

# Ride'em Cowboy!

From a tiny cornfield in Benton, Pennsylvania, a rodeo has evolved that is voted #1 east of the Mississippi by the American Pro Rodeo Association.



Rodeo Company, we put on a safe and fun rodeo just for children with special needs.

Legend has it that the rodeo was born on July 4, 1869 when two groups of cowboys from neighboring ranches met in Deer Trail, CO, to settle an argument over who was the best at performing everyday ranching tasks. That competition is considered to be the first rodeo which evolved into the rodeo as we know it today.

The rodeo now has evolved from its rough origins into a high-stakes, glamorous sport. It's no longer a friendly, informal competition — it's big, it's prestigious and it's tough competition with a tremendous audience. More than **20 million spectators** attend rodeos each year, and millions more watch them on television.

The Benton Frontier Days and Championship Rodeo came into existence when our local businessmen decided our town needed a financial boost. We knew we would bring much needed funds to our town if we could find something that would draw the people to our area. The rodeo was a seed that grew with the help of our very devoted volunteers. Without the talents of our volunteers, putting on a show of this size and quality would be impossible.

Another great aspect of our rodeo is the ability to assist local organizations. The Boy Scouts, FFA, The Lions Club, the Benton Fire Company, Sugarloaf Ambulance, Fishing Creek Sportsman Association, and Run for Leukemia all benefit from our events. These groups set up their stands and sell a wonderful variety of foods to complement our own permanent stand.

We also proudly support the **Special Kids Roundup**. In conjunction with our rodeo promoter, Sam Swearingen of The Rawhide

This very special rodeo is held on the Saturday morning of our rodeo. Mr. Swearingen is known for drawing in the most competitive cowboys and cowgirls from across the United States and Canada. His expertise in contracting specialty acts, clowns and announcers has helped us offer top notch entertainment with each sponsored event. The locals even get involved in the show as our homegrown cowgirls get the chance to show off their riding skills in the Grand Opening.

The **2010 Benton Frontier Days and Championship Rodeo** will be held July 13th through July 18th. Bring the family and join us for a schedule brimming with excitement: Horse Show Tuesday, Team Penning Wednesday, Championship Rodeo Thursday – Saturday, and Bull-A-Rama on Sunday. **Watch bareback bronc riding, steer wrestling, saddle bronc riding, cowgirls' barrel racing, brahma bull riding, calf roping, team roping and kids' mutton bustin.** All shows start at 7:30 but plan to come early to visit our 20 different vendors and have some great food. Stay late on Friday to see the spectacular fireworks display. We look forward to entertaining you and your whole family!

The Benton Rodeo Grounds are located on route 487 North, off I-80 in Lightstreet. Check our website at [BentonRodeo.com](http://BentonRodeo.com) for additional information on the schedule of events as well as ticket sale information.

By Dan Stoneham, Edited by Tracie Smith  
Photos compliments of the Benton Rodeo and Nicholas Podgurski.