

# RANCH WORLD ADS MAGAZINE®

The background of the cover is a photograph of a large brown and white cow with long horns, and a smaller brown and white calf, both in a wire pen. The cow is on the left, looking towards the camera, and the calf is on the right, also looking towards the camera. The ground is dirt and there is a wooden post and wire fence behind them.

## Cutting Colts

CASTRATING  
START TO FINISH

## Riding Tips

DETECTING STANDING  
ESTRUS IN CATTLE

## Stewart Williamson

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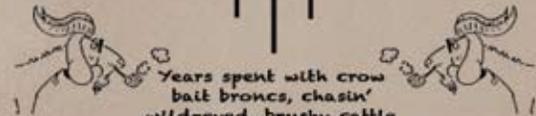
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## On The Cover



Cow/Calf pairs during the 2009 branding at the ORO Ranch in Arizona. Photo by Barry Denton of Western Lifestyle Photography [www.barrydentonphotography.com](http://www.barrydentonphotography.com)

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# Cutting Colts

By Jack Blerry  
Photos By Mary Williams Hyde



Over the last year, I have had several young hands ask me about the correct way to castrate horses. The simple truth is there are many different techniques one can use when castrating. The variations in techniques start with the restraining of a horse and end right as the testicles are removed. I have cut several hundred colts over the years. I do not claim to be an authority, but I will try to go over some of the techniques we have used. I will say this, if you have never castrated a horse, you should have an experienced hand or vet walk you through the procedure ten or twenty times before you attempt to do one for yourself. I cannot stress enough the importance of being familiar with the normal presentation and gross appearance of the testicle, specifically the surface vascular pattern, and the normal anatomical relationships of the parts of the epididymis.

In the past, we have roped and stretched horses to be cut. We have also tied horses down to be cut. Now, as I get older, if I have the choice, I like to use tranquilizer, but that is not always an option.

The castration of horses requires three things; knowledge, skill, and luck. I have seen a lot of horses cut, and when experienced hands are doing the cutting, you seldom lose a colt due to the actual procedure. If a horse is crippled or killed, it usually occurs before the knife ever touches them. This is because two of the most common injuries during the procedure

are to a horse's eyes or neck. This is true whether restraining or tranquilizing. Horses roped and stretched, or tranquilized, tend to go down to the ground rather abruptly and not in total control of their bodies. With careful preparation and attention to detail, injuries and deaths are few and far between.

No matter how you are going to restrain or tranquilize a horse take the time to pick a pen that is free of rocks and debris. Walk the pen and make sure there are no pieces of metal, wood or wire sticking out anywhere. The extra time it takes to walk the pen sure is worth it. I can about guarantee you that if you cripple or kill a horse or a colt, it will be one of the best ones, not one of the worst.

## Roping Example 1

In this method, one man will head the horse. A second man will come in and heel the horse by both feet. The header and heeler must make sure that they do not stretch the horse in a straight line. They may also have to slip some rope. This will allow the horse to go down. Horses caught, necked, and heeled can stay standing if the pull is straight from the header to the heeler. Pulling harder will not make them go down, you just increase your chances of yanking a horse's neck down (dislocating a vertebrae). Once the horse is down, a third man goes into mug his head. A fourth man places a rope on the horse's front legs, and then hands it to the man that headed the horse, he in turn,

drops the rope that he's necked the horse with and dallies with the rope, now attached to the horse's front legs. In this method, the horse is restrained by both front legs and both hind legs, and has a mucker on his head. On bigger colts, you may want to have two ropes on the hind legs.

### Roping Example 2

In this method, one man will head the horse. The second man will come in and forefoot the horse. Once the horse is down, a third man slips a loop on the horse's hind legs and passes this to a man a horseback. He dallies and stretches the legs out tight. The header un-dallies and they take the loop off the horses neck. I will ad, if everyone's pretty handy, when the horse is down, the man that is going to be stretching the hind legs can just ride up and flip a loop on them himself. In this method, the horse is restrained by both front legs and hind legs.

### Tying Down

When tying one down, the method I prefer is the one rope tie down. When doing this, I prefer a smaller pen with ground soft or disked up. You, first, want to sort off a colt and run him in the round pen. Then, forefoot him and drop him on the ground. Once down, you will throw two half hitches on his front legs, then pull some slack in your rope forming a loop. Run the loop in between his front legs and loop his down side hind leg. Now, take up the slack in the form of another loop. Next, go under the caught leg and up, then back to, and between the front legs. Tie off your loop and tails in a square knot, then with your long

tail, run the rope under the horses front legs, bringing it under his head and neck. Work the rope back under his body 'till it is even with his withers. Then, catch his upside leg, suck it up, and tie it there with some half hitches onto the rope. Once tied, we usually use a jacket, to not only blindfold one, but also to protect its eyes, although I have seen people get along fine with a saddle blanket. In this method, the horse is restrained by having both front legs and it's down side leg tied together, plus the upside leg tied up. (This method of tying one down was featured in a full article with illustrations in our Winter 2008 issue)

### Tranquilizer

When using sedatives to tranquilize a horse, always talk to your vet. When using drugs, be sure to know the correct dosages, possible side affects, and legal restrictions. The most common tranquilizer used for equine castration is a mixture of Xylazine and Ketamine. Ketamine is now a very controlled substance because of it's use as a date rape drug, so make sure that you and your vet fill out the proper paperwork before he sends you home with a bottle. Also, when using a Xylazine/Ketamine cocktail, be very exact on your estimation of weight. If you under dose an animal with these drugs, their effect may only last a couple of minutes. If you over dose, the animal may be down for hours.

You can administer this cocktail several ways; either IV or intramuscularly, in two separate shots, or one combined shot. There will be pluses and minuses with any combination you use. On halter broke colts I like separate shots IV. On un-halter-broke





colts, we run'em in a bucking chute, put a halter and lead rope on them, and jab them with one combined intramuscular shot. We then let them out into the pen. When we see they're about to go down, we run over and grab the lead rope, so we can keep their heads from flopping down on the ground. Once down, we take the lead rope and tie their up side hind leg forward, as a safety precaution. Also in this method, we use a jacket to protect a horses eyes. In this method, the horse is tranquilized. He has a halter and lead rope on with his upside leg tied forward.

