



ANIMAL WELFARE



2012

CANADIAN PROFESSIONAL RODEO ASSOCIATION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Rodeo... Our chosen lifestyle, our culture, our heritage	3
Canadian Professional Rodeo Association	4
Central Rodeo Entry System	5
Wrangler Pro Rodeo Officials	6
CPRA Animal Welfare Position Statement	7
Tie-Down Roping Horse of the Year	8
Steer Wrestling Horse of the Year	8
Ladies Barrel Racing Horse With The Most Heart	8
Saddle Bronc Horse of the Year	9
Bareback Horse of the Year	9
Bull of the Year	9
Canadian All-Around & High Point Titles	10
Saddle Bronc Riding	11
Bareback Riding	12
Bull Riding	13
Tie-Down Roping	14
Steer Wrestling	15
Ladies Barrel Racing	16
Team Roping	17
2009 Cowboy of the Year - Gary Rempel	18
Code of Practice for the Care & Handling of Rodeo Livestock	20
2010 CPRA Rodeo Schedule	23

RODEO...

OUR CHOSEN LIFESTYLE, OUR CULTURE, OUR HERITAGE!

Rodeo is a part of a very unique lifestyle, a tradition handed down to us from our pioneering forefathers who developed the various events and evolved them into competitions of individuals and animals competing against their neighbouring ranches to see whose “outfit” had the most skilled cowhands and the best animals.

The tradition, although more finely regulated today, continues, just like the sports of hockey, baseball, football and basketball that are enjoyed by our urban friends.

We accept an added responsibility that goes with our chosen lifestyle, the welfare of our animal competitors. We continue to be proactive in regard to the care and handling of our rodeo livestock.

The membership of the Canadian Professional Rodeo Association is comprised of some 1,400 people who own large amounts of livestock and as handlers of farm animals, are generally considered experts when it comes to the care & responsibility of their animals.

Most have more than a monetary tie to animals. Nearly all have lived and worked around animals for most of their lives, and possess a high degree of respect and appreciation for livestock.

Our rodeo stock contractors are expert stockmen and are very proud of their animals. They own & care for hundreds of head of livestock. They take pride in the conditioning and athletic ability of their animals, and, like a well-trained human athlete, an animal can perform to the best of its ability only if it is healthy and in top physical condition.

Their young ranch-raised horses are fed the best hay, grass and grains in order to enhance their growth and stamina. Generally, at the age of three, the horses are tested as to their bucking ability and then ‘turned out’ to roam free for another three to four years in order to let their muscles and bones completely develop.

They then come back to live out their adult life as a bucking horse with lots of time between rodeos to rest and be physically ready for the next competition.

Our stock contractors sort, load and transport their own animals to rodeo events. They are well aware of which animals get along with each other so they are loaded into their traveling compartments with that in mind on an ongoing basis. This helps to alleviate stress while traveling.

Our rodeo committees ensure that the facilities are inspected prior to the arrival of the animals and contestants in order to minimize the chance of injury to animals and contestants.

Professional rodeo judges inspect the livestock prior to each rodeo performance and any animal suspected of not being able to compete to the best of its ability is ‘pulled’ from the performance.

The rodeo judges are responsible for the enforcement of all CPRA rules including a section that deals exclusively with the humane treatment of livestock. The association’s rules and regulations include more than 60 rules dealing with the treatment of livestock.

Our rodeo judges undergo constant training and evaluation to ensure their knowledge and understanding of the rules are being maintained and that they are correctly enforcing them, particularly those regarding the care and treatment of rodeo livestock.

Animal welfare is a major ongoing initiative of the Canadian Professional Rodeo Association and we pledge to continue the strict enforcement of our rules and regulations.

who we are...

CANADIAN PROFESSIONAL RODEO ASSOCIATION

The Canadian Professional Rodeo Association (CPRA), with its headquarters in Airdrie, Alta., is the sanctioning body for professional rodeo in Canada.

The CPRA sanctioned 62 rodeos in Canada last year with a combined total payout of over \$5.1 million.

The CPRA is committed to maintaining the highest standards that ensure every CPRA-sanctioned event is managed with fairness and competence, and the livestock used is healthy and cared-for to the highest standards.

The CPRA has a strong working relationship with the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) in the United States, and many Canadian rodeos are co-approved for world championship points. World Champions are declared using combined CPRA and PRCA points.

Although the contestants are the most visible, the association's membership also consists of rodeo committees, stock contractors, judges, rodeo secretaries, announcers, timers, bullfighters, associate members, photographers, specialty-act performers and more.

