

Photography Tips for the Farm



Equipment

Keep your equipment simple. You can get great pictures with an inexpensive digital camera.

Keep your camera handy

Photo ops often come when you least expect them. Keeping your camera in your garden shed means it is always available for the shot.

Take lots of photos

The more photographs you take, the better the chance you'll get a great one. On average, it takes 30 shots to get one good image.

Make a shot list

Make a point to photograph all of the varieties you produce at their peak. Also take pictures of animals, people working, and events at your farm. A good picture of your bounty on display is always useful. If you can't carry your camera around, note places you'd like to come back and photograph, including important details, like the lighting, time of day or weather.

Communicate with photography

Remember, a picture is worth a thousand words. Photos tell stories and are great fodder for blogging and to refresh your website.



Composition: Chance doesn't always hand you the best shot.

Arranging your subjects, changing your perspective, or placing the subject at the side of the frame creates a more dynamic composition. Off-center subjects can be balanced on the opposite side of the frame with leading lines, shadows, and objects in the foreground or background.

Lines: Natural lines can strengthen composition by leading the viewer's eyes toward your subject. Diagonal lines can add energy. Curved lines can add soft elegance. Using a road or path can add depth.

Framing: Framing your subject with elements in the foreground can also add scale and depth to pictures. Overhanging tree branches, doorways, or anything that covers at least two sides of the photo can give a three-dimensional effect that invites viewers into the image.

Perspective: Eye level is great for a lot of shots, but experiment with different angles. Get up or down on your subject's eye level. This will help give the photo a more personal and inviting feeling.

Exposure: Always give consideration to how your subject is lit. Without light, you'll lose detail and clarity in your image. Watch the light and use it to enhance your composition. The soft, even lighting of cloudy days is great for people pictures. Morning and evening light are also lighter and cast nice hues on your subjects.

Black & White: Removing color can add impact by eliminating competing colors. Backlighting and using silhouettes in your photo can add contrast, and make it more interesting. Converting your photo to black and white can also save a poorly-exposed or grainy image.

Background: Be aware of your background. Change your position to eliminate unimportant elements and background clutter.

Crop it: Sometimes things happen quickly and you don't have enough time to set up your shot. So shoot wider and edit later. A zoom in on the subject can show nice details and add contrast to your photo.