### Tools

The basic tools you need are the following: scalpel, blade or knife, emasculators, Betadine Scrub, tetanus shot, antibiotics, bucket, halter and a lead rope. Now, there are different styles of emasculators on the market. I prefer the cut and crimp type.

### The Procedure

When you have your horse down, now the real work begins. The first thing you want to do is, look the horse over from head to toe, real quick, and see if anything has changed from when he was standing. It is not uncommon to aggravate an already existing condition, such as a hernia, when restraining or anesthetizing a horse. You should also make sure you have not injured the horse when restraining or anesthetizing it. If all is well, then you can do a quick visual inspection of the scrotum.

Now, with a cloth or gauze, wash the entire scrotal region

with the Betadine Scrub, making sure to get the area immediately surrounding the testicles as thoroughly as possible. Take note that both testicles are down. A horse will sometimes retract a testicle to where it appears to no longer be in the scrotum. By feeling, you can tell if both testicles have dropped. If one testicle has not dropped yet, let the horse up and call the vet. In the case of a young colt, he may drop the other testicle in the near future. In any event, you will want to wait to proceed.

It should be said that colts should not be over weight if you plan on cutting them. Colts that've been penned since weaning and are over fed, tend to have fat build up in between their legs and around their spermatic cord. This can sometimes prevent a testicle from descending. You can also loose a descended testicle back up behind the fat during the procedure. In this case, you can roll a colt onto his back and rock him back and forth, slowly, while you probe for the testicle.

Next, visually locate the line dividing the scrotum. This will be your reference point. First, grab the scrotum behind the testicle with your left hand, so that the testicle is pressed against the inside of the scrotum.

Then, taking your scalpel blade, make an incision starting at one end of the testicle, cutting long ways across the scrotum (parallel to the line diving the testicle), to the other end of the testicle. This will present the testicle still encased in the common

tunic. The common tunic is a semi-clear membrane that incases the testicle and the spermatic cord. You will now make the exact same incision and cut, but now cutting through the common tunic. The testicle will now push through the common tunic. Grabbing the testicle you will now work the common tunic back down the spermatic cord.

When performing this procedure on older horses with testicles larger than a large egg, one may want to cut the scrotal ligament. This will prevent the horse from retracting the testicle. When performing this procedure on young colts, this is not necessary.

Now, gripping the testicle, you will want to locate the Epididymis (the squealer). Next, move your hand and hold down the spermatic cord past the Epididymis. I like to keep a hold of it, so that I am sure of it's location when I place my emasculators on the spermatic cord.

Next, take your emasculators and place them around the cord, keeping in mind to have the crimping side closest to the horse's body. Then, check the location of the area you are about to crimp and cut. Make sure you still have a hold of the squealer. Now, move your hands towards the horse's body, decreasing the tension on the spermatic cord. By doing this, you decrease the risk of the cord pulling loose from the emasculators during the cutting and crimping process. Next, clamp down hard. You

can now remove the testicle and toss it aside, while continuing to clamp down with the emasculators. I always try to hold the emasculators in place, keeping steady pressure for at least sixty to ninety seconds to assure that the crimp has taken.

Repeat the same process beginning with your incision on the other side. Now, after I have removed both testicles, I usually cut out the piece of skin in between my two incisions. Many people leave this piece of scrotal skin. I prefer to take it off, because I have always felt that it allowed the area to drain, thus preventing swelling in the groin or legs. Since we generally turn out whatever we cut and may not see them for a while, removing this piece of the scrotal skin prevents the chance that the incisions may scab over and prevent draining. Last, I always try to give a tetanus shot, as well as an antibiotic shot, to guard against infection.

### When to Cut

There are a lot of opinions on when to cut a colt, not what age, but actually what time of the year and what day of the month. Now, I am not going to tell you anymore than when it's real hot, it's a bad time. I would also tell you not to cut them during fly season. Other than that, do as most do in ranch country, refer to the Old Farmers Almanac.

**Editors Note:** This article is for ranchers and working ranch cowboys. This is not for horse owners to read and attempt to castrate their horse.





# 2010 Scheduling OF WRCA SANCTIONED RANCH RODEOS

## June 2010

- 4-5 *Wild Horse Prairie Days*  
Haskell, TX. Sammy Larned 940-864-2749
- 5-6 *Cheyenne River Roundup*  
Edgemont, SD. Wyatt VanEaton 605-662-7022
- 11-12 *Panhandle Cowboy Classic*  
Gruver, TX. Frank Winters 806-736-0035
- 25-26 *Colorado Championship Ranch Rodeo*  
Hugo, CO. Tina Waite 719-743-2201

## July 2010

- 2-3 *Santa Fe Trail Ranch Rodeo Council*  
Grove, KS. Clay Wilson 785-456-1859 or 620-767-8847
- 3 *Ride for the Brand Championship Ranch Rodeo*  
Colorado Springs, CO. Patsy Tompkins 719-541-5793
- 9-10 *Fort Sumner Ranch Rodeo*  
Fort Sumner, NM. Lisa Walraven 575-799-8537
- 9-10 *Waurika Chamber of Commerce*  
Waurika, OK. Carl Gholson 580-512-7738
- 23-24 *Meade County Fair Ranch Rodeo*  
Meade, KS. Dale Schell 620-629-7000
- 23-24 *Lazy P Ranch & Arena*  
Lockwood, MO. Becky Patterson 417-232-4122

## August 2010

- 6 *Garden County Ranch Rodeo*  
Lewellen, NE. Cade Yates 308-778-6668 or  
Jennifer Carlson 308-778-9563
- 7 *Maverick Ranch Rodeo*  
Gimarron, NM. Randy Chambers 325-668-5350
- 13-14 *Big Bend of Texas Ranch Rodeo*  
Alpine, TX. Chachi Hawkins 432-364-2696
- 20-21 *New Mexico Championship Ranch Rodeo*  
Roswell, NM. Bill Thompson 575-626-7244
- 20-21 *Texas Ranch Roundup*  
Wichita Falls, TX. Susan Knowles 940-587-4932
- 27-28 *Oklahoma Cattlemen's Assoc. Range Round-Up*  
Oklahoma City, OK. Steve McKinley 405-833-8857
- 27-28 *Old Settler's Reunion Ranch Rodeo*  
Hoarding Springs, TX. Greg Arnold 806-271-4530