Approximately 1,400 members are represented by the CPRA's board of directors, who govern the sport of professional rodeo in Canada.

CPRA rodeos create a positive economic impact on the cities and towns that host them. For example, the Canadian Finals Rodeo generates an economic impact of more than \$50 million annually into the local community.

As well, professional rodeos in North America raise in excess of \$30 million for local and international charities each year.

The 36th annual Canadian Finals Rodeo attracted almost 90,000 fans to Rexall Place in Edmonton, Alta. last November, a testament to the sport's ongoing popularity and growth.

Please visit www.rodeocanada.com for all the latest news, results and standings.



how we enter rodeos...

CENTRAL RODEO ENTRY SYSTEM

In this age of computers, it is hard to imagine that at one time cowboys often spent all day on a pay phone trying to enter a rodeo. Contestants had to reach rodeo offices individually, usually with only one rodeo secretary taking all the calls. With entries taken only on specific dates, a contestant could spend hours trying to get through a jammed phone line.

In 1977, entering rodeos changed dramatically with the introduction of the Central Rodeo Entry System (CRES), a computerized telecommunications entry system which was designed to overcome the complications of entering rodeos by allowing cowboys to take care of the majority of their weekly rodeo business through one office.

Telephone operators are at the CPRA office during the peak rodeo season to key in information given by the contestants.

Contestants not only tell the operator what events they are in and which days they would like to have at each rodeo, they can also enter with their traveling partners.

CRES helps increase the likelihood that they will all compete at the same rodeos at the same time, therefore allowing them to share travel expenses.

After entries are closed, the computer randomly draws positions for each contestant entered. Once the CRES office has completed the draw, a callback day is held, usually within 24 hours of the rodeo entries closing, allowing contestants to phone back and find out what performance they have drawn for that rodeo. Once contestants have sorted out any conflicts they may have, the names and numbers of specific bucking stock are entered into the computer and each contestant is randomly assigned an animal. Contestants then call the CRES office for a scheduled stock callback to find out what stock they have drawn. This information is usually available to the contestants a minimum of one week before the rodeo in question begins.

Although various factors affect the chances of contestants getting the day they asked for, every cowboy entered in the roughstock events has an equal chance of drawing the best animal.

Considering contestants often enter two and sometimes three events, the computer is able to draw up a schedule that allows contestants to work as many as five rodeos a weekend, competing in all their events on the same day at each rodeo.

CRES requires a full-time manager and up to three part-time operators. CRES handles an estimated 40,000 calls per season, with all calls being recorded to ensure accuracy. If a discrepancy occurs, the CRES manager listens to the call and the problem is immediately resolved.

the judges...

WRANGLER PRO RODEO OFFICIALS

The professional judging system was implemented in 1983 and through the substantial financial support of Wrangler and Super 8 Hotels it has expanded to employ up to 20 judges, supplemented by part-time, reserve officials. They make up the Wrangler/Super 8 Pro Official Judging Team.

The objective of the system is—in a word—consistency. Through instruction, constant attention to, interpretation and review of the rule book, and repetition of performance, a high level of consistency in judges' in-arena decisions can be achieved.

In 2009 there were 14 judges who work the 62 rodeos, and as many as 12 judges are needed during some weeks of the season. Itineraries are drawn up so that the judges are paired up week-in and week-out with different partners. In other words, two to four-man teams will be mixed from one rodeo to the next, where dates and travel schedules permit.

A judging commission was formed to give input at the annual judging seminar. This committee evaluates the judges' performances at the seminar as well as throughout the year, and acts as a grievance committee for any complaints pertaining to pro officials. At the seminars, the commission members, along with the judges, take part in classroom and actual arena activities, reviewing rides on video, and discussing the reasoning behind their in-arena decisions. Sessions devoted to the rule book, interpretation of the rules, positioning and procedures are also held.

In the past, hiring judges was the responsibility of the stock contractor and the rodeo committees. Availability of individual cowboys was the determining factor in who judged a rodeo. The Wrangler/Super 8 Pro Official Judging Team has overcome concern expressed by observers of the sport who had questioned the impartiality of judges; they asked how active contestants could not be influenced in their deliberations, judging one day and being judged the next by those they themselves had marked at a previous rodeo.

Through Wrangler and Super 8's sponsorship, the clinics, the growing experience of the judges, and the consistency in the marking of animals and rides, professional rodeo continues to improve.



safety/welfare...

