

# Stars

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With the departure of most of its competitors, the ERA canceled its entire 2017 season as it looks to regroup, allowing PRCA rodeos to see some of the best in action once again. Those include Farm-City, and the cowboys' return coincides perfectly with the rodeo opening up its new arena at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center.

"It's always exciting for the top cowboys to be on hand," said Farm-City board member Dennis Barnett. "And moving to a brand-new, state-of-the-art facility, you want to make a splash and want to do it right and them coming back is the tip of the iceberg."

A few of the ERA defectors had already come back to the PRCA in time for the 29th Farm-City rodeo last year, including Champion who finished tied for eighth in the bareback competition. But



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

**Jake Bold won the bareback event in 2016.**

now likely more competitors should mean an even better competition in the 30th Farm-City Pro Rodeo.

"To say we suffered ... in quality and attendance last year in their absence,

I'd say no," Barnett said. "Our rodeo mirrors the (National Finals Rodeo) in some ways, the top stock and cowboys and it runs pretty briskly. The key will be just working out the kinks."

One cowboy that Farm-City fans still will not get to see is bareback rider Bobby Mote, who earned his PRCA card in Hermiston in 1996 and won the Farm-City bareback title in 2015. Mote is still associated with the ERA and is now the association's interim president.

When the cowboys do arrive, they will feel some comfort in the new arena as Farm-City transplanted its bucking chutes from the fairgrounds arena to the new one. Barnett added that the new arena will be "more uniform in size" which will give the ropers more room if their calves make the usual left turns.

"With any change you want to find consistency and improvement," Barnett said, "and hopefully we can find that this year and give a good show."

## Farm-City Pro Rodeo Event winners

**BAREBACK RIDING**  
2016: Jake Vold  
2015: Bobby Mote  
2014: Steven Peebles  
2013: Ty Breuer

2015: Ty Erickson  
2014: Jake Rinehart  
2013: Clayton Moore

**TEAM ROPING**

2016: Garrett Tonozzi/  
Wyatt Cox

**STEER WRESTLING**  
2016: Clayton Hass

tin Lucero

2014: Charly Crawford/  
Shay Carroll  
2013: Clay Smith/Jake  
Smith

**SADDLE BRONC RIDING**

2016: (tie) Sterling Crawley

and Tyrell J Smith

2015: (tie) Doug Aldridge  
and Zeke Thurston  
2014: (tie) Samuel Kells  
and Rusty Wright  
2013: Bradley Harter

**Tie-down roping:**

2016: Tyler Prcin  
2015: Timber Moore  
2014: Clint Robinson  
2013: Matt Shiozawa

**BARREL RACING**

2016: Kimmie Wall  
2015: Kali Parker

2014: Carlee Pierce  
2013: Michele McLeod

**BULL RIDING**

2016: Cole Melancon  
2015: Clayton Foltyn  
2014: Steve Woosley  
2013: Cody Campbell



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**Back row from left:** Jeff Pedersen, Mike Fine, Brayann Mendoza, Anthony Hartsteen, Mike Atkins & Scott Bishop

**Front row from left:** Hector Ortiz, Shelby Coleman, Becky Hayden, Richard Hayden, Tess Sabuco & Richard Hayden, Jr.



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