

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE *Thursday, April 7, 2011* 

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## **Clovis Ranch Rodeo to be Held Saturday, April 9**

*(Clovis, California)*: Local cowboys and cowgirls will compete in the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Clovis Ranch Rodeo to be held on Saturday, April 9 at the Clovis Rodeo grounds. Events will begin at 8:30 a.m. and entrance is free for spectators. The Ranch Rodeo event continues a month long celebration of activities leading up to the 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Clovis Rodeo April 21-24, 2011.

The Ranch Rodeo is a competition between four-person teams of local cowboys and cowgirls. The best riders and their horses, compete against each other in the kind of ranching activities they must do every day on their working cattle ranch operations. Ranch Rodeo teams are required to compete in five judged and six timed events. The events include team branding, team doctoring, individual ranch horse, individual trail horse, ranch cutting, team roping and team sorting. Each team consists of four (4) riders who must use their same horse for the entire event.

A sanctioned Western States Ranch Rodeo Association (WSRRA) event – the Clovis Ranch Rodeo gives hardworking cowboys and cowgirls the added recognition they deserve. WSRRA gives the teams of cowboys and cowgirls the opportunity to compete at a higher level of ranch-hand rodeo events amongst the best of the best. Clovis will likely see teams on Saturday who have the intention of garnering points that will allow them to move on to the next level of competition where they will try for top honors amongst full time and part time working cowboys from major ranches throughout the West.

Cowboys and cowgirls will be competing for more than \$16,000 in prizes including custom made saddles and silver bits. Major sponsors of the Clovis Ranch Rodeo include: McCaffrey Homes, Jon & Susan Edwards, Vince Genco, Sam Habib, Cargill, Evans Feed, Greg Harlan, Bob Robinson, Ricotti Saddles, Classic Equine, Ron Silva Reality, Bob Avila /Professional Choice, PLMA Madera, Troy Ford, DVM, Kevin Cantrelle - "Topsails Rien Maker," Hall Ag, Fairlea Ranch, Gene Roberts, Booth Ranches, Monte Person, George Porter and Realty Concepts.

The 97<sup>th</sup> Clovis Rodeo officially opens on Thursday, April 21 with the return of the PBR Bull Riding Pro-Division Tour. On Friday, April 22 rodeo action will begin with some of the best cowboys and bucking stock in professional rodeo followed by a concert with rising country star Easton Corbin. Two days of rodeo action will continue through the weekend, along with the popular Clovis Rodeo parade on Saturday, April 23. Tickets are available by calling 559-299-5203, visiting <u>www.clovisrodeo.com</u> or stopping by the rodeo ticket office at the rodeo grounds; ticket office hours are Monday through Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., with extended hours on Wednesdays until 7:00 p.m.

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The all-volunteer, non-profit Clovis Rodeo Association (CRA) has 700 members. Approximately \$150,000 in proceeds from the Clovis Rodeo and related events coordinated by CRA members benefit local charities annually, including 4-H, FFA, Clovis Schools, Clovis Police Activities League, California High School Rodeo Foundation, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Break the Barriers, Boy Scouts of America, Clovis Community Hospital and the Central California Blood Center.