CPRA ANIMAL SAFETY/WELFARE POSITION STATEMENT

The CPRA supports the responsible and humane use of animals and believes that all animals utilized in entertainment, industry and sport should be afforded proper care and management. The CPRA rejects animal rights philosophies that call for the creation of rights of animals being equal to those of human beings, prohibition of use of animals for medical research, and for the end of all use and interaction with animals.

The CPRA has an open working relationship with provincial Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) agents and inspectors. We welcome inspection and visitation by their agents and officers duly appointed and currently employed by a recognized provincial or regional agency. However, due to the potential liability created when visitors enter areas where livestock is being housed, we reserve the right to limit entry to those inspectors/agents who are knowledgeable in the matters of livestock handling and inspection. Additionally, inspectors must be accompanied by an experienced livestock handler/event official, so as to avoid injury and/or liability resulting from such visits. SPCA agents/inspectors must show their credentials at time of inspection. The CPRA actively promotes the humane treatment of all animals engaged in rodeo sports. The CPRA engages in education and outreach programs with event sponsors and livestock contractors in an ongoing effort to foster a humane atmosphere for all animals engaged in rodeo sports.



SADDLE BRONC HORSE OF THE YEAR

*Calgary Stampede's
Lynx Mountain*



BAREBACK HORSE OF THE YEAR

*Calgary Stampede's
Grated Coconut*



BULL OF THE YEAR

*Calgary Stampede's
Speed Dial*

TEAM ROPING HORSES OF THE YEAR



our animal champions...



TIE-DOWN ROPING HORSE OF THE YEAR

*Pincher, owned
by Chad Johnson*

STEER WRESTLING HORSE OF THE YEAR

*Wilfy, owned by
Greg Cassidy*



LADIES BARREL RACING HORSE WITH THE MOST HEART

*Reiner, owned by
Deb Renger*

Heading horse - *Roller, owned by Murray Linthicum*

Heeling horse - *Bucky, owned by Dwight Wigemyr*

the events...

CANADIAN ALL-AROUND & HIGH POINT TITLES

The CPRA's all-around championship is decided by money earned at the regular season CPRA rodeos, and at the Canadian Finals Rodeo. Contestants become eligible for the all-around standings by placing at three separate rodeos in a riding event (saddle bronc, bareback or bull riding) and three separate rodeos in tie-down roping or steer wrestling.

It is not necessary that those eligible for the all-around championship qualify for the Canadian Finals Rodeo but with the million dollar purse they can definitely add to their season totals.

The Canadian high point champion will be decided in the same manner as the all-around, with the exception of the events required to be eligible.

To be eligible for the high point standings, a contestant must have placed at three separate rodeos in any of the two of the following events during the season: saddle bronc riding, bareback riding, bull riding, tie-down roping or steer wrestling. The high point champion is the eligible contestant who earns the most money at the regular season rodeos and the Canadian Finals Rodeo.

*2009 All-Around & High Point Champion
Kyle Thomson*



SADDLE BRONC RIDING

Saddle bronc riding is rodeo's classic event, both a complement and contrast to the wilder spectacles of bareback riding and bull riding. This event requires strength to be sure, but the event also demands style, grace and precise timing.

Saddle bronc riding evolved from the task of breaking and training horses to work the cattle ranches of the Old West. Many cowboys claim riding saddle broncs is the toughest rodeo event to master because of the technical skills necessary for success.

Every move the bronc rider makes must be synchronized with the movement of the horse. The cowboy's objective is a fluid ride, somewhat in contrast to the wilder and less-controlled rides of bareback riders.

One of the similarities shared by saddle bronc and bareback riding is the rule that riders in both events must mark out their horses on the first jump from the chute. To properly mark out his horse, the saddle bronc rider must have both heels touching the animal above the point of its shoulders when it makes its first jump from the chute. If the rider misses his mark, he receives no score.

While a bareback rider has a rigging to hold onto, the saddle bronc rider has only a thick rein attached to his horse's halter. Using one hand, the cowboy tries to stay securely seated in his saddle. If he touches any part of the horse or his own body with his free hand, he is disqualified.

Judges score the horse's bucking action, the cowboy's control of the horse and the cowboy's spurring action. While striving to keep his toes turned outward, the rider spurs from the points of the horse's shoulders to the back of the saddle. To score well, the rider must maintain that action throughout the eight-second ride. While the bucking ability of the horse is quite naturally built into the scoring system, a smooth, rhythmic ride is sure to score better than a wild, uncontrolled effort.