## September 2010

- 4-5 *Best of Ranches Rodeo*  
Arcadio, FL. Tate Hylginbotham 239-339-5239
- 24-25 *Kansas Championship Ranch Rodeo*  
Medicine Lodge, KS. Kaye Rubin 620-885-9815
- 24-25 *Southwest Showdown*  
Denning, NM. Geneva Caldwell 575-543-5736
- 25-26 *Aggletland Ranch Rodeo*  
Bryan, TX. Coke Hopping 979-823-2571

## October 2010

- 1-2 *Pryor Creek Ranch Rodeo*  
Pryor, OK. Heath Massey 918-688-1137

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Canine brucellosis is caused by the bacterium *Brucella canis* or *B. canis*, one of six species of the genus *Brucella*. This highly contagious disease affects the reproductive system, causing infertility, abortions, and stillbirths in dogs. Several states require dogs infected with brucellosis and the property they live on to be quarantined and infected dogs destroyed.

Canine Brucellosis spreads through contact with aborted fetuses, uterine discharge during breeding, and through maternal milk. It is also transmitted by nose, mouth and eye contact, feces, saliva, blood, secretions from the eyes and nose, semen, and urine. The bacteria enters the body through mucous membranes and/or open wounds. It then spreads to lymph nodes and to the spleen. It will also spread to the uterus, placenta and prostate gland, as well as other internal organs.

Symptoms of Canine Brucellosis in females range from abortion of litters (around 45-55 days after breeding), to litters with pups born dead or dying immediately after birth, and embryo death or reabsorption. In males, symptoms range from inflammation of the epididymis, prostate and or testicles, to infertility in males with infections lasting more than 3 months. This is due to the development of antibodies that

kill spermatozoa, thereby causing infertility. Also, a male may show a reluctance to breed, due to pain caused by inflammation of their sex organ. Both sexes can show swollen lymph nodes. Some dogs may show no specific signs of poor health, other than lack of energy. In rare cases, the disease has caused damage to the kidneys and nervous system.

The most dangerous aspect of the disease is that the above symptoms are not always noticeable. An infected dog, in many cases, may not show any outward signs at all. Infected females can have normal heat cycles and breed normally. In fact, females infected with Brucellosis may conceive and whelp a live litter after aborting a litter. The danger is that such a female can infect any males she is bred to, in addition her pups will most likely be carriers of the disease, leading to infection of other dogs.

Experts estimate 2-3% of the canine population is infected nation wide, with as high as a 6% infection rate in the southeast. Stray and feral dogs, and "puppy mills" are the main sources of the spread of infections. The disease, however, in the last decade has also spread to the rest of the dog industry, including show dogs, field trial dogs, and ranch dogs.

No vaccine exists for this disease in dogs. Treatment is complicated and expensive, with results being hit or miss. Dogs are generally treated with multiple antibiotics over a 30-day period, then retested, and if positive, retreated again. If treatment fails, the dog is then put down. The test for the disease is a simple blood test, though many veterinarians believe the test is unnecessary because of the small number of dogs infected. However, with the ease of travel one

must consider what dogs are at high risk. If you take your dogs to ropings, horse shows, sale barns or dog trials, your dogs are at a higher risk of being infected. If you breed to outside females, or take your female to outside males, your dogs are at a higher risk. If you have a problem with stray or feral dogs in your area, your dogs are also at higher risk.

Canine Brucellosis is serious, not because dogs are likely to contract the disease, but because of the consequences if a dog does become infected. The disease itself will not kill your dog, but your dog will be genetically dead, because he or she will be unbreedable. A dog that tests positive for Brucellosis should not be bred, not even by artificial insemination. Bringing an infected dog into a breeding program can wipe out years of work. Dogs bred intensively to outside dogs should be tested two to four times a year. Before breeding to dogs of unknown brucellosis status, ask to see their test results. New dogs brought onto your place for breeding stock should always be quarantined and tested before using them to breed.

Dogs can give Canine Brucellosis to humans. In humans, the disease is easily managed with appropriate antibiotics. People with a compromised immune system, children, and pregnant women are considered most at risk. People most often catch the disease by handling aborted pups from infected females. If you have a female that aborts or has stillborn pups, be sure to handle the dead pups, membranes, placentas and any birth fluids with gloves. The birth area must also be thoroughly disinfected. The female that had the pups should be tested for Brucellosis as soon as possible to rule out the disease as the cause for the stillborn litter.

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Midland, TX - Midland Co. Horseshoe Arena

**Friday August 27, 2010**

**Saturday August 28, 2010**

### Enter Your Team Today!

#### 3 Person Teams Compete In:

- Cattle Muggin'
- Trailer Loadin'
- Steer Dressin'
- Cattle Doctorin'
- Ranch Bronc Ridin'

**EVERY TEAM MEMBER MUST COMPETE  
IN EACH EVENT**

#### 16 Teams Entered - 8 Each Night!

A total of 48 Ranch Bronc Rides over 2 Nights!  
Money & Awards to the Top 3 Average Winners!  
Awards to the Wildest Bronc Ride of the Night!

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#5 Cap Pick/Draw USTRC Triad #'s To Be Used

Sunday Books Open at 9am Rope at 10am  
#9, #11 and #13 Progressive  
High Point and Average Awards!

### Team Penning Along with Youth Events

Saturday & Sunday - Outside Arena at 10am

#### FREE Open Jackpot

"Wild Cow Race" for kids 16 & younger each night

#### Doug Moreland Live on Terrace

Following Friday & Saturday Rodeo Performance

### Buy Your Tickets Online!

#### Bit & Spur Trade Show

All Day! All Weekend!

