

THE LEA COUNTY FAIR & RODEO SWEETHEART CONTEST

The title of Lea County Fair & Rodeo Sweetheart holds a place of honor and prestige. This title represents our Western way of life and the quality of leadership among young women in Lea County.

The objective of the Lea County Fair & Rodeo Sweetheart Contest is to select a representative for the Lea County Fair & Rodeo. The Sweetheart will serve as an ambassador of the Lea County Fair & Rodeo to the general public. She must at all times exhibit good sportsmanship and high moral and ethical standards. The young lady that holds this title must be able to speak intelligently, with authority, and with knowledge of Lea County and the Lea County Fair & Rodeo. She is expected to act, speak, and dress according to the prestige the title deserves at all times during their reign.

A parent/contestant informative meeting will be held on May 8, 2008, 7:00pm at the Lea County Fair Board Meeting Room on the Fairgrounds. Completed & Notarized entry forms must be returned to the Lea County Fair Office by 5:00pm on June 9, 2008.

On June 14-15, 2008, Miss Rodeo New Mexico, RaeLynn Dunlap will be holding a clinic for those contestants who will be competing in the 2008 Lea County Fair and Rodeo Queen, Princess, and Sweetheart contest.

CONTEST REGULATIONS

1. A candidate will be chosen to reign as the Fair & Rodeo Sweetheart for the following year. The Contestant must understand that if she is currently holding another title and wins the title of Lea County Fair & Rodeo Sweetheart, she may continue to hold both titles only if she commits to Lea County Fair & Rodeo as her first priority.
2. A Contestant must be enrolled in a Lea County School and must prove residency in Lea County for a consecutive period of 12 months prior to the day of the entry deadline. The Queen Committee reserves the right to request proof of residency.

Sweetheart Contestants must be 9 years old by September 1st

3. There must be three (3) Contestants in order to have a competition.

4. Un-sportsman like behavior from the Contestant, parent, or anyone associated with the Contestant before, during, or after the competition is cause for dismissal and relinquishment of all awards at the discretion of the Queen Committee.
5. At no time before, during, or after any part of the competition will the Contestant, parent, or anyone associated with the Contestant be allowed to approach a judge. A judge may approach a contestant after the competition with suggestions concerning areas of improvement.
6. By signing this Application and Contract and submitting it, the Contestant agrees that:
 - the Contestant meets each requirement for eligibility set forth
 - all facts and representations are true and accurate
 - the Contestant and parents or guardians will abide by all rules and regulations of the Lea County Fair Board as set forth by the Queen Committee in the period before and during her year of service
 - the Lea County Fair Board and Queen Committee shall have the sole discretion to determine whether a Contestant may continue to participate in the program in the event that any statement or representation by the Contestant is not true and accurate or that any action by the Contestant is inconsistent with the rules and regulations of the program
 - the Contestant has never been convicted of any criminal offense and there are no criminal charges presently pending against the Contestant
 - the Contestant does not use or consume any illegal controlled substances or engage in the illegal use of alcohol, will not curse, smoke, drink alcoholic beverages or be under the influence of narcotics at anytime after her application is received
 - any unsatisfactory behavior before, during, or after the contest will be cause for dismissal of the Contestant with relinquishment of title and any awards
7. All Contestants are required to ride in the Fair Parade, participate in the week's Fair activities and ride in the Rodeo Grand Entry each night. Contestants must wear the Contestant sash at all times. Contestants must be available to meet with Rodeo sponsors for public relations work when asked.
8. The Contestant agrees that the Lea County Fair Board and the Queen Committee shall determine the manner and method of conducting the competition including determining time, method and manner of judging and presentation and supervision of all awards. The decision of the persons designated by the Queen Committee to judge the various events in any and all matters pertaining to the selection of the winners shall be **FINAL** in all respects.

9. The Contestant agrees to abide by all the rules and regulations set forth by Lea County Fair Board and the Queen Committee. When signed and approved by the Lea County Fair Board, this Application and Contract, together with its attachments, shall solely and exclusively determine the Contestant's rights, privileges and responsibilities to the Lea County Fair Board. No oral or other written statement that is in any way inconsistent with the provisions of this Application and Contract shall be binding upon the Contestant, Lea County Fair Board or Queen Committee.

JUDGING

All Contestants must check in at 7:30am on the day of competition. Personal interviews will be held at 8:00am at the Lea County Fairgrounds prior to the luncheon. The luncheon and speeches will begin at 11:00am. The Horsemanship Contest will be held following slack at the Jake McClure Arena.

