



“As You Prepare” 4-H Photography Contest Tips

I. Consider cropping your photo

Sometimes photos need readjusting to be more appealing to the viewer. Below are a few things to keep in mind:

- Cameras shoot in a 4x6 ratio; when enlarging photos to 5x7 or 8x10, height is cropped.
- It is good when taking a photo to leave some extra room for cropping
- Use the Rule of Thirds to guide your crop

II. Choosing a photo mat

The purpose of a photo mat is to complement your photo and assist in enhancing the image. In order to achieve this, ask yourself these questions:

- Does the photo mat help draw the eyes to the most visually stimulating area of the photo?
- Have you selected a basic color, such a white, cream, green, blue, or black?
- Does the color compliment the image or does it fight with the image's colors?

III. One tool you can use to determine which photo mat color is right for your photo is the MatoMatic framing tool at www.matshop.com.

Adapted from “How to Choose Mat Colors,” MatShop.com.

http://www.matshop.com/articles/articles/how_to_choose_mat_colors.html