#### Chuck Wagon Cook Off

Saturday feeding the public at 5pm

#### Cowboy Church

Sunday Morning at 8am

### All Proceeds Will Be Donated Between:

- Midland Children's Rehab Centers
- Hippotherapy Program
- and
- Tom Butler Memorial Scholarship & Foundation



### For More Information:

Tuff Team Xtreme Ranch Rodeo Inc. | P.O. Box 130 | Gardendale, TX 79758 | Billy Roush (432) 553-3439

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2009

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Colonel Freckles  
Doc Oak  
Young Gun

Mr Peppy Olena  
Docs Rondo  
Doc's Hickory  
Playin Stylish

Chunky's Money  
Son Ofa Doc  
Mr San Quarto

Doc Ray Olena  
Freckles Flynt  
Holey Sox Jr.

Tenino Tuffy  
Diamond Jiggs  
Peppy San Badger  
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#### HICKORY DICKORY DOC

Doc's Hickory x Benito Creep by Benito San

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2002 Sorrel Stallion  
Smart Lil Ricochet x Meradas Little Sue by Freckles Merada

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# \$ Horse Marketing Strategies

By Jack Blerry

*A*cross the west, horse owners and breeders have taken up a woe is me attitude when it comes to selling horses in today's market. Sellers having a hard time selling their horses need not view their situation as hopeless. Sellers need to simply take a different look at their situations.

Horse prices, like many other agricultural market prices are not set or fixed. Prices fluctuate based on many different variables such as quality, scarcity, location and demand. No matter where the market is in its cycle, sellers need to be able to capitalize on all of these factors. In short, selling horses successfully means capitalizing on quality, scarcity, location and demand.

For sellers to view their situations differently they must, first, realize that they only have their horses to sell, not everybody else's. This sounds simple, but when most people discuss the horse market they talk of horses selling or not selling, and define this by location, such as horses aren't selling at this sale or that sale, in this or that state, or at this or that ranch. The most commonly said phrase is, "horses aren't selling anywhere". Sellers need to realize they don't have to worry about everybody else's horses, they just have to sell their own. To get this done they must view the big four in a different light.

"First, and foremost, forget about everybody else and just worry about selling your own horses. It doesn't matter how many people are, or are not selling horses, as long as you are selling yours."

## **Quality - Scarcity - Location - Demand**

Quality seems like a simple concept, but how does quality help or hurt you, and how does one form an advertising plan based off of quality. When relating



quality to selling horses, most of us think solely of the quality of the horses for sale. But, let's look instead at the quality of your sales presentation.

Whether you are running a magazine ad, hanging a flyer, or posting an online ad, remember that quality represents quality. This also applies to how you dress, the look of your barn, how you answer the phone, so on and so on. People that have quality horses, run quality ads, take quality photos, dress nicely, have well manicured yards and barns, answer and talk on the phone professionally and end up selling horses faster, and for more money than people that handle things all "Willie Nillie". They also tend to get more referrals from their buyers.

Sellers need to remember that poorly typed ads and hand written ads do not say quality. Average photos, say average, not quality. Dressing any old way does not

say quality. Having your kids answer the phone, or being too busy to talk to prospective buyers does not say quality. Having piles of baler twine everywhere, uncut grass, and stuff scattered from the barrow ditch to the barn does not say quality.

To capitalize on quality does not mean you have to spend lots of money. Just remember, clear pictures in ads, use spell check on all written material, then have someone that can spell, check it again. When you answer the phone, think of it as work, not a social conversation. When people come to look at horses make sure you are wearing appropriate clothes and your place is neat and clean.

Scarcity is a relative term. Just because in your area the market may be flooded with say colts, this does not mean every area of the country is flooded with colts. Scarcity of a given item tends to drive demand. Seek out areas to market your

horses where there is less competition, but still demand.

This is totally opposite of what most people do when they're deciding to advertise their horses for sale. Most people tend to seek out publications and advertising venues that they see other people advertising horses just like theirs in. Advertising in publications or on websites that get lots of horse buyers is a good thing, but not because everybody you know uses them to sell horses, it's because they get lots of horse buyers.

Advertisers should always drop an ad in the old stand by to be sure that base is covered, but doing your homework always pays off. Try to find venues to advertise in that give you exposure to buyers, but that are not jammed packed with your competition. Since we are using colts as an example, areas like the Dakotas and Nebraska produce large numbers of colts. Whereas, places like Arizona, Southern California and New Mexico have good demand, but very few colts for sale by comparison.

Demand finding where the demand is for your horses is also key. No matter what people think or hear, there is always a demand for good horses. In many ways horses are like fur coats, fast boats and diamonds, they're items of want not of need. When looking for areas where demand is high, look for signs like soaring local economies. Yes, even in a recession there are places where the economy is doing better than ever. Here are some examples of areas where the economy may be soaring locally during a recession. Areas where natural gas or oil well drilling has started, and communities that are building dams or refineries. Also lookout for areas that have had new industries open or move in. Regions that have had an exceptional agricultural year are also hubs of economic surplus. Just because corn or cotton didn't make near you, doesn't mean the guys growing soybeans in the next state didn't hit a home run.

With a little internet home work and phone calling, you can locate areas of economic prosperity and find places there to advertise like their local newspapers, or

feed and tack stores.

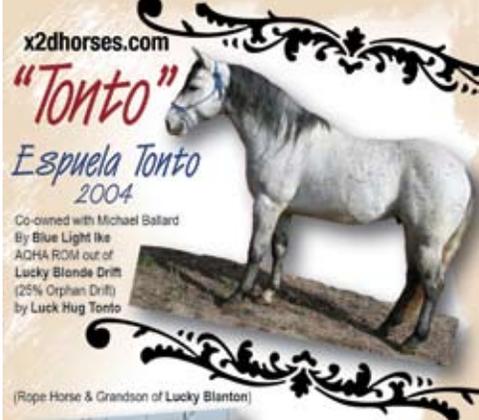
Location. You think because you know where you are at, you're a pro on location. I have seen location change the price of a horse more times than any other one factor. The power of location is not to be understated. Simply moving a horse a couple miles from where it is, can mean the difference in selling or not selling it. It can also greatly effect it's price.

