

Au naturel

is the way to go

SA GRAAN/GRAIN EDITORIAL STAFF

This year's theme: "The people in agriculture" provides amateur photographers with endless options. It is however very important that photos are not posed, but must be taken at moments that are as spontaneous as possible.

Here are a few tips from the photographer Natalie Norton on how to photograph natural looking portraits of people.

Plan on a few shots to break the ice

Expect the first ten or so shots to be junk. You are nervous, your subject's nervous and that just doesn't equal awesome. Does that mean you wait for nerves to settle before you start shooting? Absolutely not. Get in there, get working and things will loosen up within just a few minutes.

It's like jumping into the ocean. When you wade out and take forever to get in, it's a lot harder than just plunging in and letting your body adjust to the temperature.

Help it happen

You can't just stand back and wait for magic. Your subjects are not trained professional models – you've got to give some basic direction. Give your subjects an activity to participate in. Let them do their thing and capture the magic moments that happen naturally.

Get in there

You can not be a passive, standoffish photographer. You need to be right up in there. That's one of the reasons it's so important that you are comfortable with each other.

Natalie shoots her portraits with fixed focal length lenses, so that means that her feet are her zoom. If she wants a tight shot, that means she is nearly right up on top of her subject with her lens. It helps her and her subjects to feel like a team.

Do not be afraid to "pull" from your subjects. Let them work with you.

Happy shooting!

Read more on <http://digital-photography-school.com/how-to-photograph-natural-looking-portraits#ixzz2PJYnqFRH>.



Marina Pierneef from Bethal's picture "Tyd vir voorbrande maak!" made her March's first place winner of R1 000.



2nd

Amanda van Blerk's (from Clarens) photo "n Man en sy perd" scored a second place. The horse handler is Michael Mokoena.



3rd

In third place is Marthinus Swart (sr) of Frankfort with his "After the harvest" photo. In the photo is his son, Marthinus, and Lafras, their trusty Great Dane.

WINNING PHOTO FOR MARCH



Congratulations to Johan Norval, from Bloemfontein, whose photo "Hoe vermeng dié werktuig die boggrond?!" won him a cash prize of R1 000. A farmer scratching up the soil of a freshly cultivated land is synonymous with the grain cultivating regions of our country. Here Bertie Pretorius from Paul Roux, his son, little MW, and Comie van der Riet from Ficksburg, are scrutinising the workings of one of the Horsch implements at the farmers day launch held at Bothaville. ■

The people in agriculture



6th SA Grain/Sasol Nitro photo competition presented

Have you been raring to enter the SA Grain/Sasol Nitro photo competition? Well, here's your chance: In 2013 amateur photographers can once again submit their photos and stand the chance to click their way to winning R32 000!

This year's theme is "**The people in agriculture**" and it gives many options: You can take a picture of the kids swimming in the farm dam; Mother busy making jam in front of the coal oven; big sis trying to eat corn on the cob with her front teeth missing; or old Jafta driving the sheep to the kraal. Or how about Dad leaning on the farm gate; staring out and looking for a sign of rain? Or a barefoot *Boetman* racing his toy tractor through the mud pools? And don't forget about the farm workers busy planting or harvesting!

Just remember: It is important to identify the person/people on the photo. We would like to know who it is that you've photographed.

PRIZES

The prizes are once again sponsored by Sasol Nitro this year and from January 2013 a monthly winner for each of the twelve editions will be selected by a panel of judges. The **monthly winner** walks away with a **cash prize of R1 000** and the twelve finalists will stand a chance to win **R10 000 (winner), R7 000 (runner up)** and **R3 000 (third prize)**.

Closing dates:

May 2013: 8 May

June 2013: 11 June



COMPETITION RULES

1. Entries must portray the competition theme: "The people in agriculture".
2. The photographer must provide a caption for the photo, as well as their postal address and telephone number(s) with his/her entry.
3. **Persons on the photograph must be identified** (provide name and surname). If it is a generic picture of a group of farm workers cultivating a land, identification is not necessary.
4. Only amateur photographers (i.e. people who do not make a living out of photography) may enter this competition.
5. All entries are free.
6. Participants may enter a maximum of three photos (with varying themes) per edition. If more than three photographs are entered, only the first three photos received will be considered for the competition.
7. Photos that are entered must be unique and should not portray the same theme as photos entered into other competitions. Photos entered must not have been published previously.
8. If a person has won, he/she may not enter the competition for the following three editions.
9. Photographers may enter their photographs up until the cut-off date each month. Entries received after this date will be entered into the following month's competition.
10. Only emailed entries or entries provided on a CD will be accepted. The photos must be in electronic format and not bigger than 3 MB each, in JPG-format and no smaller than 10 cm x 15 cm. If photos are taken with a film camera, it must be scanned at 300 dpi.
11. Photos taken with a cell phone will not be accepted.
12. Photos must not be digitally manipulated. This means that a person may not alter the photograph digitally by, for example, taking out a bothersome tree or adding a nice flower in the background or by moving elements of the photo closer together. The photographer may however crop the photo to remove unwanted areas at the top, bottom or sides of the photograph. Do not adjust the contrast of the photo.
13. A panel consisting of a professional photographer and a representative of SA Graan/Grain and of Sasol Nitro, will judge the photos each month.
14. SA Graan/Grain reserves the right to reject photos that are blurry and that do not adhere to the competition rules.
15. All entries become the property of SA Graan/Grain – this includes CD's with photos. All entered photos will be kept in a photo library after which SA Graan/Grain and Sasol Nitro may use it for future promotion, marketing and publication purposes. By entering the competition, the entrant agrees to this and no third party claims for copy right violation may be submitted.
16. Employees of Sasol Nitro, Grain SA and Infoworks may not enter the competition.

Send photos to elmien@infoworks.biz or to Elmien Bosch, Postnet Suite 32, Private Bag X10, Flamwood, 2572.