

## Calgary Stampede Elite Western Rider Award

The **Calgary Stampede Elite Western Rider Award** is created in celebration of the three western performance horse events offered at Stampede – the Calgary Stampede Team Cattle Penning Competition, the Calgary Stampede Cutting Horse Competition, and the Calgary Stampede Working Cow Horse Classic – each of which serves to honour and continue the tradition of excellence in working cow horses. Unlike competitions that focus on one horse over the components of an event, the Elite Western Rider Award instead honours the commitment of riders to the cow horse traditions, and recognizes the achievements of horsemen and women in dedicating their skills and talents to the versatility of the western performance horse. The Award is derived from the performance of riders within the three Stampede events – team cattle penning, cutting horse, and reined cow horse – allowing any one rider to excel with more than one horse.

The inaugural **Calgary Stampede Elite Western Rider Award** will be presented on Sunday 12 July 2009, following the Calgary Stampede Working Cow Horse Classic. The Elite Western Rider will receive a custom made trophy buckle, inscribed with the year and the winner's name.

- There are no separate entry requirements, applications or fees. Eligibility will be determined by the Western Performance Horse Committee of the Calgary Stampede by listing all riders who enter and compete in at least 2 distinct events (i.e.: team cattle penning, cutting horse, and reined cow horse) at the Calgary Stampede.
- Eligible competitors earn points toward the **Calgary Stampede Elite Western Rider Award** by placing within the Top 10 in at least 2 of the 3 events.
- The Award is open to all competitors, with no distinction made between Open and Non Professional riders.
- Only the rider's best finish in any one class will earn points for that particular event – only one placing per event. For example, should a rider place 1<sup>st</sup> in the Team Penning 7 class, and 4<sup>th</sup> in the Open class, only the 1<sup>st</sup> place finish would be used in calculating the competitors Elite Western Rider standings. Similarly, a rider who places 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Open Bridle division of the Working Cow Horse Classic would only earn points for the 2<sup>nd</sup> place (highest) finish.
- Eligible classes are:
  - Calgary Stampede Team Cattle Penning Competition: Open, 14, 10, 7
  - Calgary Stampede Cutting Horse Competition: Open, NonPro
  - Calgary Stampede Working Cow Horse Classic: Open Bridle, Open Hackamore, NonPro Bridle (Limited Open and Novice NonPro classes are NOT eligible)

- The Calgary Stampede Elite Western Rider Award will be determined by points awarded for placing within the Top 10 of at least 2 events, providing placings/achievements represent the top 1/3 of entries in that particular class. For example, within a class with 9 entries, points would be awarded for placings 1 through 3 only.

- The points awarded system is as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> 12 pts	2 <sup>nd</sup> 10 pts	3 <sup>rd</sup> 8 pts	4 <sup>th</sup> 7 pts	5 <sup>th</sup> 6 pts
6 <sup>th</sup> 5 pts	7 <sup>th</sup> 4 pts	8 <sup>th</sup> 3 pts	9 <sup>th</sup> 2 pts	10 <sup>th</sup> 1 pt

- In case of a tie for points, the first tie breaker will favour the rider earning points in all 3 events. The second tie breaker will be the highest finish (i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> beats 2<sup>nd</sup>) in the point earning events. The third tie breaker will be total money earned from those point earning events.

- Should no rider qualify for the Award by placing in the top 10 (and earning qualifying points) in at least 2 of the 3 events (i.e.: team cattle penning, cutting horse, and reined cow horse), the winner of the Award will be determined as follows:

The eligibility pool will be created by listing all riders who competed in at least 2 events AND earned top 10 points in 1 of those events. Points earned will be carried forward. Then, excluding the event in which the rider already earned points for finishing in the top 10, the rider will be awarded additional points for their BEST placing in the remaining event(s) as follows:

Top 20.0%: 4.4 pts  
Top 20.01 – 25.0 %: 3.3 pts  
Top 25.01 – 30.0%: 2.2 pts  
Top 30.01 – 35.0%: 1.1 pts

Points earned for the individuals best performance in each event entered will be totaled, and the rider with the most points declared the winner. Should still no winner be determined in this manner, then the winner will be the rider who earned the most points for their top 10 finish. If still tied, then dollars earned by that individual performance will decide.