Location is important. Throwing a horse in a trailer and driving it to a location that is pretty with a great backdrop, so that it looks great in it's pictures, can mean the difference in a potential buyer picking up the phone and calling you on your ad, or not. Taking a horse to a prettier barn, or a facility with better pens, or a place with hours of trails to ride, can also help seal the deal and close the sale when showing the horse to a potential buyer.

How much should I spend on advertising? Look at it this way. Let's say you have a horse you want \$5,000.00 for. How much should you allot to your advertising budget to market this horse? I would say 10% of the projected sale price. People say, "That's \$500.00. That's too much money." I say, "These are the same people that spend \$50.00 advertising their horse, and then can't get him sold and end up dropping the price more than 20% to sell him, or they end up hauling him to the sale, and sell him for a lot less than they're asking price, and still have to fill their tank with gas and pay a commission." The standard referral commission for finding a buyer for someone is 10%.

How much time should I spend on trying to sell my horse? How much time do people really spend on selling their horses... 2 hrs., 10hrs., 20hrs.? Look at it this way, \$5,000.00 is a lot of money for someone to hand you. If you had to work hourly to earn the money it takes 500hrs @ \$10.00 an hr. It's 333hrs @ \$15.00 an hr. It's 250hrs @ \$20.00 an hr. It's 200hrs @ \$25.00 an hr. It's 166hrs @ \$30.00 an hr. to earn \$5,000.00, and that's before they take the taxes out.

Why not just spend the time & money up front to advertise the horse and put what you planed in your pocket?



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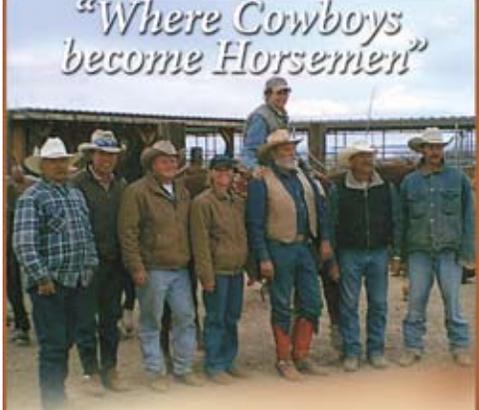
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SLIM GRAY

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Photo by Michael Luque, Jordan Valley Rodeo.

## **April 2010**

**16 - 17** - "Real" Ranch Horse Sale & Ranch Horse Competition. Billings, MT (406) 446-2203

**16 - 17** - Bud Williams Marketing School. Clarendon, TX (877) 799-4577

**23 - 25** - Hackamore Classic, Paso Robles Event Center. Paso Robles, CA. (805)239-0655

**23-24** - Northern Range Ranch Roping Series Clinic. Sheridan, WY. Brannaman's Arena (406) 861-4558

**25** - Northern Range Ranch Roping. Sheridan, WY. Brannaman's Arena. (406) 861-4558

**30- May 2** - The Californios Ranch Roping and Stock Horse Contest. Reno, NV (530) 896-9566

## **May 2010**

**1-3** - 63 Annual Arlington Jackpot Rodeo / Ranch Bronc Riding. Arlington, OR (541) 340-0923

**02** - Ogallala Livestock Auction Spring Catalog Horse Sale. Ogallala, NE. (308) 284-2071

**6 - 8** - Western Heritage Classic Ranch Horse Sale, Ranch Horse Competition, Annual Bit Spur & Western Collectable Show, Chuckwagon Cookoff and more... Abilene, TX (325) 677-4376

**6 - 9** - Pendleton Cattle Barons Weekend Ranch Bronc Riding, Select Gelding Sale, Team Branding, Trade Show Pendleton, OR. (800) 547-8911

**8** - Annual Buffalo Bill "Top Notch Horse Sale". Irma Hotel, Cody, WY (307) 587-4221

**8** - Twombly Performance Horse Sale.

Bayard NE (308) 783-1866

**8-9** - Pat Puckett Roping Clinic. Saturday beginners. Sunday advanced ropers. Benson, AZ (775) 777-5372

**13** - Bieber Red Angus "Turn Out Sale". Leola, SD (605) 439-3628

**13 - 16** - Miles City Bucking Horse Sale Miles City, MT (406) 234-2890

**14 - 16** - Jordan Valley Big Loop Rodeo "Horse Roping" Jordan Valley OR (541)- 586-2460

**20 - 21** - Bud Williams Stockmanship School. Cheyenne, WY (940) 872-4800

**22 - 23** - Clovis Summer Horse Sale. Clovis NM, (575) 726-4422

**29 - 30** - Early California Rancho Days at the Santa Margarita Ranch. Santa Margarita, CA, (805) 441-5748

29 - 30 - N-Arrow Livestock Ranch Rodeo. Standish, CA (530)310-4430

## June 2010

4 - 5 - WRCA Wild Horse Prairie Days. Haskell, TX (940) 864.2749

4 - 6 - Lovelock Ranch Rodeo. Lovelock, NV (775) 273-7359

5 - 6 - WRCA Cheyenne River Roundup. Edgemont, SD (605) 662.7022

11 - 12 - WRCA Panhandle Cowboy Classic. Gruver, TX (806) 736-0085

11 - 12 - Green River Wyoming Ranch Bronc Riding. Green River, WY (435) 496-3129

12 - 13 - Minden Ranch Rodeo and Buckaroo Fest. Minden, NV (775) 782-2378

12 - 20 - Jake Clark Mule Days & Sale

Clinics, Futurity, Ranch Mule Competition, Team Roping, Barrel Racing, Rodeo & Sale. Ralston, WY (307) 754-4320

19-20 - 1st Annual Paulina Ranch Rodeo Paulina, OR (541) 693-4843

20 - 33rd Annual Fort Ranch Horse Sale Promontory, Utah (208) 681-9829

23 - 27 - Traditional Horsemanship/Pre-roping Clinic & Ranch Roping Clinic. Twin Bridges, MT (406) 842-5349