*2009 Saddle Bronc Champion
Chet Johnson*

BAREBACK RIDING

Most cowboys agree that bareback riding is the most physically demanding event in rodeo, taking an immense toll on the cowboy's body. Muscles are stretched to the limit, joints are pulled and pounded mercilessly, and ligaments are strained and frequently rearranged. The strength of bareback broncs is exceptional, and challenging them is often costly.

Bareback riders endure more abuse, suffer more injuries and carry away more long-term damage than all other rodeo cowboys.

To stay aboard the horse, a bareback rider uses a rigging made of leather and rawhide, and meets CPRA and PRCA safety specifications. The rigging, which resembles a suitcase handle on a pad, is placed atop the horse's withers and secured with a cinch.

As the bronc and rider burst from the chute, the rider must have both spurs touching the horse's shoulders until the horse's feet hit the ground after the initial move from the chute. This is called "marking out." If the cowboy fails to do this, he is disqualified.

As the bronc bucks, the rider pulls his knees up, rolling his spurs up the horse's shoulders. As the horse descends, the cowboy straightens his legs, returning his spurs over the point of the horse's shoulders in anticipation of the next jump.

Making a qualified ride and earning a money-winning score requires more than

just strength. A bareback rider is judged on his spurring technique, the degree to which his toes remain turned out while he is spurring and his willingness to take whatever might come during his ride. It's a tough way to make a living, but, according to bareback riders, it's the cowboy way.



*2009 Bareback Champion
Kyle Bowers*

BULL RIDING

Rodeo competition, in the beginning, was a natural extension of the daily challenges cowboys confronted on the ranch—roping calves and breaking broncs into saddle horses.

Bull riding, which is intentionally climbing on the back of a 2,000-pound bull, emerged from the fearless and possibly fool-hardy nature of the cowboy. The risks are obvious. Serious injury is always a possibility for those fearless enough to sit astride an animal that literally weighs a ton and is usually equipped with dangerous horns.

Regardless, cowboys do it, fans love it and bull riding ranks as one of rodeo's most popular events.

Bull riding is dangerous and predictably exciting, demanding intense physical prowess, supreme mental toughness and courage. Like bareback and saddle bronc riders, the bull rider may use only one hand to stay aboard during the eight-second ride. If he touches the bull or himself with his free hand, he receives no score. But unlike the other rough-stock contestants, bull riders are not required to mark out their animals. While spurring a bull can add to the cowboy's score, riders are commonly judged solely on their ability to stay aboard the twisting, bucking mass of muscle.

Balance, flexibility, coordination, quick reflexes and, perhaps above all, a strong mental attitude are the stuff of which good bull riders are made.

To stay aboard the bull, a rider grasps a flat braided rope, which is wrapped around the bull's chest just behind the front legs and over its withers. One end of the bull rope, called the tail, is threaded through a loop on the other end and tightened around the bull. The rider then wraps the tail around his hand, sometimes weaving it through his little finger to further secure his grip.

Then he nods his head, the chute gate swings open, and he and the bull explode into the arena.

Every bull is unique in its bucking habits. A bull may dart to the left, then to the right, then reverse back. Some spin or continuously circle in one spot in the arena. Others add jumps or kicks to their spins, while others might jump and kick in a straight line or move side to side while bucking.



*2009 Bull Riding Champion
Brett Thompson*

TIE-DOWN ROPING

As with saddle bronc riding and team roping, the roots of tie-down roping can be traced back to the working ranches of the Old West. When cattle were sick or injured, cowboys had to rope and immobilize them quickly for veterinary treatment. Ranch hands prided themselves on the speed with which they could rope and tie cattle, and they soon turned their work into informal contests.

As the event matured, being a good horseman and a fast sprinter became as important to the competitive tie-down roper as being quick and accurate with a rope.

Today, the mounted cowboy starts from a box, a three-sided fenced area adjacent to the chute holding the calf. The fourth side of the box opens into the arena.

The calf receives a head start that is determined by the length of the arena and box. One end of a breakaway rope barrier is looped around the calf's neck and stretched across the open end of the box. When the calf reaches its advantage point, the barrier is released. If the roper breaks the barrier before the calf reaches its head start, the cowboy is assessed a 10-second penalty.

The horse is trained to come to a stop as soon as the cowboy throws his loop and catches the calf. The cowboy then dismounts, sprints to the calf and throws it by hand, a maneuver called flanking.

