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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHAD BESPLUG INVITATIONAL KICKS OFF CPRA SEASON

CLARESHOLM, ALTA – The Canadian Professional Rodeo Association (CPRA) kicks off the 2016 season Feb. 26-27 with the third annual Chad Besplug Invitational at the Claresholm Agriplex. Together with ATB Agriculture, Triple T Energy Services Ltd., Sun 99.7 FM Country and Frontier Western World, Chad Besplug has worked to bring today's top CPRA talent to Claresholm. Friday features the youngster's in the boys steer riding event and a freestyle bullfighting competition, while Saturday's action is filled with the big boys in the bull riding followed by the Lindsay Butler Band, live in concert.

“We look forward to it all the time, if you can imagine there's much more than just one day, it's months of preparation that goes into it,” Besplug says of the pride he takes in the event. “The atmosphere in the building is as good as anywhere I've been, it's small but it's packed. Everyone's there for a party and it's a lot of fun.”

Not only has Besplug brought the top riders to Claresholm, but he has some of the best bulls in Canada set to buck on Saturday night. The bull roster consists of 20 bulls that have appeared at the Canadian Finals Rodeo, including 2014 Bull of the CFR and will be accompanied by standout young bulls that have proven they belong on the list.

“Each bull is hand-picked,” explains Besplug. “It creates the fairest playing field for everybody, no one is going to get lucky; whoever rides the best is going to win.”

The Chad Besplug Invitational is set to start at 7 PM on both Friday and Saturday night at the Claresholm Agriplex. While tickets can be pre-purchased at the Frontier Western Shop for Saturday's action, a donation to the Kinsmen is requested for admittance on Friday. With a beer gardens to follow each event and a crowd that is ready to rumble, the Chad Besplug Invitational promises to be a don't-miss maiden stop on the 2016 CPRA season.

Canadian Professional Rodeo Association

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About the Canadian Professional Rodeo Association

The Canadian Professional Rodeo Association (CPRA) with headquarters in Airdrie, Alta., is the sanctioning body for professional rodeo in Canada. The CPRA sanctions over 50 events annually with a total payout exceeding \$5.1 million. Follow us on Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat at @prorodeocanada, like Canadian Professional Rodeo Association on Facebook, or online at RodeoCanada.com.

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