From wheat fields and cattle round-ups to farming families and ranch work, the winning pictures from the 15th annual “Colorado...It’s Agricultural” Photography Contest showcase the spirit of Colorado agriculture.

“Photographers from across the state and the nation submitted entries showcasing Colorado agriculture,” said Wendy White, marketing specialist at the Colorado Department of Agriculture. “It is always so exciting to see how photographers capture the diversity of agriculture in Colorado.”

The winners were selected from more than 100 entries based on relation to Colorado agriculture, creativity and technical quality.

Among the winners is Rita Kleve of Holyoke. Honorable mention honors also went to Rita, as well as her daughter-in-law, Nicole (Asbury) Kleve of Nolanville, Texas.

The grand-prize winner and recipient of $150 is Samantha Kujala of Burns, with her entry entitled “Checkin Cows.” The winning photograph depicts a rancher riding through the sagebrush checking on cattle in northwestern Colorado.

Other top finishers include Elena Drazev of Grand Junction, first place in the agritourism category with “Come Help Us at the Ranch, Dude!;” Sonya Hutchison of Merino, first-place crops with “The Gleaner;” Rita Kleve of Holyoke, first-place people with “3 Generations of John Deere;” and Marni Mattner of Denver, first-place open professional with “Colorado Sunset.”

Other individuals receiving an honorable mention include Joyce Simpleman, Keenesburg; Craig Hammes, Delta; Rita Kleve, Holyoke; Gary Rich, Aurora; Dee Jensen, Fleming; Dennis Krukover, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Laurie Purcell, Grand Junction; Lou Costy, Fort Collins; Marla Rock, Wray; and Nicole Kleve, Nolanville, Texas.

Winning photographs will be displayed in the Beede-Hamil Agriculture Building at Northeastern

Junior College in Sterling. They are also available online at www.coloradoagriculture.com .

The 2013 contest is now underway. Photographers can enter their pictures through Dec. 31, 2013 in five categories: agritourism, crops, livestock, people and open professional.

Started in 1998, the “Colorado...It’s Agricultural” Photography Contest is sponsored by the AgInsights Committee, Colorado Department of Agriculture and Northeastern Junior College.

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