25 - 26 - WRCA Championship Ranch Rodeo. Hugo, CO (719) 743-2201

25 - 26 - Blackfoot Ranch Rodeo / Jack Pot Ranch Bronc Riding. Blackfoot, ID (208) 201-3792

26 - 27 - Summer Catalog Horse Sale Billings Livestock. Billings, MT (406) 245- 4821

## July 2010

2 - 3 - WRCA Santa Fe Trail Ranch Rodeo. Council Grove, KS (785) 466.1359

3 - WRCA Ride for the Brand Championship Ranch Rodeo. Colorado Springs, CO (719) 641.6703

4 - Big Timber Ranch Rodeo. Big Timber, MT (406) 223-5765

7 - 11 - Traditional Horsemanship/Pre-roping Clinic & Ranch Roping Clinic. Helena, MT (406) 227-9114

9 - 10 - WRCA Fort Sumner Ranch Rodeo. Fort Sumner, NM (575) 799-8537

9 - 10 - WRCA Waurika Chamber of Commerce. Waurika, OK (580) 512-7738

10 - Harney County Ranch Rodeo. Burns, OR (541) 573-2863

10 - Rush Valley Ranch Bronc Riding. Rush Valley, Utah (435) 496-3129

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# RIDING TIPS FOR DETECTING STANDING ESTRUS IN CATTLE

Intro By Jack Blerry  
Article By Matt Taton



**N**o matter what you call it, detecting standing estrus, heat detection, or detecting standing heat, it all boils down to looking for cows and heifers standing to be mounted. Finding animals in standing estrus is crucial to being successful when artificially inseminating cattle. Cows and heifers that are not in standing estrus around the time of insemination have little chance of becoming pregnant. Seeing a cow or heifer standing to be mounted by other cattle is the only conclusive sign that an animal is in standing estrus and ready to be inseminated.

Here's the math. If your estrous detection rate is 95%, and you have a normal 70% conception rate, 67% of the animals will be pregnant ( $95\% \times 70\% = 67\%$ ). Whereas, if your estrous detection rate is 55%, and you have a normal 70% conception rate, only 39% of the cows will be pregnant ( $55\% \times 70\% = 39\%$ ). So, a successful A.I. program is directly linked to estrus detection.

Last year, Dwayne Vig's ranch, in Mud Butte, SD, had an 85% conception rate. For the last seven years, his detection rider has been Matt Taton, who has some tips that will help you become successful at detecting standing estrous in cattle.

## The Cows

- Get your cows in as quiet as you can. I cannot stress how much quiet handling effects conception rates.
- Never use dogs, no matter how good they are. Don't even bring them to the pasture.
- Don't get cattle in 'till you've seen them stand.
- Bullin' cows tend to hang in low elevation spots, in the bottom of draws, dry dams, and creeks.
- Study weather patterns. Low-pressure systems tend to kick cows into heat.

- Pick your times for bringing cattle in, don't wait 'till they're all headin' out to feed.

- A bullin' cows flight zone can change drastically. Leave their calves. Usually, bullin' cows ain't thinking about their calves. I've done it both ways, getting calves in with a bullin' cow or cows. It's a lot harder with one cowboy. If a calf wants to come, let him, then I usually sort him off later in my sorting corral.

- Watch for other signs, like tail heads rubbed from riding, and mud marks around the flank areas.

- If a cow rides a calf, she's standing. You won't find this in any books, but Dwayne swears by it.

- If a cow rides another cows head, she's either standing, or it won't be long.

- You should have most of your cows

gathered by morning feeding time. This also gets everything up towards the pens and you can see anything you missed.

- Always keep a good watch on your holding pen. If anything is still standing when it's time to breed, your breeder may have to come back in 4-6 hrs to breed her.

- If a cow is hanging around the outside of your holding pen looking like she wants in, let her in, see what happens, or at least jot down her number. Chances are, she is in, or will be soon.

- If a cow comes in, say after 10 a.m., you should get the tag number, leave her out, and get her in the afternoon. She should still be standing, then she'll be bred the next morning. If you get her in after 10 or 11 a.m., she'll probably still be standing when you breed that evening, and that's a waste of semen.

- Also, pour each cow as you breed her. It keeps flies off, and stress down.

- Say you ride out and there are 12 cows millin' around, don't get in a hurry. I like to sit a ways off and watch. When I see one stand, I write down her tag number. I carry a monocular for seeing tags. When you're sure you've got all the standing cows' tag numbers, then work the herd in. You might start in with eight and end up with only six, but at least you have the tag numbers, so you can head out and go get them.

- Keep excellent records.

- Mark each bred cow with good chalk, switch colors every 3 or 4 days and keep track of the color dates. When you start getting marked cows in again, you should be getting close to the end of the heat cycle.

### Gommers

- Keep your gommers poured. No flies means better workers.

- I like one or two yearling gommers in the mix. They're like satalite bulls, they work themselves to death and are well

worth having.

- If you get a gommer in the corral, sort him off and get him back to work.

- Don't keep a hooky gommer around. Sooner or later, he'll screw you.

### Corral Set Up

- If your just starting to develop your A.I. program, a really good piece of advice is to keep portable for a year or two. That way, you can change things as you learn the best way your cows work. We used portable panels for twenty years.

- In using portable panels, you can pick the best spot in the pasture, like a water source, or natural path that cows follow.

- If you use portable panels for your pens remember, the pens need to be inescapable. You don't wanna show up to breed, and all of your cows are gone.

- Study the ways your cows are working in your pens. Things should flow smoothly, if they don't, change them.

- Study ways to quiet the pens, like padding noisy gates, etc.

- Your pens should be as stress free as possible (i.e. Fresh, clean water in holding pens).

- If possible, cover panels in holding pens, so that cows can't see their calves standing outside.

- Study and use good corral techniques. When working cows through a lane, try to work back to front, so you're not stepping directly into a cows flight zone each time.

- I like to have all my sorting pens workable a horseback. I should never have to get off when bringing cows in or sorting them.

- Try to discourage visitors at the breeding pens. No cell phones, loud radios, etc.

