



THE HORSE GAZETTE



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TEXAS HORSE INDUSTRY'S INFORMATIONAL SOURCE SINCE 1996

SAN ANTONIO STOCK SHOW & RODEO UNVEILS NEW MULTI-USE FACILITY



SAN ANTONIO –The San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo is proud to host the 2010 Horse Show in brand new facilities. The new buildings total 315,900 sq. ft., of which 180,900 sq. ft. will be climate controlled and will feature:

- A competition arena measuring 125 feet wide by 300 feet long
- 126 prime commercial exhibit spaces
- Climate controlled warm-up arena and show arena
- 1,500 spectator seats
- Approximately 750 new stalls
- Indoor wash racks
- Improved unloading areas for trailers

“We are extremely excited about the new facility. Our Horse Show is an important part of who we are and the new venue will enable us to improve and grow our equine events,” Said Glen Alan Phillips, San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo Assistant Executive Director.

The San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo features a wide variety of horse events, including: Barrel Racing, National Cutting Horse Association Cutting, Versatility Ranch Horse competition, Team Penning, a Donkey & Mule show, Llama show, and Quarter Horse, Paint Horse, and Appaloosa Horse breed shows. A Select Sale and Ranch Gelding Sale attract buyers from both North America and Mexico.

The project is being built in two phases. Phase I is scheduled for completion September 30, 2009. It is made possible through a joint effort between the San Antonio Livestock Exposition, Inc. and the Bexar County Community Arenas. This phase consists of a 113,400 sq. ft. multi-use; climate controlled building which will serve as the 2010 Horse Show Arena.

Phase II of the construction project, which is funded by the Bexar County “venue tax” bond that was passed in 2008, is slated to be completed by January 2010. It includes a 67,500 sq. ft. addition to the multi-use building and will have a warm-up arena and a 145,000 sq. ft. stall barn.

This project will allow for a wide variety of events. When not in use by the San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo, the Bexar County Community Arenas Board will be responsible for maintaining and renting the facility.

A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on October 12 at 11 a.m. to unveil the new multi-use facility.

This year the San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo has committed \$8.1 million to education. The amount represents scholarships, grants, endowments, junior livestock auctions, Calf Scramble program, and show premiums paid to youth in the state of Texas. This brings the total amount that the organization has committed since the inception of



Top: New Multi-Use Facility view from the Western edge. Bottom: Ceremonial Groundbreaking for the new facility.

the Scholarship Fund in 1984 to over \$96 million.

The San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo has a rich tradition and history of stewardship to the community. With a clear vision of the future, a successful past and continual dedication from nearly 5,000 volunteers, the organization

will continue to be a pillar of strength and support to the city of San Antonio and the youth of Texas.

For additional information, go to www.sarodeo.com or call 210-225-0612.

LET'S RODEO SAN ANTONIO!

2009 WILD HORSE & BURRO ADOPTION AND EXPO HEADING TO BELTON, TEXAS

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will hold a wild horse and burro adoption in Belton, Texas, Oct. 22-25. The adoption is the centerpiece of the BLM's 15th Annual Wild Horse & Burro Expo being held this year at the Bell County Expo Center. It'll be four days of exciting entertainment, competition and education, all free and open to the public!

Besides the adoption opportunity, other weekend highlights will include:

- A horse show featuring trained mustangs and burros – along with their proud adopters! A full slate of professionally judged show classes is scheduled for Friday and

Saturday, Oct. 23-24;

- Gentling demonstrations by noted horse trainer and mustang competitor Bill Lopez of Norman, Okla. Lopez will pull adoption-eligible wild horses out of the pens and show what can be done with them in a short period of time.

The adoption event will feature over 80 spectacular wild animals, including some horses that have been saddle trained by inmates in a prison rehabilitation program in Kansas. These are adult and yearling horses and burros that once roamed free on public lands in the West. The BLM periodically removes excess animals from the range in order to maintain healthy herds and to protect

other rangeland resources. The adoption program is essential for achieving these important management goals.

Adoption Schedule

Preview all of the animals Thursday, Oct. 22, from noon – 6 p.m. Gates reopen Friday, Oct. 23, at 8 a.m., with adoptions starting at 10 a.m., and ending at 6 p.m. Adoptions continue Saturday, Oct. 24, from 8 a.m. – 6 p.m., then again Sunday, Oct. 25, from 8 – 10 a.m.