If the calf is not standing when the cowboy reaches it, he must allow the calf to get back on its feet before flanking it. After the calf is flanked, the roper ties any three legs together with a pigging string — a short, looped rope he clenches in his teeth during the run.

While the contestant is accomplishing all of that, his horse must keep enough tension on the rope to eliminate any slack in the rope, but not to drag the calf.

When the roper finishes tying the calf, he throws his hands in the air as a signal that the run is completed. The roper then remounts his horse, rides forward to create slack in the rope and

waits six seconds to see if the calf remains tied. If the calf kicks free, the roper receives no time.



*2009 Canadian Tie-Down Roping Champion
Alwin Bouchard*

STEER WRESTLING

Speed and strength are the name of the game in steer wrestling. In fact, with a world record sitting at 2.4 seconds, steer wrestling is the quickest event in rodeo.

The objective of the steer wrestler, who is also known as a “bulldogger,” is to use strength and technique to wrestle a steer to the ground as quickly as possible.

That sounds simple enough.

Here’s the catch: the steer generally weighs more than twice as much as the cowboy and, at the time the two come together, they’re both often traveling at 30 miles per hour. Speed and precision, the two most important ingredients in steer wrestling, make bulldogging one of rodeo’s most challenging events.

As with tie-down and team ropers, the bulldogger starts on horseback in a box. A breakaway rope barrier is attached to the steer and stretched across the open end of the box. The steer gets a head start that is determined by the length of the arena and box. When the steer reaches the advantage point, the barrier is released and the bulldogger takes off in pursuit. If the bulldogger breaks the barrier before the steer reaches his head start, a 10-second penalty is assessed.

In addition to strength, two other skills critical to success in steer wrestling are timing and balance.

When the cowboy reaches the steer, he slides down and off the right side of his galloping horse, hooks his right arm around the steer’s right horn, grasps the left horn with his left hand and, using strength and leverage, slows the animal and wrestles it to the ground. His work isn’t complete until the steer is on its side with all four feet pointing the same direction. That’s still not all there is to it.

To catch the sprinting steer, the cowboy uses a “hazer,” who is another mounted cowboy who gallops his horse along the right side of the steer and keeps it from veering away from the bulldogger.

The efforts of the hazer can be nearly as important as those of the steer wrestler. For that reason, and the fact that he sometimes supplies the bulldogger with a horse, the hazer often receives a fourth of the payoff.



*2009 Steer Wrestling Champion
Cody Cassidy*

LADIES BARREL RACING

Barrel racing isn't judged, but timed, which means the event has no subjective points of view. Time is the determining factor.

Barrel racing is graceful and simplistic—one woman, three barrels, a horse and the ever-present stopwatch. The horse is ridden as quickly as possible around a cloverleaf course of three barrels. At the end of the performance, after all of the racers have finished their runs, the clock determines the winner.

Ride quickly and win. Hesitate and lose.

Not only have the best of the sport spent countless hours practicing and honing their skill, but they also have invested many dollars in the purchase and maintenance of the talented horses they ride. A proven barrel racing horse can cost \$50,000 or more. For the professional barrel racer, this is indeed a small price to pay.

Not only must the horse be swift, but it also must be intelligent enough to avoid tipping the barrels, an infraction that adds five penalty seconds to the time and kills any chance for victory.

The horse also must be able to withstand the long roads a cowgirl must travel to reach the next rodeo. If a horse is fast, competitive and reacts calmly to the demands of travel, chances are good that horse can stop the clock as quickly or quicker than the animal in the next trailer.

Because so many barrel racers have finely tuned their skill, the sport is timed to the hundredth of a second. When the racer enters the arena, an electronic eye starts the clock. The clock is stopped the instant the horse completes the pattern.

Barrel racing at its core has changed little from the days when cowgirls raced for minimal, if any, prize money and support. And though the prizes and exposure are greater now than ever, the ultimate goal remains essentially the same as in the past: stop the clock as quickly as possible.



*2009 Ladies Barrel Racing Champion
Gaylene Buff*

TEAM ROPING

Team roping requires close cooperation and timing between two highly skilled ropers—a header and a heeler—and their horses. The event originated on ranches when cowboys needed to treat or brand cattle and the task proved too difficult for one man.

The key to success? Hard work and endless practice. Team roping partners must perfect their timing, both as a team and with their respective horses.

Similar to tie-down ropers and steer wrestlers, team ropers start from the boxes on each side of the chute from which the steer enters the arena. The steer gets a head start determined by the length of the arena and boxes.

