

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Saturday, April 7, 2012

CONTACT: Alfreda Sebasto 559-285-1237 559-291-0184

TICKET OFFICE ONLY: 559-299-5203

## Clovis Ranch Rodeo to be Held Saturday, April 7 Ranked the Top Ranch Rodeo in California

(*Clovis, California*): It is Clovis Rodeo Month and local cowboys and cowgirls will start kicking up their boots and spurs with the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Clovis Ranch Rodeo to be held today at the rodeo grounds. The event will begin at 8:00 a.m. and entrance is free for spectators. The Ranch Rodeo opens a month long celebration of activities leading up to the 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Clovis Rodeo April 26-29, 2012.

A sanctioned Western States Ranch Rodeo Association (WSRRA) event, the Clovis Ranch Rodeo is considered the best of the six ranch rodeos held in California attracting some of the best of the best who cowboy for a living. The WSRRA will film the Clovis event this year for promotional purposes; giving hardworking cowboys and cowgirls the added recognition they deserve. WSRRA gives the teams the opportunity to compete at a higher level of ranch-hand rodeo events. 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.

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.

Cowboys and cowgirls from 15 to 75 years young 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, 500 Club, George Porter and Realty Concepts.

The 98<sup>th</sup> Clovis Rodeo opens on Thursday, April 26 with the return of one of the best shows on dirt, the PBR Bull Riding Touring Pro-Division, and some of the rankest bulls and toughest cowboys in bull riding followed by a concert with American Idol Winner David Cook. Friday Nights PRCA Rodeo action will be followed by a concert with rising country star Justin Moore. Two more days of wild rodeo action will follow along with the popular Clovis Rodeo parade on Saturday, April 28. The Clovis Rodeo runs April 26-29.

Reserved ticket prices range from \$15.00 to \$27.00 and are available by calling 559-299-5203, visiting <u>www.clovisrodeo.com</u>, or at the rodeo ticket office located on the rodeo grounds between Bullard and Shaw in the heart of downtown Clovis 9-5:30 p.m. daily (M-F). Parking at the rodeo grounds is free of charge.

###

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.