

Nemaha County Conservation District

Photo Contest

The Nemaha County Conservation District will sponsor an amateur photo contest this year. **The contest ends Friday September 11, 2026**

Contest Rules

1. **Participant Eligibility:** The photo contest is open to all elementary students, grades Kindergarten (K) through eighth (8), deemed as amateur photographers. Entrants may be identified with schools, 4-H clubs, Boy or Girl Scouts, church groups, etc. The contest is open to home-schooled students. They will be judged with the levels listed below. The contest is also open to children with special needs. They will be judged separately with no age or grade distinction.

Prizes to be given to grade groups:

1st group will include grades Kindergarten and 1.

2nd group will include grades 2 and 3.

3rd group will include grades 4 thru 6.

4th group will include grades 7 and 8.

*Prizes awarded to junior high school (7th and 8th grades) will comply with the requirements of the Kansas State High School Activities Association.

2. **Subject Matter:** Photos must be taken of a conservation practice located in Nemaha County, Kansas. Some examples include: Contour Buffer Strips, Contour Farming & Strip cropping, Cover Crops, Critical Area Plantings, Crop Residue Management, Crop Rotations, Diversions, Field Borders, Grade Stabilization Structures (dam/embankment), Grass Waterways, Livestock Management, Manure Storage and Runoff Control, Nutrient Management, Pasture Plantings, Pest Management, Riparian Buffers, Rotational Grazing, Stream Bank & Shoreline Stabilization, Terraces, Tree Plantings, Upland Wildlife Habitats, Water & Sediment Control Basins, Well Abandonment, Wetland Restorations, Wildlife Food Plots, Windbreaks, and Woodlot Management.
3. **Photo Eligibility:** Entered photos must be taken any time from October 1, 2025-September 11, 2026. Photos must be original and may not have been previously entered in other photo contests. Minor digital enhancements for cropping, red-eye removal, filters, and corrective functions are permitted; however, images judged to be altered in any significant manner will be disqualified. Contestants are not to place watermarks, dates, signatures, or copyright images on photos. **Previously published photos are not eligible.**

Submission and Deadline: Photo entries are due on or before Friday September 11, 2026



4. Photos must be submitted as a .jpeg or .jpg file on the google form provided by the Nemaha County Conservation District. All information on the google form must be provided in order for the photo to be considered. The submission form can be found online at <https://forms.gle/4pFMZY5es2jR1q2LA> For any questions regarding the contest, contact the Nemaha County Conservation District by phone at 785-336-5748 or by email at dana.schmelzle@usda.gov
5. **Terms:** In submitting photos, the photographer gives the Nemaha County Conservation District permission to use their photos in any publications, social media, websites, displays, and other places without payment or other consideration. A photo release form is required to be submitted with the entry.
6. **Judges:** Judges will be selected, and their decisions will be final.
7. **Judging Standards:** Photos will be judged on technical merit, composition, and eye appeal. For technical merit, judges may check to see if the photo is well-framed, properly exposed, sharp, and clear. For composition, judges determine if the photo features a recognizable center of interest, action, imagination, and creativity.