One end of a breakaway barrier is attached to the steer and stretched across the open end of the header box. When the steer reaches his advantage point, the barrier is released and the header takes off in pursuit, with the heeler trailing slightly behind and to the right. The ropers are assessed a 10-second penalty if the header breaks the barrier before the steer completes his head start.

The header ropes first and must make one of three legal catches on the steer—around both horns, around one horn and the head or around the neck. Any other catch by the header is considered illegal and the team is disqualified. After the header makes his catch, he turns the steer to the left and exposes the steer's hind legs to the heeler. The heeler then attempts to rope both hind legs. If he catches only one foot, the team is assessed a five-second penalty. After the cowboys catch the steer, the clock is stopped when there is no slack in their ropes and their horses face one another.

Another important aspect to the event is the type of horses used by the ropers. The American quarter horse is the most popular among all timed-event competitors, particularly team ropers. Heading horses generally are taller and heavier because they need the power to turn the steer after it is roped. Heeling horses are quick and agile, enabling them to better follow the steer and

react to its moves.



*2009 Team Roping Champion
(header)
Travis Gallais*

*2009 Team Roping Champion
(heeler)
Kevin Schreiner*



COWBOY OF THE YEAR

By DIANNE FINSTAD

It's been quite a year for Gary Rempel.

He marked 25 years as a pick up man at the Maple Creek Cowtown Pro Rodeo and the Calgary Stampede, and both committees honoured him for that milestone.

Then, Rempel was selected by the cowboys as pick up man for the CFR for a record-setting 12th time.

To top it all off, they managed to surprise the popular hand and put the icing on the cake by announcing to a sold-out performance at Rex-all Place that Rempel was the

2009 Cowboy of the Year, and presenting him with the prestigious Douglas Lake Ranch Award.

The Canadian Professional Rodeo Association (CPRA) always makes sure the selection process for Cowboy of the Year is highly confidential, and prides itself on pulling off the shock factor to the winner. That was definitely the case this year.

"They told us they wanted to give us our CFR buckles in the arena for a little more exposure to the donor," Rempel recalled. "They told us at the end of the bronc riding just to ride over to the center for that. Then they said to (fellow pick up man) Jason Resch when you get yours, just go ahead and ride away. We're going to do a little deal for the 12-year deal for Gary. So I thought, that's cool. Then the announcer starts in, more people start showing up, and I think, 'what the heck's going on?' Then Dale Leschiutta walks out carrying something in a blanket. I'm thinking I guess they're going to give me a picture or something."

When the blanket came off, Rempel recognized the bronze, and began to tune in to what was going on.

"I couldn't believe it. Then everybody in the crowd stands up. Holy smokes, it was a little more than I could handle.

"I was having dust in my eye problems," he admitted.

Cowboy of the Year is considered one of the sport's highest honours. Nominated by peers, the award is given annually to a cowboy who best exemplifies what "cowboy" really means. Sure, there's abil-



ity, sportsmanship, dedication and personality all wrapped into that, but it singles out someone who has contributed greatly to the betterment of rodeo.

There's no doubt Rempel fits the bill on all counts. He's been rescuing cowboys for decades, and is known for being able to look after both stock and riders with the utmost in competence and care. He's made dramatic rescues, but it's his consistency, efficiency and ability that has built his legendary reputation. Rempel sees his role in the arena as a key part in making each performance a smooth, fast-paced event for the rodeo fan.

Rempel becomes the first pick up man to be honoured as Cowboy of the Year, and even that floors him.

"I know some awful good cowboys that have won it over the years, thinking back," he said, shaking his head. "Gosh, to be even mentioned in the same breath as some of those guys is kind of a privilege.

"To even be considered for it... as a pick up man, it's not something I ever thought about."

Rempel and his brother Wade, who he often works with in the rodeo arena, were raised on the Matador Community Pasture in Kyle, Sask. Cowboying became a natural way of life. But Rempel refined his skills when he got an early start at the job at some Saskatchewan amateur rodeos, before being noticed by Winston Bruce, and hired by the Calgary Stampede. While working as a pick up man has become pretty much a full time career, Rempel also trains horses. He and his wife Jody make their home base now near Fort Shaw, Mont. Jody wasn't in Edmonton, but was excited to hear the news about the award.

"Jody's already got room made on the mantel for it. I called her right away. She didn't have a clue either," he chuckled.

