

Become A Booster Today

Across the State of Nebraska and beyond, when the community of Burwell is mentioned people fondly recall, “Oh yes! The Burwell Rodeo!”

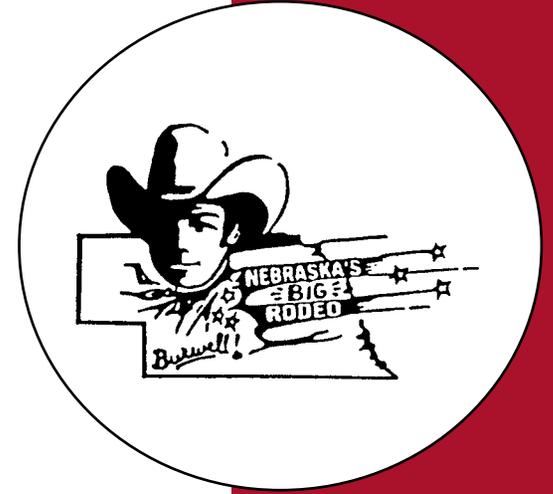
While Nebraska’s Big Rodeo Boosters are proud of the heritage of the annual celebration, they are also looking toward the future of the rodeo. Membership donations of \$25 are completely tax deductible through the Burwell Community Fund and will help to begin upgrade and maintenance projects at the Rodeo and Fair Grounds. The membership donation also includes a subscription to a quarterly newsletter that explains project goals and gives historical narratives about Nebraska’s Big Rodeo.



Please support the event that has provided fond memories for so many and become a booster today!

Nebraska’s Big Rodeo Boosters

Burwell Community Fund
PO Box 901
Burwell, NE 68823
E-mail: rweber@esu10.org



Nebraska's Big Rodeo Boosters

Preserving History,
Preparing for the
Future.

Nebraska's Big Rodeo
Boosters
Burwell, Nebraska

History of Nebraska's Big Rodeo

In 1921 citizens of Burwell, Nebraska decided to put their community on the map with an annual community celebration. They chose to begin a rodeo, which reflected the western heritage of the town. The first rodeo was held in September of 1921, and since that time nearly every professional rodeo champion who has pulled on a pair of boots has

tramped through the historic arena of Burwell. Local citizens have enjoyed the annual migration of these participants and the spectators that follow. In the



early days NBR swelled and trainloads of people traveled from Lincoln and Omaha. Crowds of nearly 20,000 daily were squeezing into Burwell for wholesome family entertainment. The 1930's saw Burwell become one of the important stops on the circuit of champion cowboys. Although times were hard and the weather was dry, the show at Nebraska's Big Rodeo always went on and brightened the lives of many during a bleak time in history. In the 1940's war years the rodeo was cancelled for the first and last time. At the request of the President of the United States, Nebraska's Big Rodeo did not appear in 1943, 1944, or 1945. However the '46 show saw the biggest crowds in the history of the event. In 1948 the rodeo expanded to include four performances to accommodate

fans as well as top contenders of the time like Jim Shoulders and Casey Tibbs.

Nebraska's Big Rodeo stepped up with the times in the 1950's and added specialty events such as trick riders and chuck wagon races to the schedule. The 1960's rodeo saw a new breed of cowboys who flew into town for the event and rodeo became recognized as a true "sport." Even though the 1970's and 1980's saw the ag industry of the area take a turn for the worse as many events failed, NBR continued strong. The faith and dedication of local citizens kept the rodeo alive, and the reputation for quality entertainment at Burwell kept spectators coming.

The 1990's and 2000's have been a period of revitalization for both the community of Burwell and Nebraska's Big Rodeo. With the Calamus Lake nearby and the town's small town, rustic appeal spectators are flocking to the annual event that their parents and grandparents also enjoyed. Nebraska's Big Rodeo and the Garfield County Fair are held annually on the original 40 acres of grounds and facilities listed with the National Registry of Historic Places. The grounds include one of the world's largest outdoor rodeo arenas, a 3/4 mile track, original wooden covered grandstands and more. However, the original facilities that have welcomed people for decades are in grave need of repair and maintenance. Currently, costly repairs to the grandstands are needed to preserve the original heritage and uniqueness of wooden bleachers while maintaining a safe atmosphere. By becoming a member of the Nebraska's Big Rodeo Boosters, you can help to preserve these memories.

Nebraska's Big Rodeo Booster Registration

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Email Address: _____

To become a Nebraska's Big Rodeo Booster member please detach this form and mail to address below.

Make checks payable to:
Burwell Community Fund
Memo: NBR Rodeo Boosters
PO Box 901
Burwell, NE 68823

Yes, I would like to become a Nebraska's Big Rodeo Booster. I am enclosing my payment of \$25.

I would like more information about becoming a Nebraska's Big Rodeo Booster. Please contact me at the address above.

Nebraska's Big Rodeo Boosters

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