

WELCOME TO THE 2019 FARM-CITY PRO RODEO

Farm-City Pro Rodeo adds special events to each of the four performances

Top cowgirls and cowboys slated for 32nd annual event

Farm-City Pro Rodeo is bringing the best cowboys and cowgirls in the business to Hermiston Aug. 7-10 with special events each of the four performance nights.

The 32nd year of PRCA rodeo in Hermiston starts with Family Night.

“We want to make it more of an experience instead of just rodeo,” said David Bothum, a member of the Farm City board of directors. “For Family Night, we are going to have an area with a tent set up for autographs and photos with the bullfighters and clown before the rodeo and all the kids will get a back number like the contestants.”

Youth in Ag night is Aug. 8 and all of the 4-H and FFA fair exhibitors get in free. To kick things up a notch, each school in the county competes that night in the Calf Scramble where each team races to put a T-shirt on a calf in the arena.

Ladies Night is Aug. 9 and four local wineries will offer each of the women in attendance free wine tasting. The final night is Farm City Night featuring regional microbreweries offering free tastings to all rodeo fans over 21.

Bothum said 18 of the top 20 performers in each event will be on hand, including 65 steer wrestlers, 64 calf ropers, 67 team roping teams, 107 barrel racers, 40 bareback riders,



56 bronc riders and 57 bull riders.

Some of the best stock in North America will be on hand as well as the top-ranked cowboys and cowgirls, Bothum said, with horses, bulls, steers and calves coming from the Calgary Stampede, Kesler Championship Rodeo of Montana, Korkow Rodeos of South Dakota, and Corey and Lange Rodeo from Washington.

Some of the big names expected to compete are the bronc riding Wright Brothers and four-time PRCA World Champion Bareback Rider Kaycee Field. Tim O’Connell is scheduled to appear, just six months after he suffered a torn rotator cuff during

Round 10 of the National Finals Rodeo where he posted an 87-point ride and earned his third consecutive gold buckle.

John Harrison of Oklahoma, last year’s PRCA Barrel Man of the Year, will be in the center of the arena to entertain the crowds.

The idea to start the Farm-City Pro Rodeo was born during a party celebrating Butch Knowles winning the NFR in saddle bronc in 1987. Bothum, also a saddle bronc rider, was Knowles’ rodeo travel companion. During the celebration, Bothum said people started talking about hosting their own rodeo in Hermiston, from where many of Oregon’s top cowgirls and cowboys hail.

The Farm-City Pro Rodeo brings a purse of \$15,000 per event plus entry fees for bareback riding, tie-down roping, steer wrestling, saddle bronc riding, barrel racing and bull riding. Because there are two contestants involved in the team roping event the rodeo adds \$30,000 plus entry fees. The rodeo is ranked among the top 50 professional rodeos in North America based on total prize money.



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211 S.E. Byers Ave.
Pendleton, OR

Hermiston
Herald

333 E. Main St.
Hermiston, OR

1-800-522-0255
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