While Rempel is thrilled with the distinction, he doesn't consider it a pre-retirement signal. At a fit 57, Rempel plans to keep going down the road as long as the cowboys want him. Along with working the CFR 12 times, Rempel has also been selected as a pick up man for the NFR six times, including the last two years. This season, voting came down to a tie, and Rempel wound up in the alternate position for Las Vegas.

"I'd love to keep coming back to the Canadian Finals. And as long as I'm in the hunt for Vegas and keep making the final four, I've got to keep going. I'm awful close to tying some guys down there. Since they started voting on that deal, seven is the number, and I'm close.

"I'm having fun. The big thing is trying to keep in shape. As long as a guy doesn't get hurt, I'll keep going. I'll know when it's time to quit. I've got lots of years left in me, as far as I'm concerned," he confirmed.

No matter how long Rempel stays at work in the rodeo arena, 2009 will be a season he'll never forget, especially that unexpected capstone.

"This is a special highlight for me. It's something else. I never, ever thought I would ever get that. I'm just proud to have it. To be in the same category as a bunch of these other guys who have gotten it, is awesome."

our parameters...

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE CARE & HANDLING OF RODEO LIVESTOCK

HISTORY:

The regulations for care and management of rodeo livestock have been an important part of the rodeo industry from the inception of organized rodeos in the early 1900s. In 1945, the Cowboys Protective Association (CPA), today known as the Canadian Professional Rodeo Association (CPRA) began creating rules to govern the care and use of animals in the sport of Professional Rodeo.

Rodeo sanctioning organizations have extensive rules in place to safeguard rodeo livestock. This Code of Practice was created by combining these rules. Associations involved in the formation of this Code include: Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, Canadian Professional Rodeo Association, International Professional Rodeo Association, American Professional Rodeo Association, Women's Professional Rodeo Association, National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association, National High School Rodeo Association, National Little Britches Rodeo Association, Northwest Professional Rodeo Association, Professional Western Rodeo Association and United Pro Rodeo Association.

ENFORCEMENT:

This Code of Practice is voluntary. It is strongly recommended that all rodeo sanctioning organizations have rules in place to this Code. All sanctioning organizations should have enforcement mechanisms in place to insure compliance to rules. Member discipline for animal welfare related offenses should include disqualification, fines and/or suspension.

OBJECTIVE:

- The purpose of this Code is to promote the proper care and management of all livestock involved in rodeo competition.
- People involved in the rodeo industry should be aware of livestock safety under their care or the care of others.
- It is the responsibility of those working with rodeo livestock to be knowledgeable of the proper care and management of all rodeo livestock.

GENERAL:

- A veterinarian must be on-site at all performances and sections of slack.
- A conveyance will be available to remove animals from the arena in case of injury. The conveyance will be large enough to remove a horse or bull.
- A designated area should be available to treat any animal that may be injured.
- Animals used for rodeo events should be handled by competent, experienced personnel at all times.
- Stimulants or hypnotics will not be used or given to any animal used for contest purposes.
- Livestock will not be confined or transported in vehicles beyond a period of 24 hours without being unloaded, properly fed and watered.
- Any animal that becomes excessively excited and lays down in the chute repeatedly, or tries repeatedly to jump out of the chute, or in any way appears to be in danger of injuring itself, may be released immediately.
- No person will abuse or mistreat any animal by any noncompetitive or competitive action anywhere on the rodeo grounds.
- Small animals are not allowed in the arena, unless part of a specialty act.
- Livestock will be removed from the arena after each competition is complete.
- There will be a time limit for the calf roping, steer wrestling and team roping events.

EQUIPMENT:

- Spurs must be dulled.
- No locked rowels, or rowels that will lock on spurs may be used on bareback or saddle bronc horses. Loosely locked rowels may be used in the bull riding event.
- Horse flank straps will be of the quick-release type and must be fleece or neoprene lined to cover the belly and both flanks of the horse.
- In the bull riding, a soft cotton rope at least 5/8" in diameter may be used. A horse flank may also be used in the bull riding.
- Cinch, saddle, girth and flank straps will be free of sharp or protruding objects.
- The use of standard cattle prods is restricted to the minimum necessary for the effective handling of livestock. Animals will be touched only on the hip or shoulder area.
- Required bareback pads are to completely cover the inside of the rigging, and are to extend a full 2 inches behind the rigging.
- Cinches on bareback riggings will be made of mohair or other suitable material and at least 8 inches in width at the center, but may taper to accommodate the cinch "D" rings.
- Front cinch on bronc saddles will be mohair, and will be at least 8 inches in width at the center, but may be tapered to accommodate cinch "D" or rings.
- Hooks or posts will not be used on bull ropes for the purpose of holding spurs in rope.

our parameters...

