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NEWS RELEASE

STAMPEDE INVITATIONAL 4-H RODEO GIVES YOUNG STARS A PLACE TO SHINE

Calgary – For the 16th year, the Calgary Stampede's annual Invitational 4-H Rodeo offered participants a unique blend of competition and education, as well as a chance to make some new friends.

Sponsored by Westcan Bulk Transport, Bayer CropScience and Lammle's Western Wear and Tack, the 4-H Rodeo brought together the best young talent in the province on the weekend of August 24/25. Youngsters aged 9 through 20 representing 4-H clubs from all over Alberta – some veterans of many junior rodeos and others competing for the first time – competed in three age classes in a variety of events.

There's more to the Stampede 4-H Rodeo than just competition. "I think we do a really good job with our rodeo," says Laura Frank, chair of the Stampede's 4-H Rodeo committee. "Every day we have a half-day of clinics and a half day of rodeo – so we have a great balance." The clinics are conducted by a variety of specialists ranging from experts like Dr. Greg Evans explaining Horse Health and Care to Lorne Lausen and Bryan Mandeville giving tips on Breakaway Roping. "These kids get to learn from professionals in the morning and then they get to practice it in the afternoon," Frank explains.

An added benefit is that the rodeo experts aren't just there to teach, they observe the afternoon competitions and are available for coaching.

Competitors in the Stampede 4-H Rodeo are divided into three age classes – senior (15-20), intermediate (12-14) and junior (9-11). The timed events are Thread the Needle, Barrel Racing and Pole Bending. There are four Roughstock events – Breakaway Roping, Goat Tying, Cow Riding and Steer Daubing.

The Senior High Point Champion honours came very close to being a dead-heat between Katelyn Godwin of the Leslieville Trail Trotters and the event's defending senior champion, Desirae Jackson of Sundre. Each competitor contested five categories, winning one, finishing second in another and taking third in yet another. Both Godwin and Jackson finished with a total of 39 points. Godwin was declared the winner because her fourth-best result was a fourth while Jackson's fourth-best result was fifth.

Godwin won the Senior Steer Daubing competition and Jackson took the Senior Pole Bending title. Monique Uittenbogerd of Acme had two firsts, in Senior Cow Riding and Senior Breakaway Roping. Rocky Mountain House's Jessica Perreault of the Leslieville Trail Trotters topped Senior Barrel Racing, Sydney Vanden Berg of Coutts won in Senior Goat Tying and Dayna Powell of Onoway was the best in Senior Thread the Needle.

In the Intermediate standings, Morgan Mills of the Millarville Saddlesores 4-H competed in five categories and won three of them on the way to being named Intermediate High Point Champion. Mills won



Intermediate Barrel Racing, Intermediate Breakaway Roping and Intermediate Steer Daubing. Brydelle Wardley of Alix only entered three classes, but won two of them – Intermediate Cow Riding and Intermediate Goat Tying. Riley Vandyck of Edson prevailed in Intermediate Pole Bending and Saige Jackson of Sundre bested the field in Intermediate Thread the Needle.

Junior competitors only compete in the three timed events and podium finishes in each earned ten-year old Quincy Squair of Clyde the Junior High-Point Championship. "I did better this year," she said. "I only got fifth last year in Barrels and that was all." Quincy wasn't really expecting her victory in Junior Thread the Needle. "I was hoping to win but we've got some pretty good people there," she noted. "There were some very good riders." Riding 24-year-old Tia, Quincy was second to Shanay Wilson of Sundre in Junior Pole Bending and third in Junior Barrel Racing, which was won by her older brother, Wylee Squair. Both Quincy and Wylee are members of the Rebel Riders 4-H club.

As with all Stampede events, Frank points out that one group in particular makes the Stampede 4-H Rodeo possible – "the volunteers that donate their time all year round to plan this rodeo and who spend the whole weekend with these kids". The Stampede 4-H Rodeo is a way to look to the future while celebrating Alberta's agricultural community and culture. "Who knows where these kids are going?" Frank says. "Maybe the Calgary Stampede. You never know."

The Stampede has enjoyed its relationship with Olds College, the venue for the last two Stampede 4-H Rodeos, but is excited about having the event back at Stampede Park next year in the new Agrium Western Event Centre.

Scheduled for completion before the 2014 10-day Stampede, the Agrium Western Event Centre is a state-of-the-art facility for western events and agriculture education, exhibition and industry in southern Alberta. Designed to form a lasting connection between urban and rural communities, it will host an engaging, globally-focused educational program called Journey 2050, and it will play a central role in making the Calgary Stampede a year-round gathering place. For more information

visit <http://corporate.calgarystampede.com/about/park-development/agrium-western-event-centre/>

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About the Calgary Stampede

As we enter our second century, the Calgary Stampede celebrates the people, the animals, the land, the traditions and the values that make up the unique spirit of the west. The Calgary Stampede contributes to the quality of life in Calgary and southern Alberta through our world-renowned 10-day Stampede, year-round facilities, western events and several youth and agriculture programs. Exemplifying the theme We're Greatest Together; we are a volunteer-supported, not-for-profit community organization that preserves and promotes western heritage and values. All revenue is reinvested into Calgary Stampede programs and facilities.

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<u>Juniors</u>	Thread the Needle	Poles	Barrels	Total Points	
Kwasnicki, Laine				0	
Macklin, Brooke	7	7	5	19	
Macklin, Morgan	5	2	7	14	
Pagenkopf, Martina	2	6		8	
Perreault, Brandt				0	
Perreault, Hope				0	
Pollock, Jewel	9		4	13	
Rigney, Elora			1	1	
Sigouin, Danielle	6	4	6	16	
Squair, Quincy	10	9	8	27	
Squair, Wylee		8	10	18	
Stern, Paige	8	3		11	
Stewart, Lara	3	5	3	11	
Stewart, Liesl	1	1	2	4	
Stone, Caleb				0	
Wilson, Shanay	4	10	9	23	