

Rodeo Rules

The following rules are set up by the RCA (the official rodeo association of the nation).

SADDLE BRONC RIDING

Nation's top bucking horses used and ridden only with association saddles. Ordinary halter but one rein is allowed and must be held only by hand on same side of horse's neck. This rein is either three or four strands of grass or cotton rope, braided, and not more than one inch in diameter. Other hand must be free at all times. Rider must begin spurring horse up on shoulder while leaving chute and continue to spur throughout the ride.

Getting bucked off, changing hands on rein, wrapping the rein around hand, pulling leather, blowing stirrup (loosing foot from stirrup), touching horse or saddle with free hand or falling to spur to suit the judges disqualifies the rider.

BAREBACK BRONC RIDING

The earliest Holt county fairs or bareback rigging or with only a loose rope around it and held with but one hand. A small rope or strap is tied around the horse's flanks just snug enough to annoy it and make it buck harder. Rules are much the same as in saddle bronc riding.

CALF ROPING

The calf is turned loose and timing starts when it crosses the deadline about 10 or 15 feet in front of the chute as the flag drops. A small rope or sash cord, known as the barrier, is fastened up in front of the roper to the side of the calf chute and released with the drop of the flag. If

the roper starts for the calf too soon and breaks the barrier a 10-second penalty is added to his time. Each roper is allowed a second loop if he misses with his first.

CANADIAN RULES

Canadian rules do not allow the roper to tie the rope to saddle but dally around horn so as to slip off when roper dismounts. American rules allow rope to be tied fast to the horn but the horse must be trained well and the rope and reins tied and adjusted in a manner to prevent the horse from dragging the calf. If the calf gets jerked off its feet at must be allowed to get up again and be thrown by hand. With a short piece of rope known as the "inevitable" little pigging string, any three feet are tied together in a manner to snit the judges.

Timing is taken to a tenth of a second. Pigging string is carried between the roper's teeth.

STEER WRESTLING OR BULLDOGGING

Contestant and helper or hazer are mounted, one on each side of the chute. Timing starts when steer crosses deadline and contestant must jump from his horse to the steer, catching it by the horns, bringing it to a stop and twisting it down on its side with all four feet out from under it. If the steer's head is twisted one way and the steer should fall the other, then it must be let up and twisted down again. Fastest times decide the winner.

In Canada this contest is substituted with steer - decorating. The contestant jumps to the steer and slips a red ribbon on a horn.

BULL OR STEER RIDING

A loose rope is put around the animal like a big noose and held tight with a one-hand hold. A belle is fastened to the rope under the animal's belly and a rope or flank strap is used as on bareback horses. When bulls are used, spurring is not required continually throughout the ride.

Earliest Holt Fairs Held in O'Neill—

The earliest Holt county fairs were held in O'Neill on a site in the extreme northeast section of the city.

There is still evidence of the old race track. Horse races were fair features in those days. The old fair grounds in O'Neill now is owned by F. J. Kubitschek of O'Neill.

For a number of years there was no fair. Finally, the association was reorganized at Chambers and merged with what had always been known as the Southern Holt County Fair of Chambers.

In recent years extensive remodeling and repairing has been done to the buildings and the grounds.

Steady Improvement Helps Fair—

A well-planned improvement program that has been carried out over a period of years helps to make the Holt County Fair and Rodeo the success that it is today.

Each year a certain amount of money is set aside for maintenance and improvements.

600,000 4-H Youths in Safety Program

Safety is an important crop that's being harvested on the farms and in the homes of 600,000 4-H club members taking part in the 1956 national 4-H safety program.

Through 4-H projects and activities, club members in all 48 states are correcting hazards which are responsible for an annual toll of 14,000 lives and 1,200,000 serious injuries among farm residents, and an economic loss estimated to be a billion-and-a-half dollars.

Four-H'ers conduct surveys to locate hazards, and then correct unsafe conditions. They present demonstrations on a wide variety of topics pertaining to farm, home and highway safety, and members give talks over radio and television and before group meetings. In addition, club members build booths and displays for exhibiting at fairs and in store windows.

Realizing that motor vehicle accidents are responsible for over 40 percent of all accidental deaths among farm people, 4-H'ers are increasing their participation in motor vehicle safety.

In recognition of the outstanding safety work done by 4-H members, General Motors is again providing incentives in the 1956 national 4-H safety award program. Included in the awards offered are four gold-filled medals for winners in each county; an all-expense trip to the national 4-H club congress in Chicago, Ill., for the state winner; and \$300 college scholarships for the eight national winners. Certificates and plaques are also

provided for clubs reporting outstanding safety programs on county and state levels.

The 4-H safety program is conducted by the cooperative extension service, and the awards arranged by the national committee on boys' and girls' club work. Complete information on the program is available from the Holt county agent's office.

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