

media release

Colorado Department of Agriculture
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Colorado Agriculture Shines in Annual Photo Contest

LAKEWOOD, Colo. – From vintage tractors and picturesque sunsets to happy hogs and rolling wheat fields, the winning pictures from the fourteenth annual “Colorado...it's Agricultural” Photography Contest showcase the spirit of Colorado agriculture.

“All of the judges commented on the high technical quality of this year’s entries,” said Wendy White, marketing specialist at the Colorado Department of Agriculture. “It was exciting to see the diversity of Colorado agriculture featured in the photographs.”

The winners were selected from nearly 150 entries based on relation to Colorado agriculture, creativity and technical quality. The grand-prize winner and recipient of \$150 is Janet Brophy of **Wray**, Colo., with her entry entitled “Resting.” The winning photograph depicts a farmer’s view of the iridescent Colorado sky in Yuma County.

Other top finishers include Sandy Rich of **Aurora**, Colo., first place in the agritourism category with “Family Reunion;” Tiffany Rieckenberg of **Sterling**, Colo., first place livestock with “Happy Hogs;” Cheryl Jacobson of **Burlington**, Colo., first place people with “Pondering;” and Laurie Purcell of **Grand Junction**, Colo., first place open professional with “Last Light.”

Other individuals receiving an honorable mention include Denise Jennings, **Cañon City**, Colo.; Julianne Drake, **Livermore**, Colo.; Tycie Lichty, **Joes**, Colo.; Elena Drazev, **Grand Junction**, Colo.; Sue Hodgson, **Brush**, Colo.; and Dennis House, **McAllen**, Texas.

“All photographs must be taken in Colorado to qualify for the contest, and we received entries from photographers across the state and the nation,” said White.

Winning photographs will be displayed in the Beede-Hamil Agriculture Building at Northeastern Junior College in Sterling, Colo. They are also available online at www.coloradoagriculture.com.

The 2012 contest is now underway. Photographers can enter their pictures through December 31, 2012, in five categories: agritourism, crops, livestock, people and open professional. Started in 1998, the “Colorado...It's Agricultural” Photography Contest is sponsored by the AgInsights Committee, Colorado Department of Agriculture and Northeastern Junior College.

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Editor’s Note: Winning photographs are available as high resolution .jpeg images by contacting Wendy White at (303) 239-4119 or email Wendy.White@ag.state.co.us.

The Colorado State Fair has been in existence for 139 years and operates on 80 acres of land in Pueblo, CO. The Fair will celebrate the 140th Colorado State Fair this August. An eleven-member board meets monthly to discuss and vote on various aspects of the fair. During FY/2011, approximately 25 full-time and contract employees help maintain its year-round operations. In the summer, an additional 500 temporary employees are hired to work the annual event.

The Colorado State Fair runs from August 24 – September 3, 2012. For more information, visit www.coloradostatefair.com.

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