FACILITIES:

- Rough stock and timed event chutes will be constructed in order to prevent injury to livestock. Box pads are mandatory for each timed event box.
- The arena will be as free as possible of rocks, holes and unnecessary obstacles and debris.
- Prior to the arrival of livestock on the rodeo grounds, all pens, chutes and arena are inspected to insure there they are in good repair and safe for livestock.

LIVESTOCK:

- All animals will be strong and healthy.
- Animals for all events will be inspected by a rodeo official before the draw. Animals that are injured, sore, lame, sick or with impaired eyesight will not be included in the draw. Should an animal become sick or incapacitated between the time it is drawn and the time it is scheduled to be used in competition, that animal will not be used in competition and another animal will be drawn for the contestant.
- Steers horns will be trimmed so that they are able to pass through the timed event chute.
- All team roping cattle will be protected by horn wraps.
- In order to keep bulls and timed event cattle from causing injury to each other, all horned animals will have their horns blunted.
- There will be minimum and maximum weight limits in place for timed event livestock.
- Consecutive runs are not allowed on the same horse or team of horses in the timed events provided there are other qualified horses on the premises unless approval is gained from the arena director, chute boss, stock contractor, or judge.
- To safeguard cattle in the calf roping event:
 - a. A neckrope must be used on the horse;
 - b. Calves may not be intentionally flipped backward;
 - c. Contestants must adjust rope and reins in a manner that will prevent horse from dragging calf;
 - d. Rope to be removed from the calf as soon as possible after “tie” is approved.
- All livestock will be familiarized with the arena prior to contest where conditions permit.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Canadian Professional Rodeo Association
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CANADIAN PROFESSIONAL RODEO ASSOCIATION 2010 TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 2009

Saskatoon, SK

October 9-11

Benalto, AB

July 9-11

High River, AB

July 14-15

Taber, AB


July 15-17

Teepee Creek, AB

July 17-18

Peace River, AB

July 17-18

Morris, MB 


July 22-25

Irricana, AB

July 23

Kennedy, SK

July 24-25

Medicine Hat, AB 

July 29-31

Strathmore, AB 

July 29 - August 2

Abbotsford, BC

July 30 - August 1

Coombs, BC

July 31 - August 1

MARCH

Camrose, AB

March 19-21

Lethbridge, AB

March 26-27

APRIL

Medicine Hat, AB

April 16-18

Dawson Creek, BC

April 23

Coleman, AB

April 23-25

Leduc, AB

April 30-May 2

MAY

Stavelly, AB

May 7-9

Kamloops, BC


May 15-16

Luxton, BC

May 22-24

Falkland, BC

May 22-24

Grande Prairie, AB 

May 27-30

Bonnyville, AB

May 28-30

Maple Creek, SK

May 28-30

JUNE

Wildwood, AB

June 4-5

Hand Hills, AB

June 5-6

Brooks, AB


June 11-12

Lea Park, AB

June 11-13

Rocky Mountain House, AB

June 11-13

Innisfail, AB 


June 16-20

Cold Lake, AB

June 18-20

Coronation, AB

June 19

Wainwright, AB 


June 24-27

High River, AB


June 24-27

Sundre, AB

June 25-27

Ponoka, AB 

June 28-July 4

Airdrie, AB 

June 29-July 3

JULY

Williams Lake, BC 

July 1-4

Cochrane, AB

July 10

AUGUST

Bruce, AB

August 1

La Crete, AB

August 2-3

High Prairie, AB

August 3-4

Grimshaw, AB

August 7-8

Dawson Creek, BC 

August 13-15

Olds, AB

August 13-15

Jasper, AB

August 18-21

Cranbrook, BC

August 20-22

Pincher Creek, AB

August 20-22

Lethbridge, AB

August 26-28

Cold Lake, AB

August 28

Kamloops, BC

August 27-28

SEPTEMBER

Armstrong, BC 

September 1-5

Okotoks, AB

September 3-5

Merritt, BC

September 4-5


Hanna, AB

September 24-26

McCord, SK

September 24-25

OCTOBER

Calgary, AB 

October 1-3

Saskatoon, SK (Counts towards 2011 season)

October 8-10

NOVEMBER

Edmonton, AB (Canadian Finals Rodeo XXXVII)

Nov. 10-14

All dates are subject to change. Please visit www.rodeocanada.com for up-to-date information.



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