

Cowboy 101

Roping clinic teaches basics skills of cowboying

By Edison Yazzie
Roping instructor

I saw it in his eyes and the way he gritted his teeth. He's caught the nylon fever, a bad case of the roping bug.

His hat pulled down tight, he stood on top of the big wood block. His eyes were on the target, they were locked.

Young Byron, son of Hobo and Karla Patt, started swinging his rope. In his mind he's picking out a mount at the crack of dawn, or roping in the short round at O! Cheyenne.

He's chasing a maverick bull up a cloudy draw or running wild mustangs across the desert floor.

He stopped and as we held our breaths, Byron threw a Houlihan loop and caught the calf dummy slick around the neck.

I wouldn't have been surprised if he had said, "Well, pilgrim, are you just going to stand there or show me how to heel. We're burnin' daylight!"

Counting Rooster, Fara Ann, OSU Extension Agent, said there were well over 100 people at the Warm Springs Rodeo Grounds on August 18, for the free roping clinic and barbecue.

The rigs, packed with parents and kids, started streaming in around 5 p.m. The adults packed their plates with grilled salmon, burgers, baked beans



Kids with names like Benjamin, Drew Audrey, Haley, Abby, Ozzie, Stefan, Weston, Anthony, Amanda, Chelsea, Colton and Rope, to name a very few who took lessons from the team of instructors. This was made up of Frank, Jesse, Calvin, Mackie, Hobo, Chris, Kimma, J.R. and myself.

The instructors taught with roping lingo like control your swing, control your horse, get closer, smaller loop, pull your slack, dally, shorten your spoke, even your coils, slow down, don't throw so hard, watch your steer, control, control, control, and more control.

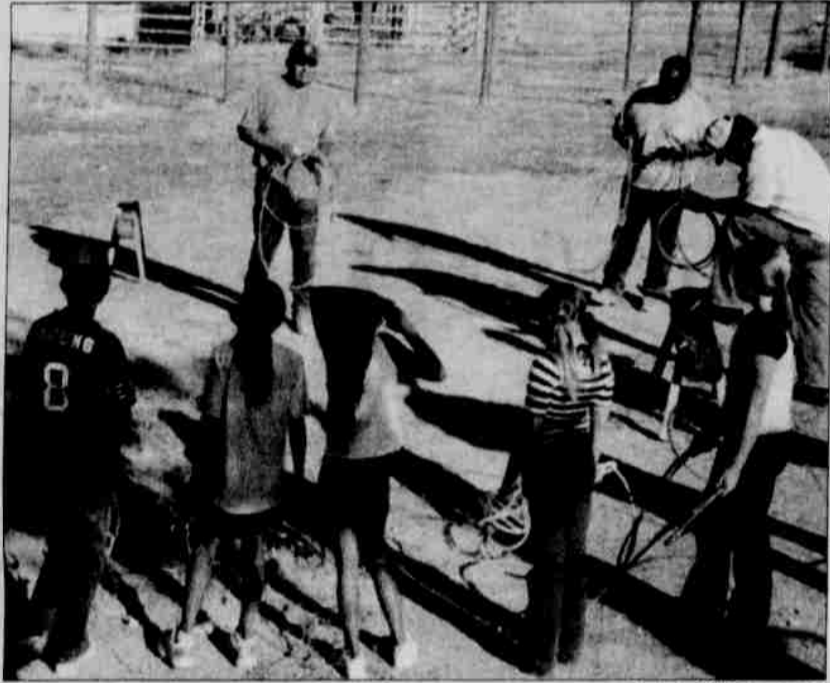
Remember, speed and consistency are a by-product of control.

A big thanks to Earl and Rita Squiemphen and J.R. Smith for donating the use of their roping cattle. Without the use of their cattle, we would still be city slickers.

This first of many roping clinics set the foundation for the Rockin' 4-H Club members and other kids to learn the basics of roping, in preparation of combining horsemanship and the real life skills of ranch work.

Let's rope!

Top left, Byron Patt Jr. won the boys division roping contest at the recent clinic; and right, Councilwoman Rita Squiemphen displays her roping skills. The photo at left is of Edison Yazzie conducting roping clinic.



Photos by OSU Extension staff

Facts about the West Nile virus

Submitted by OSU Extension

West Nile is a mosquito-borne virus that was first detected in the U.S. in 1999. The virus, which causes encephalitis, or inflammation of the brain, has been found in Africa, western Asia, the Middle East, the Mediterranean region of Europe and most recently in the U.S.

West Nile was first detected in Oregon in Malheur County in August of this year. A dead stellar jay and crow in southern and eastern Oregon tested positive for the disease. As of August 27, nine horses have tested positive for the virus. One was in Grant County, one in Linn County and seven in Malheur County.

Mosquitoes acquire the West Nile virus (WNV) from birds and pass it on to other birds, animals and people. While humans and horses may be infected by the virus, there is no documentation that infected horses can spread the virus to uninfected horses or other animals.

Migrating birds appear to play a role in spreading the disease. Because the virus is transmitted by mosquitoes, it has the potential to affect livestock and poultry.

In 2002 more than 15,000 equines in 40 states were diagnosed with cases of illness caused by WNV.

The virus can infect the central nervous system of horses and cause symptoms of encephalitis. Clinic signs of encephalitis in horses include weakness or paralysis of hind limbs, hyper excitability, ataxia (incoordination) and convulsions.

Fever is not usually observed. It is important to note that not all horses with clinical signs of encephalitis have West Nile encephalitis. Call your veterinarian immediately if you witness any of the above symptoms in your horses.

How you can protect your animals: Horses should be vaccinated. For the best protection, horses need to be given two doses: an initial dose and a booster dose 21 days later. If your horse has already been vaccinated with both doses, consult your veterinarian about the need for a booster at this time.

If your horse has not been vaccinated, you are encouraged to vaccinate now. You can also decrease the chances of your animal being exposed to WNV by decreasing their exposure to adult mosquitoes.

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Scientists say new federal salmon hatchery policy flawed

(AP) - The proposed new federal policy for salmon hatcheries is based on a flawed reading of the Endangered Species Act, hindering efforts to restore wild salmon runs with hatchery fish, scientists say.

"The overarching problem is that the ESA is being administered as a fisheries management policy, not as a statute to protect endangered species," a group of scientists said in a letter to NOAA Fisheries.

The scientists were formally commenting on a new federal policy for salmon hatcheries which was prompted by a 2001 federal court ruling giving hatchery fish the same protection as wild fish. The public comment period on the draft policy has been extended to Oct. 22 to include a series of public hearings.

The 11 scientists, most of them retired, are from universities, busi-

nesses, and state, federal and tribal fisheries agencies. They have worked together in the past and gather periodically to discuss fisheries issues.

The group includes James Lannan, a retired Oregon State University geneticist who was an expert witness in the federal lawsuit that prompted the new hatchery policy.

It also includes Andre J. Talbot, who works for the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, which has called for using hatchery fish to rebuild protected wild runs.

The letter said the hatchery policy was pointed in the right direction, but ran into problems because the basic unit for dividing the six species of salmon and steelhead into 51 smaller groups for endangered species listings does not conform with the basic unit defined in the Endangered Species Act.

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