



**ELIZABETH STAMPEDE RODEO**

*Elizabeth Rodeo Association, Inc.*

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**TOUGH ENOUGH TO WEAR PINK**

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Elizabeth Stampede amateur events expanding to draw fans, competitors**

Fans of the Elizabeth Stampede don't have to wait until the first weekend in June to jump start their summer of western fun.

The traditional Elizabeth Stampede amateur events are just weeks away, May 19-20 at Casey Jones Arena in Elizabeth, and will pack more variety and nonprofessional rodeo competition into a weekend then ever before.

"We really try to focus on making this a community event," said Bridgette Bragg, chairman of the Elizabeth Stampede Amateur Events Committee. "Our goal is to bring it back to a community, amateur-style rodeo."

In keeping with the committee's goal, Bragg and fellow volunteers have added new events to the traditional amateur rodeo mix of barrel racing, team roping and mutton bustin' and are bringing in a variety of vendors.

"We're changing the format and adding in break-away and calf roping and open bull riding," Bragg said. "We want to get the locals involved who want to compete in things."

Although still an important part of the Elizabeth Stampede, amateur weekend has grown over the years to become a popular weekend celebration in its own right.

"Originally, the amateur events took place after the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association rodeo during the Stampede, but they have grown so much and we've added more performances that we had to move it to its own weekend," Bragg explained.

Admission to all of the May 19-20 amateur events is free, providing a great opportunity for area residents to get together and watch their family members, friends and neighbors hone and showcase their cowboy and cowgirl skills.

"It's a fun thing to do with your family. Come out and check out the vendors and enjoy a free day in the country," Bragg said.

Registration for all amateur events occurs on the day of the event. Registration for the three mutton bustin' competitions planned during the Elizabeth Stampede June 2-3 takes place during the amateur events at the rodeo arena on May 20.

The full schedule of amateur events is available on the Elizabeth Stampede website, [www.Elizabethstampede.org](http://www.Elizabethstampede.org). Downloadable registration forms also are available on the site. For more information, call 303-870-4052.