202, Logan, IA 51546