JUDGING CRITERIA

The Contestants of the Lea County Fair & Rodeo Sweetheart contest will be judged on personality and horsemanship. Scheduled activities will include, but are not limited to the following:

- Personal Interview
- Prepared Speech
- Impromptu Questions
- Modeling
- Luncheons with Civic Groups
- Media Activities
- Horsemanship
- Rodeo Grand Entry
- Fair Parade
- Presentations at Livestock Shows
- Various Other Activities

There may be a silent judge who will observe the Sweetheart Contestants throughout the entire contest whose score may be included in the final score.

HORSEMANSHIP

The Horsemanship portion of the contest will account for 50% of the judging criteria. Contestants will be judged on:

1. **Western Pleasure/Rail Work**
 - position of feet and hands
 - general balance and poise of rider
 - proper fit and cleanliness of tack

2. **Required Pattern**
 - knowledge and awareness of leads, backing, and sliding stops,
 - pattern executed properly

3. **Horsemanship Interview**
 - questions include knowledge of rodeo, horses, and horsemanship
 - ability to answer questions including knowledge, grammar, and delivery

4. **Queen's run**
 - smile
 - wave or salute
 - speed of run

The required uniform for Horsemanship will be a solid white, long sleeve, collared shirt, blue denim jeans, a hat and boots. The shirt must be tucked in at all times. No sequins, fringe, vests, jackets, or pullovers can be worn during Horsemanship.

PERSONALITY

The Personality portion of the contest will account for 50% of the judging criteria. Contestants will be judged on:

1. Appearance

- Poise - posture, manners and ladylike behavior
- Modeling - ability, style, and confidence
- Fashion - Western attire that is appropriate (long sleeved) and stylish with particular attention given to proper fit, style, color and coordination
- General overall appearance, grooming, cleanliness and self-confidence

2. Speech (Contestant's choice of topic)

- Projection of personality to audience
- Limit speech to two (2) minutes. Time will be called at two (2) minutes
- Richness, expression and projection of voice
- Enunciation, clarity and English diction
- Enthusiasm, confidence and showmanship
- Content - interesting, well put together, flows together from thought to thought
- Time used efficiently

3. Impromptu Questions

- Ability to respond quickly and intelligently

4. Private Interview

- Conversational ability, intelligence, maturity and common sense
- Integrity, high moral standards, sincerity and disposition
- Genuine interest in people and consideration for others

There will be a scheduled luncheon where Contestants will model, give their prepared speech, and respond to impromptu questions. Private interviews will be conducted by the judges.

TIE BREAKING PROCEDURE

In the event that the final score is a tie, the Contestant with the highest score in Horsemanship shall be declared the Sweetheart.

FINALITY OF JUDGE'S SCORING

As a condition of entry into the Sweetheart Contest, the Contestant agrees that the judge's scoring is **FINAL** and not subject to appeal to any person or body, administrative or judicial.

CONGENIALITY

Contestants will vote by secret ballot for the Congeniality Award to be given to the Contestant that demonstrates a genuine caring and friendliness towards the other Contestants throughout the contest. These points will not be included with the judge's scores.

CROWNING

The Coronation will take place one (1) hour prior to the Rodeo Performance on Saturday night. All Contestants are expected to appear at the Coronation. The Queen, Princess, and Sweetheart will be crowned along with the First and Second Attendants.

The new reigning Sweetheart along with her parents or guardians will be expected to meet with the Chairperson following the crowning. The value of winning the Lea County Fair & Rodeo Sweetheart Title is limitless and the experience gained will be one that will enrich a young woman's life in countless ways. The Lea County Fair & Rodeo Sweetheart is an official representative of the Lea County Fair & Rodeo and should constantly be aware of the value of her image in the general public and with the Lea County Fair & Rodeo officials.

PARENTS, SPONSORS, AND RELATIVES:

At no time during the contest, will parents or others associated with the Contestant be allowed to interfere with the judges or contest officials. This is cause for dismissal from the contest. The Lea County Fair Board and the Queen Committee welcome and encourage family, relatives and friends to attend all events as designated in the agenda. Your support and assistance during the contest is very important to your Contestant.

TICKET INFORMATION

The Contestant's sash will be her ticket for admittance into the Lea County Fair & Rodeo. Parents and chaperones are encouraged to purchase fair and rodeo tickets early. The tickets for the Personality Luncheon may be purchased from the Contestant.