



▲ Favorite Time of Day, oil, 30 x 40.
 ► Hope Lives, oil, 28 x 22.



MICHELLE WEBER

ALTHOUGH MICHELLE WEBER grew up on a farm in Minnesota, it wasn't until she met her husband, whose family raised livestock, that she came to really know the animals in agriculture. "My dad grew corn and soybeans, so the whole cattle thing was new to me," she says. But while she was working as a graphic designer and painting on the side, she started painting the farm animals and posting the images on social media. "All of a sudden, people started taking notice of me," Weber says.

Soon local farmers and agricultural organizations began to commission paintings of prized animals and everyday farm and ranching scenes. At that point Weber and her husband agreed that the time was right for her to pursue her own art full time. "I'm not sure most husbands would say, 'just quit your job and be an artist,'" she says, "but I have had so much support from family." Today Weber paints similar subject matter, but the scenes on her canvases spring from her own passion for the animals and the people

who work with them. "There are no better people than the people in the cattle industry," she says with evident reverence. "Their herds are a part of their families and may have been with them for generations. To be able to capture that one cow that built their program and have them hang my paintings in their homes, *that* is the driving force behind my brush."

Weber's work can be found at www.webercustompainting.com. —*Laura Rintala*