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**National Western Stock Show Announces Selection Process for Invitational Ranch Rodeo**

Denver, CO. - The National Western Stock Show is excited to host the second annual Invitational Ranch Rodeo in the Events Center in 2017 following a successful and entertaining inaugural event during opening weekend of the 2016 show. The National Western prides itself on being the world's premier center for America's western heritage and teams for the Invitational Ranch Rodeo will be invited based on a variety of criteria with the intention of upholding and aligning with the quality, competition and entertainment of the event and National Western. The Invitational Ranch Rodeo will consist of eight four-man teams competing in four events. The entry fee is \$2,000 per team with 100% payback and \$5,000 added. The following are criteria for the selection process:

1. The previous year's National Western Invitational Ranch Rodeo winning team will receive an invitation for the current year's event.
2. The most current WRCA World Champion Ranch Rodeo team will receive an invitation for the current year's event.
3. Additional teams will be selected based on their success at the National Western Invitational Ranch Rodeo, credentials from other ranch rodeos, ranch history and sportsmanship.

To be considered, please email a statement of interest describing your team, your ranch and your credentials to [horseoffice@nationalwestern.com](mailto:horseoffice@nationalwestern.com) by November 1, 2016. Invitations will be extended in November.

The 2016 Ranch Rodeo boasted eight teams competing in four events: Team Sorting, Cut and Brand, Double Mugging and Wild Cow Milking. Many of the teams have also qualified for the Working Ranch Cowboys Association (WRCA) World Championship Ranch Rodeo. Crutch Ranch of Borger, Tex. won the Team Sorting and Double Mugging en route to a win in the inaugural event. Reigning Reserve World Champion Team Sandhill Cattle Company (Earth, Tex.) won the Cut and Brand and fourth overall while Flying A Beatty Canyon (Swink, Colo.) won the Wild Cow Milking and was second overall. Bud Higgs of the reigning World Champion Team Lonesome Pine (Cedar Point, Kan.) was named the Top Hand and Motown on the Sandhill Team was the Top Horse.

Grounds admission and event tickets for the 2017 National Western Stock Show will be available at [nationalwestern.com](http://nationalwestern.com) and all King Soopers locations in the fall.

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**About the National Western Stock Show**

Just completed the 110th year, the National Western Stock Show is a 501(c) (3) charitable organization that provides college and graduate level scholarships in agriculture and medicine for practice in rural areas. It is also our mission to serve producers and consumers throughout the world by being the premier Stock Show, Rodeo, Horse Show and center for year-round events. The 16-day show also serves as an entertainment arena, hosting one of the world's richest regular season professional rodeos, largest horse show and Colorado's largest western trade show. For more information, visit [nationalwestern.com](http://nationalwestern.com).