Adoption Qualifications

Application approval is required and can be done on site. To qualify to adopt, one must be at least 18 with no re-

cord of animal abuse. Adopters must have suitable facilities and can adopt up to four animals. All animals must be loaded in covered stock-type trailers with swing gates and sturdy walls and floors. BLM staff will be on hand to assist adopters through the short application process.

Adoption Fees

The minimum adoption fee for most animals is \$125, as set by law. An auction will be held Friday at 10 a.m. to determine adoption fees for any animals sought by more than one person. Animals not selected during the auction Friday morning will be offered for adoption on a first-come-first-served basis for the flat fee of \$125 for the rest of the weekend (no further bidding). Those interested in bidding are encouraged to come Thursday afternoon or early Friday to identify their desired animals and to complete their adoption applications in time.

\$500 Adoption Incentive
Belton will be a test site

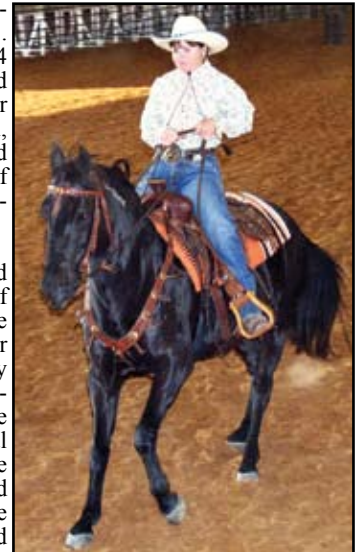
for a new adoption incentive program in which BLM pays a \$500 care-and-feeding allowance to adopters of selected older horses (4 years old +). The allowance is paid in full after one year when adopters receive official ownership title for their horse(s). All standard adoption conditions and fees apply. A limited number of eligible horses will be available at the Belton Expo. Younger horses (under 4 years old), burros and trained animals are not eligible for this incentive. If successful, this incentive program could save taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars in long-term pasturing costs.

Wild horses and burros – iconic symbols of America's western heritage – are renowned for their strength, endurance, agility and intelligence, characteristics bred into them in the wild that make them ideal for work or recreation. Since 1973, the BLM has placed more than 220,000 of these “living legends” in approved

homes across the country.

For more information about the Belton Expo or the Wild Horse & Burro Adoption Program, call toll-free **866-4-MUSTANGS** or visit www.blm.gov/nm (follow Expo links).

Directions to the Bell County Expo Center: I-35, Exit 292, in Belton, Texas.



NAIS LOSES FUNDING

By Karen Brown

The battle drags on but the constant barrage of protests against the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) is getting results. For the first time since the program started, the House Appropriations bill has no funding for NAIS. The Senate has allocated a mere \$7 million

to NAIS activities. This is down from the approximately \$33 million per year in 2005-2008 and \$10 million last year.

Everyone who has participated in expressing their opposition may congratulate themselves. This reduction in funding is a direct result of politicians responding to the voices of the people. Associations such as The Farm and Ranch Freedom Association and Liberty Ark, to name only a couple, have done a tremendous public service by educating the public, clarifying the mis-information disseminated by the USDA and other pro-NAIS organizations. They have been at the forefront in meetings across the country and in Washington, DC to challenge the legitimacy of this program.

The next step is for a congressional conference committee to reconcile the

differences between the two bills, to determine just exactly how money the NAIS program will receive for the coming year. FARFA is working to get the funding completely eliminated. Toward that end, please continue to write, email, and phone the Congressmen in the conference committee asking them to stop all funding. Go to www.farmandranchfreedom.org for updates and action statements.

It has been a long three years since the battle was engaged. Many have given up hope; but progress in the form of a nearly total reduction of funds has been achieved. Without funding, the program is virtually dead. (For now.) This case proves that individual voices do count when there are enough of them. Now, more than ever, our government needs to hear our voices.

Speak up. And know that you are not alone.



For more pictures of the Bandera Long Horn Cattle Drive and Parade held on Labor Day Weekend, turn to page 10.

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