- If you are in a remote area and have no electricity, try to figure out ways to get



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by. Loud noisy generators are no good. Try to use car battery adaptors, or solar chargers. You can heat water off a car battery for thawing semen. A fully self-contained camper is nice to have. You can park it away from a corral with a generator, if you need to.

- Try to keep your pens horse free at night Pen them away from your working corrals or turn them out and keep a wrangle horse so you can gather them in the morning.

### Pasture Set Up

- If possible, pick your pasture wisely.

- We use a pasture away from the main headquarters. Not everyone has this option. A more remote pasture is usually quieter. In using a pasture away from your headquarters, you are getting away from the pens where the cows are usually processed, vaccinated, weaned, etc.

- In picking your pasture, study the vegetation. Some vegetation effects

conception rates, for example, sweet clover decreases your conception rate.

- Don't graze your breeding pasture until the season. You should also move your cows into the pasture at least two days before the season starts to settle them.

- Not too big. Don't use a pasture that is too big. You don't want to spend all your time looking for cows. You want to be looking at them.

- Good grass is key. If your cows aren't happy, you're setting yourself up to fail.

- If you can, pick a pasture with controllable water(i.e. tanks, windmills, etc.) Our only water is near the breeding pens. Maybe the most important tip I can give you is you want to keep your cows wanting to come to the pens. Keep your water source clean and fresh.

- We set up feed bunks at breeding pens, I start riding at daylight, and we don't

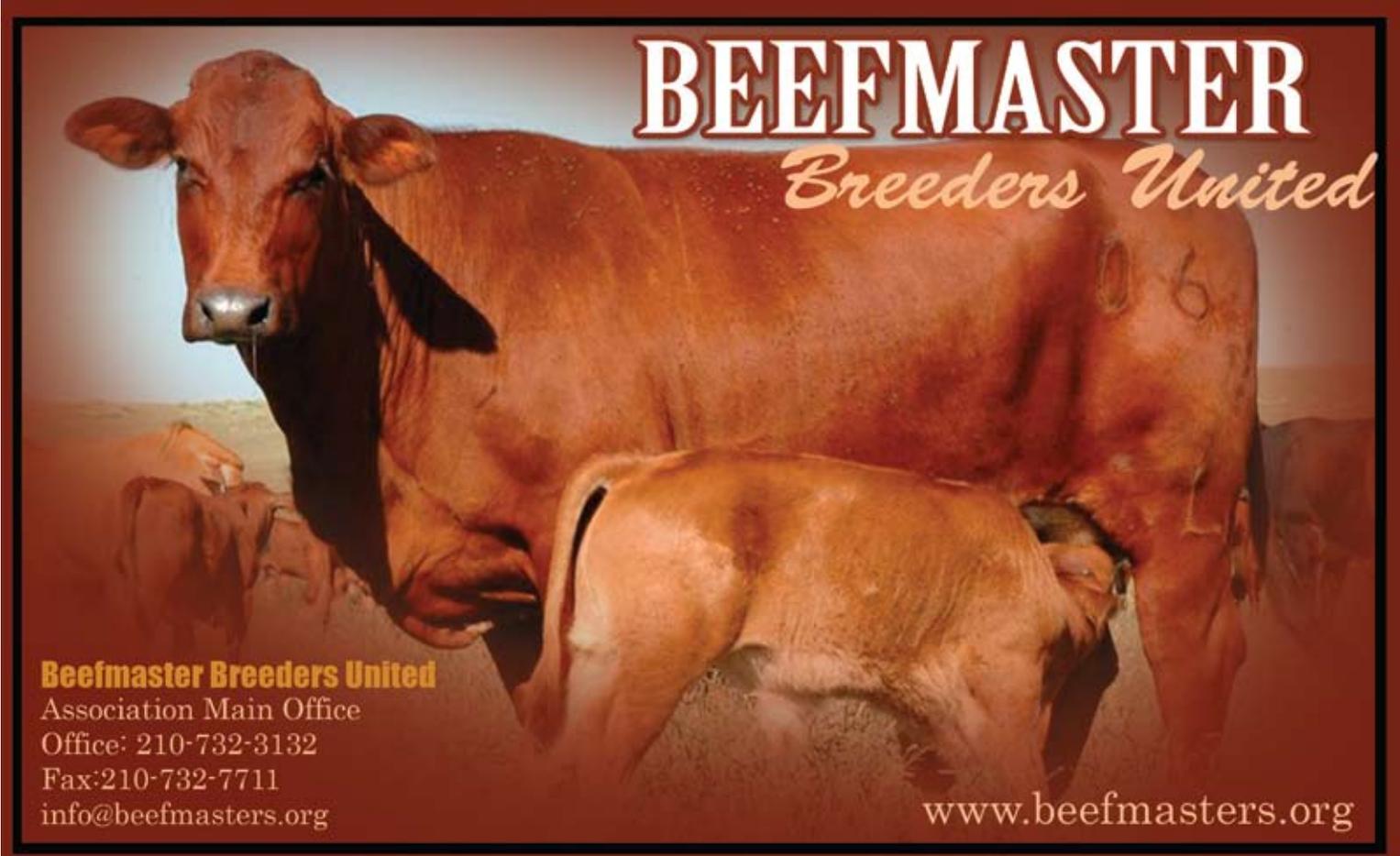
feed till around 7:30-8 a.m. Supplementing feed at the bunks also saves on grass, which means you can get by with a small pasture.

### Your Horses

- A.I. season is a great place to introduce green horses to cows. The slow repetition of getting them in and going back out is experience you seldom get anywhere else. I also found, it is good to have a little broker backup horse, just in case. I don't like putting a lot of pressure on my young horses, so if a cow ain't coming in easy, you can swap horses. Remember, it's a great experience for your young horses, but you've still got a job to do.

- Try to pick out quite horses.

- I like to detect alone. Our whole program is a camp situation. I stay at the corrals in a camper. The breeder shows up & breeds, then leaves. Other than branding season, this is the funest 21 days of the year.



