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BEGINS JUNE 1, 2011

## Shutterbugs: Send Us Your Best Photos of Rural Life

If you've got a camera, get it out and start snapping! The 2011 Southwest Georgia Farm Credit Rural Living Photo Contest is about to get underway.

### Photos will be judged in four categories:

- 1. Kids and Nature**
- 2. Life on the Farm**
- 3. At Home in the Country**
- 4. Rural Landscapes** (*no people, just gorgeous shots of the land!*)

Winning photos will be used in the *2012 Southwest Georgia Farm Credit Calendar* and others will be featured in the winter issue of *Wiregrass Land & Living* magazine.

**Awards will be given for the top three photos in each category at \$100, \$50 and \$25. A Grand Prize of \$150 will be awarded for best overall photo.**

### Deadline for entries is August 31, 2011.

Visit [www.SWGAFarmCredit.com](http://www.SWGAFarmCredit.com) for official rules and entry forms.

Questions? Give us a call at 229.493.0149.



**Farm Credit**

SOUTHWEST GEORGIA

[SWGAFarmCredit.com](http://SWGAFarmCredit.com)

# Tips for Submitting Your Best Photos

**Shoot in high resolution mode** - To obtain the highest quality image your camera is capable of acquiring, set the picture quality preference to "Fine" or "Best Quality." You will not be able to store as many photos on your memory card but the image quality will be the best it can be for your camera.

**Look your subject in the eye** - When taking a picture of someone, hold the camera at the person's eye level to unleash the power of those magnetic gazes and mesmerizing smiles. For children, that means stooping to their level. And your subject need not always stare at the camera. All by itself that eye level angle will create a personal and inviting feeling that pulls you into the picture.

**Use a plain background** - A plain background shows off the subject you are photographing. When you look through the camera viewfinder, force yourself to study the area surrounding your subject. Make sure no poles grow out of someone's head and that no cars seem to dangle from their ears.

**Use flash outdoors** - Bright sun can create unattractive deep facial shadows. Eliminate the shadows by using your flash to lighten the face. When taking people pictures on sunny days, turn your flash on. You may have a choice of fill-flash mode or full-flash mode. If the person is within five feet, use the fill-flash mode; beyond five feet, the full-power mode may be required.

**Move in close** - If your subject is smaller than a car, take a step or two closer before taking the picture and zoom in on your subject. Your goal is to fill the picture area with the subject you are photographing. But don't get too close or your pictures will be blurry. The closest focusing distance for most cameras is about three feet.

**Move it from the middle** - Bring your picture to life by simply moving your subject away from the middle of your picture. Imagine a tick-tack-toe grid in your viewfinder. Now place your important subject at one of the intersections of lines. You'll need to lock the focus if you have an auto-focus camera because most of them focus on whatever is in the center of the viewfinder.

**Lock the focus** - Most auto-focus cameras focus on whatever is in the center of the picture. But to improve pictures, you will often want to move the subject away from the center of the picture. If you don't want a blurred picture, you'll need to first lock the focus with the subject in the middle and then recompose the picture so the subject is away from the middle. Usually you can lock the focus in three steps. First, center the subject and press and hold the shutter button halfway down. Second, reposition your camera (while still holding the shutter button). And third, finish by pressing the shutter button all the way down to take the picture.

**Watch the light** - Next to the subject, the most important part of every picture is the light. Don't like the light on your subject? Then move yourself or your subject. For landscapes, try to take pictures early or late in the day when the light is orangish and rakes across the land.

**Be a picture director** - Become a picture director, not just a passive picture-taker. A picture director takes charge. A picture director picks the location: "Everybody go outside to the backyard." A picture director adds props: "Girls, put on your pink sunglasses." A picture director arranges people: "Now move in close, and lean toward the camera." Take charge of your pictures and win your own best picture awards.