

## EQUIFEST OF KANSAS 2007

EquiFest of Kansas 2007 will spotlight the talent of Kansas horsemen and women, in a special 10th Anniversary celebration, to be held February 23 through 25, 2007 at the Kansas Coliseum in Wichita, Kansas. Clinicians and presenters include National Champions in multiple equine disciplines, and some of the top equine trainers and instructors from across the state of Kansas. "It's our privilege to showcase Kansas talent with a dynamic lineup of equine clinicians in this special Tenth Anniversary production of EquiFest of Kansas", said Lise Streit, Executive Director for the Kansas Horse Council. Headlining clinicians include native Texan Craig Cameron presenting Craig Cameron Horsemanship, and Kansans: Dean Smith featuring Cutting Horses; Brent Wright teaching Reining; Rebecca Rigdon tutoring riders in Dressage; John Staples conducting clinics with Hunters and Jumpers; Dawn Dawson providing Barrel Racing clinics; Steve White working with Arabians; Charlie Trayer and Working Dogs; and John Lyons Certified Trainer Cindy Branham providing Horse Training presentations, and Erik Martonovich, from Colorado, will present clinics on Vaulting and more.

Erik Martonovich and Big Horse Productions will provide exhilarating equine entertainment featuring gymnastics on horseback, with thrilling vaulting routines and daring Roman Riding performances. Spectators can step back in time, as the rowdy Wild Women of the Frontier ride, shoot, entertain and educate audiences with performances by the women who shaped our Western heritage. The Quiet Thunder Drill Team will provide exciting performances and precision drill work for the enjoyment of all.

"For our 10th Anniversary, we're bringing back the ever popular Cowhand Olympics and the Equine Extravaganza - with fun and excitement that every horse lover will want to see!" said Streit. The Cowhand Olympics will feature four 2 person teams of men and women vying for the title of Top Cowhands, in a stiff competition of riding, roping and ranch work events.

EquiFest of Kansas features clinicians, workshops lectures, equine demonstrations and a gigantic trade show for horse owners and horse lovers alike. Last year the festival drew over 17,000 people from 22 states, Canada and Mexico.

The nationally syndicated radio program, "The Horse Show LIVE! With Rick Lamb", presented by Wahl Clippers, will be on hand at EquiFest. And Rick will also present 3 special lecture perspectives on Natural Horsemanship. Other presentations in the lecture and workshop area include Therapeutic Riding; equine health information and "Seven Ways to Calm Your Horse".

### Clinic Details Announced

Craig Cameron demonstrates the style of horsemanship he's perfected in the last 23 years, as a life-long rancher, working cowboy and horse trainer. Building upon his experiences, including working with Ray Hunt in the early 1980's, Craig has developed a philosophy of teaching that eliminates rough handling of horses earning him a well-deserved international following. Craig Cameron's original entertaining and motivational style is regularly sought after by TV, radio, magazine, fairs, ranches, concerts, universities and many celebrities. Craig is featured weekly in Hoof Beats on cable TV and is a regular on RFD-TV. Craig will be giving 6 clinics at EquiFest,

including "Colt Starting", Parts 1 and 2; "Putting a Handle on the Horse", Parts 1 and 2; "Trailer Loading" and a Question and Answer Session with the audience.

Over the past 50 years, native Kansas Dean Smith has accumulated innumerable accolades in the show ring in numerous types of events. He's trained and shown many state and world champion reining, cutting, halter and pleasure horses. A top cutting horse trainer, Dean Smith has also made a substantial impact on the entire equine industry. He was the person competitors strived not only to beat, but also sought to emulate his training. As an equine breeder, he has produced top quality horses. He's trained many successful non-professional riders and handlers through the years, and he's helped develop some of the top trainers in the country. Without a doubt, native Kansan Dean Smith is a legend not only in the cutting industry, but in the equine industry as a whole. Dean will appear Saturday and Sunday at EquiFest, presenting: "Basic Training for Cutting Horses - Stopping, Turning, Leg Aids and Introducing the Calf"; and "Basic Training for Cutting Horses - Build a Good Foundation".

Brent Wright is one of the top Reining horse trainers in the industry today. A 56 year Kansas native, Brent has been training horses for 30 years. Brent has competed in the National Reining Horse Association since 1987, where Brent and his mounts have won the National Reining Horse Association Derby twice. In addition Brent is a two time NRHA Futurity Reserve Champion, a Quarter Horse Congress Futurity Champion and Reserve Champion, as well as National Reining Breeders Classic Reserve Champion. Brent has trained and shown many National Reining Horse Open Futurity Finalists, showcasing some of the industry's top reining horses. At EquiFest Brent will present: "Creating a More Responsive Horse - Back to Basics, Laying a Good Foundation"; "Developing Responsiveness"; and "Refining the Reining Maneuvers".

John Staples, a native of Wichita, Kansas, began riding at the age of 7, competing in hunter-jumper shows and horse trials. While attending college, John competed internationally at the highest level of eventing. He won the 1986 North American Young Riders Championship and a year later, placed 5th at the Rolex Kentucky CCI\*\*\*, earning the Markham Trophy for the highest placed Young Rider. John was named as alternate to the 1988 United States Olympic Eventing Team and was long-listed for both the 1992 and 1996 teams. John has trained regularly with eventing legends Jack LeGoff, Torrence Watkins and Captain Mark Phillips. At EquiFest, John will present: "The Importance of a Horse's Balance to Jump & How the Rider Can Effect It"; "Cross Country Jumping: How it Differs from Stadium Jumping"; and "The Importance of Being Able to Adjust Your Horse's Stride Between Fences".

