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CALGARY STAMPEDE'S top broncs to work FCPR



◀ Bareback horse Grated Coconut is one of the top bucking horses to ever come out of Calgary Stampede's Born to Buck program. Grated Coconut was retired in 2010, but several of his offspring carry on his legacy.

Calgary Stampede/
Contributed Photo

By ANNIE FOWLER
EO Media Group

The Calgary Stampede's Born to Buck program is well known and respected, and has turned out some of the top horses in the business since the early 1960s.

Keith Marrington has been bringing Calgary Stampede stock to the Farm-City Pro Rodeo for nearly a dozen years, and even though Hermiston is a long haul from Alberta, Canada, he said the trip is well worth it.

"It's a good show for us," Marrington said. "Calgary Stampede is a pretty good brand. We get our horses exposed and our brand is out there. It's a competitive business out there. We make some pretty good money down there. We've been working Hermiston with the same guys for a number of years. It's a good cohesive group of people who know the business well. We do what we can to make the Farm-City Pro Rodeo successful."

Marrington said the key to keeping their horses in top form is not to overwork them. Each horse will buck an average of 12 rodeos a year leading into the National Finals Rodeo and the

Canadian Finals Rodeo.

"We don't overbuck them," he said. "That's the name of the game. We keep them fresh."

Some of the top horses that have come out of the Calgary Stampede program are Coconut Roll, Grated Coconut, Special Delivery, Stampede Warrior, Trail Dust and Tiger Warrior.

Grated Coconut is the king of the herd. He was inducted into the ProRodeo Hall of Fame in 2020. He earned six Bareback Horse of the Year titles (2003-04 and 2006-09). He was retired in 2010. Of his children, at least 45 are competing at the top level of rodeo athletes, with several qualifying for both the NFR and the Canadian Finals Rodeo.

"We are excited about our young stock," Marrington said. "We have some excellent potential. We start them off at 4 with a dummy saddle, make sure they are used to the chute, check out their athletic ability, whether they want to be a bareback or a bronc, and whether they go left or right. It's a process to go through. Just like any other athlete. It's an interesting time of year when you start working with young horses."