

Coles County Soil & Water Conservation District 2019 Photo Contest

Sponsor: The contest is sponsored by the Coles County SWCD.

Purpose: The purpose of this contest is to recognize individuals whose pictures are worth more than words.

Eligibility: To be considered for this contest, the nominee should be an amateur photographer (who makes less than 50% of their income from photography) and Coles County resident.

Guidelines: to enter pictures in the contest, please read the following:

1. Photography may be entered in the following categories:

a. **Conservation Practices** - Includes 26 conservation practices: contour buffer strips, contour farming & strip cropping, 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 and sediment control basin, well abandonment, wetland restoration, wildlife food plot, windbreaks, and woodlot management.

b. **Close Up Conservation** - Includes aquatic insects, clean water, crops and plants and water/rain, dirty water/sediment, hands/tools in soil-water-grains-on farm animals, irrigation, plants and soil/residue, plants/flowers/crops, recycling, prairie plants, compost, farm implements, water drops/drips/splashes, and worm/roots/compost.

c. **Conservation In Action** - SWCDs in action: conservation planning, youth programs, office staff at work, interaction with landowners, field days, fairs, exhibits, board meetings and more, irrigation/crops and water/wildflowers and water, technical staff at work, wildlife, insects, livestock, aquatic life.

d. **Ag/Conservation Across America** - Barns, crops, farm practices, fencerows, livestock, implements and tools, ponds, ranching, youth, tree farm, farmers/landowners, grazing and pastures.

e. **Youth Only** - This category is designed for youth up to the age of 18. Photos must fit into one of the categories listed above (a-d).

2. Photographer and any/all individuals in photo must sign release form (included in packet). When taking pictures of individuals, make sure subjects understand that their photo may be used in publications, web and/or video.

3. Photos must be submitted in electronic format—jpeg or tiff files (300 dpi min) via email to info@colescountyswcd.org or burned to a CD and mailed with entry form. No printed photos will be accepted.

4. Each participant may enter as many as five photos.

5. Completed signed forms for **each** photo must be received for entry to be eligible for contest to Coles County SWCD, 6021 Development Drive, Suite 2, Charleston IL 61920.

6. Black and white or color photos are acceptable and will be judged together. Do not send photo reproductions from a printed publication. Judges will select one winner from each category along with an overall winner at the local level.

7. Images must not have been digitally altered in any way other than necessary burning, dodging and cropping.

8. All entries will be sent to AISWCD for the state contest and then to NACD for the national photo contest. Photos become property of NACD. They will also become part of NACD Conservation Photo gallery and be made available to local conservation districts and NACD to use in their conservation outreach projects.

9. Winning photos in each category at the local level will be displayed at the Coles County SWCD office.

10. Winning photos at the state level will be displayed at AISWCD's Annual Meeting held in July in Springfield, IL. Honorable mentions will be selected for each category, but there is no monetary award.

AISWCD Award Package—State Level Contest: Each category winner will receive:

1. Two (2) complimentary meal tickets to event where award will be presented.
2. A Certificate of Achievement
3. Monetary award

DEADLINE: All photos entries due by March 8, 2019

SEND TO:

**COLES COUNTY SWCD
ATTN: PHOTO CONTEST
6021 DEVELOPMENT DRIVE, SUITE 2
CHARLESTON, IL 61920**