Steve White was born and raised in the Wichita area. Steve has shown Arabians since the early 1960's and has started, trained, coached and exhibited Arabians in English Pleasure, Driving, Halter, Western Pleasure, Dressage and continues to compete and train Class A, Regional and National competitors. Steve will appear Friday and Saturday at EquiFest, and give these presentations: "Arabians, Not Just a Pretty Face - Laying the Foundation; Haltering, Handling and Groundwork", and "Building on the Basics".

A rising star, Rebecca Rigdon has been competing for 20 years and has trained and ridden with some of the world's top riders and competitors. Her showing career has produced 28 U.S. Dressage Federation (USDF) Regional and Midwest Championships from First Level through Grand Prix, National Holsteiner Champions, and 2 USDF Young

Rider National Champion year-end awards. Rebecca has received her USDF Bronze, Silver and Gold Rider Medals and she is an "r" licensed judge. Rebecca currently trains with Conrad Schumacher, the former coach for the British Olympic team. At EquiFest, Rebecca will present: "Dressage through the Levels from A to Z", including an "Introduction to Dressage", "Beginning Collection" and "Reaching the Goal: FEI Level".

Cindy Branham, a John Lyons Certified Trainer, graduated at the top of her class from the John Lyons Certification Program. Since 1996, Cindy has been training horses professionally, as well as teaching lessons to both Western and English riders. Cindy now offers clinics, private training sessions, horsemanship demonstrations and clinics throughout the Midwest. Cindy will be at EquiFest Friday and Sunday presenting: "Circles of Friends Round Penning", and "The Come Over Dear - Mounting Block Cue".

Dawn Dawson from Alma, Kansas, has competed in most all types of Western riding competition world, but barrel racing has been her focus. Since a teenager, she has gained knowledge and information from other trainers and clinicians as well as her own experience. Dawn has been conducting barrel racing clinics and private lessons for many years, sharing her barrel racing knowledge and experience. At EquiFest, Dawn will present "Reality Barrel Racing": "Getting Your Horse Started on Barrels"; and Problem Solving -the Horse and the Rider". She'll present on Friday and Saturday.

Charlie Trayer, born and raised in the Kansas Flint Hills, has been the foreman of the 10,000 acre Cottonwood Ranch for 39 years, where he uses his Hangin' Tree Cowdogs daily to assist in all jobs on the ranch. Charlie breeds, raises and trains the dogs, that have become popular nationwide. Charlie holds demonstrations and clinics across the Midwest and nationally, showing and teaching ranchers and cattle people simplified methods of handling cattle with cowdogs. Charlie will present his Working Cowdog Demonstration on Friday at EquiFest.

### **Hours & How to Get Tickets**

Hours for EquiFest of Kansas 2007 are: Friday, February 23, 2007, from 10am to 8pm; Saturday, February 24, from 9am to 8pm; and Sunday, February 25, from 9am to 6pm. General admission tickets will cost \$12.50 for adults, \$6 for children aged six through twelve, and children five years and under get in free. Three-day discount passes are available in advance, or at the door the first day of the event: \$30 for adults and \$15 for children six through twelve years. Tickets go on sale after Jan. 5 through Select-A-Seat at [www.selectaseat.com](http://www.selectaseat.com) or 316-755-7328. Tickets may also be purchased at the door (cash only). A Kansas Coliseum parking fee of \$3 per vehicle per day, will be charged at the drive-in gates by Kansas Coliseum officials.

## **More Information**

For more information about EquiFest, contact: the Kansas Horse Council at (785) 776-0662 or e-mail [equifest@kansashorsecouncil.com](mailto:equifest@kansashorsecouncil.com); or Equine Promotions at (765) 655-2107 or e-Mail [jcloe@equinepromotions.net](mailto:jcloe@equinepromotions.net); or visit the EquiFest web-sites at either [www.equinepromotions.net](http://www.equinepromotions.net) or [www.kansashorsecouncil.com](http://www.kansashorsecouncil.com).

Sponsors for EquiFest of Kansas 2007 include: Exiss Aluminum Trailers; Holton Trailer Sales; John Deere Company; Kansas Ag Network; Kiefer Built Trailers; KZSN; Mid-America Ag Network; Purina Mills LLC; and USA Embroidery.

EquiFest of Kansas is presented by the Kansas Horse Council, a nonprofit association formed to further the common interests of horse people and to promote the entire equine industry. The Kansas Horse Council has contracted with Equine Promotions Inc., to professionally manage EquiFest of Kansas. Equine Promotions Inc. is an event management company with extensive experience in equine event administration.

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS SUBMISSION:**

EquiFest of Kansas - Celebrating 10 Years!  
Three days of first-class clinics and exhilarating equine entertainment, gymnastics on horseback, Wild Women of the Frontier; Cowhand Olympics, sensational shopping- all for one low ticket price! Featuring: Craig Cameron, Dean Smith, Brent Wright, John Staples and more! Feb 23-25, Wichita, Kansas Coliseum.

More Info: 765-655-2107, [www.equinepromotions.net](http://www.equinepromotions.net) or 785-776-0662 or [www.kansashorsecouncil.com](http://www.kansashorsecouncil.com).