

AAEA Communications Awards Master Photographer Program

Nearly 20 current and former AAEA members have been named Master Photographers over the years, and you can join the ranks, too, by diligently entering the annual photography contest. Each year, those who enter and place in the photography contest are earning their way toward Master Photographer status.

Photographers make their way through a series of levels based on the placings they receive in the photography contest. Placing in a diversity of classes can launch a photographer to a high level quickly. Photographers will never lose their rankings because they haven't entered the contest for several years. Rather, their placings are recorded and will continue to build over time as they move up the ranks.

How many levels are there?

There are six Master Photographer levels, with Level 6 being the top honor of Master Photographer.

Level One

Level One is earned by entering the photo awards program.

Level Two

Level Two is earned by placing 2nd, 3rd, or honorable mention in one class.

Level Three

Level Three is earned with a 1st place win in one class, OR a 2nd, 3rd, or honorable mention in two different classes, OR by winning Photographer of the Year.

Level Four

Level Four is earned with a 1st place win in two different classes, OR by placing in three different classes.

Level Five

Level 5 is earned by winning Photographer of the Year and placing 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in two different classes, OR by winning Runner Up Photographer of the Year and placing 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in three different classes, OR by placing 1st in three different classes.

Level 6 - Master Photographer

Level 6 Master Photographer is earned by winning Photographer of the Year and placing 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in three different classes, OR by winning Runner Up Photographer of the Year and placing 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in four different classes, OR by placing 1st in four different classes.



“It is a major accomplishment when your photography is recognized by the AAEA and when achieving Master Photographer status. Not only does it mean you are recognized by your peers for your hard work, it also shows your co-workers, employers, and clients your dedication to the world of agriculture and photography. There is no single greater achievement in the world of agriculture photojournalism than to be recognized by the AAEA.” - Todd Klassy, Master Photographer, 2017



Questions about your current level or standing in the Master Photographer Program?

Contact Christine McClintic at jd-powersource@live.com.