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# Little Joe's Tips



## Spanish Knot

This knot is generally used at the end of catch ropes. When starting this knot, you, first, want to untwist about six inches of rope, this way you will have strands long enough to work with. First, loop one of your strands. Next, take the strand to it's right and stick it through the

hole made by the first loop. Then, take your last strand and bring it over your first strand. Stick it in the hole formed by the second strand. Now, taking each of the ends of your strands, bring them under the strand to their left and then up through the center.

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## Shoeing A Bad One

If you have ever tried to shoe a horse behind and had them kick and yank their foot away, here is a tip that may help.

try not to elevate a horse's hip above level. To accomplish this, you'll have to keep his foot as low as possible while working on it.

Some horses, especially big horses, get sore in their pins (hips). This is a common reason why horses kick and yank when working on their hind ends. When working on these horses,

On horses that are sore in their pins, if you keep from elevating their hip past level, sixty percent of them will stand quiet and gentle.

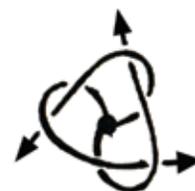


## Keeping Cattle Easy To Pen

One of the easiest ways to make cows hard to pen is by letting them out the same way they came in. To prevent cattle from becoming hard to pen, working pens should always be set up so that cows are worked through them, and exit at the far end of the pens. Cattle worked in this

way are always seeking the back of the pen.

By never doubling cattle back the way they came, cattle will naturally work through a set of pens or corrals because they are looking to get out.



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# RANCHWORLDADS

## FEATURED GEARMAKER

In his Portales, New Mexico, workshop only 35 miles north of where his grandparents arrived by covered wagon in 1915 to homestead on a sandhill ranch, Stewart Williamson spends his days crafting bits and spurs he hopes will be appreciated by fellow cowboys and collectors alike.

Stewart's fascination with cowboy gear came from growing up on his family's ranch, and later, working on a number of southeastern New Mexico ranches. From the time he was a child, he remembers being intrigued by quality cowboy gear.

As a teenager, Stewart began braiding and doing leatherwork. He also developed an interest in building bits and spurs, but did not have time to pursue it over the next couple of decades while he was working as a cowboy, starting colts, shoeing horses and eventually owning and running a 1,200-head feed yard. Seven years ago, he decided to focus on metal-work and engraving and see where it might take him. In January 2003 he took the step that would turn him into a full-time artist.

"I attended Johny Weyerts' engraving school in Alpine that January," Stewart said, "I thought if I liked it, I would get the equipment. I did, and that is when I got serious about this."

That summer, Stewart also met Wilson Capron from Midland, Texas. "I've had help from a lot of makers, but Wilson and Johny have been my biggest influences," Stewart said. He also gives special credit to designer and collector J. Martin Basinger from Slaton, TX, for supporting him and others in the field. "He is someone who has really helped and inspired me," Stewart said. "He has taught me a lot about how to look at things with an eye for refinement and detail.

"When I started at this, I set out to get the best education I could," he added. "I think that came from watching my dad do the same thing with ranching. He lived until he was almost 97 and never stopped learning."

In '04, Stewart and his wife, Toni, sold the feed yard and moved to Portales so he could turn full time to making bits, spurs and saddle silver. "It was a big change," Stewart said, "and one I couldn't have made without Toni's support." In the ensuing years, Stewart's



# Stewart Williamson



he admits that “my favorite part is being at the shows and interacting with the other makers and the customers.” To encourage the tradition of supporting fellow makers, Stewart is serving as vice president of the newly formed International Guild of Bit and Spur Makers, an organization dedicated to helping build an appreciation for the fine art of hand-crafted cowboy gear.

Most days you’ll find him in his workshop, bent over a bit or spur, applying details almost too tiny to be noticed by the untrained eye. That sense of detail is important to him, regardless of where the piece ends up. “I really enjoy building for people who are going to use the bit or the spurs,” he said, “but I am also honored when a collector buys my work just to appreciate it as art.”

As Stewart approaches his 50th birthday this year, he hopes to be working in the field for many more years, making each stroke a little better than the one before.

**Stewart Williamson**  
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work has been exhibited in museum shows at Trappings of Texas in Alpine, as well as trade shows in Amarillo and Abilene. He has donated pieces that have been auctioned to benefit Women’s Protective Services in Lubbock and the West Texas Rehab Clinic in Abilene, and a pair of his spurs was raffled in a fundraiser for the Ranching Heritage Center in Lubbock last fall.

In spite of orders that have come from as far away as California and Canada, Stewart is quick to note that he is still learning. “My goal is to get as good as I can possibly get. I have spent a lot of years on horseback, and draw my experience from a half a lifetime of using this equipment every day.” Stewart maintains that one of the things he most enjoys about being a gear maker is the camaraderie shared by those in the field. Although it is the solitary hours in the workshop where the magic happens,





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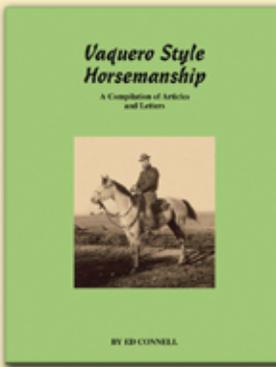
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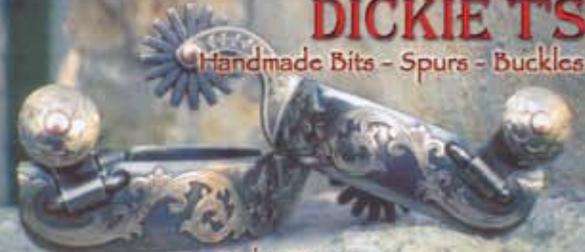
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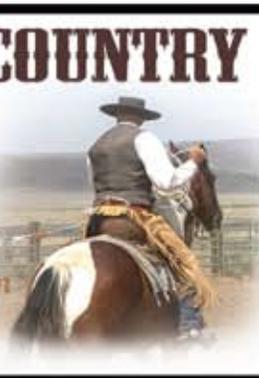
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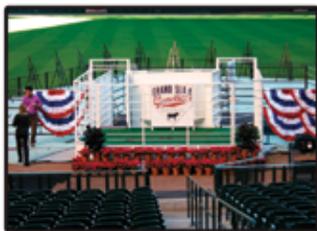
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