

Calves try on clothes; kids hang with sheep

Calf dressing should add fun for rodeo crowd

By R.B. Headley

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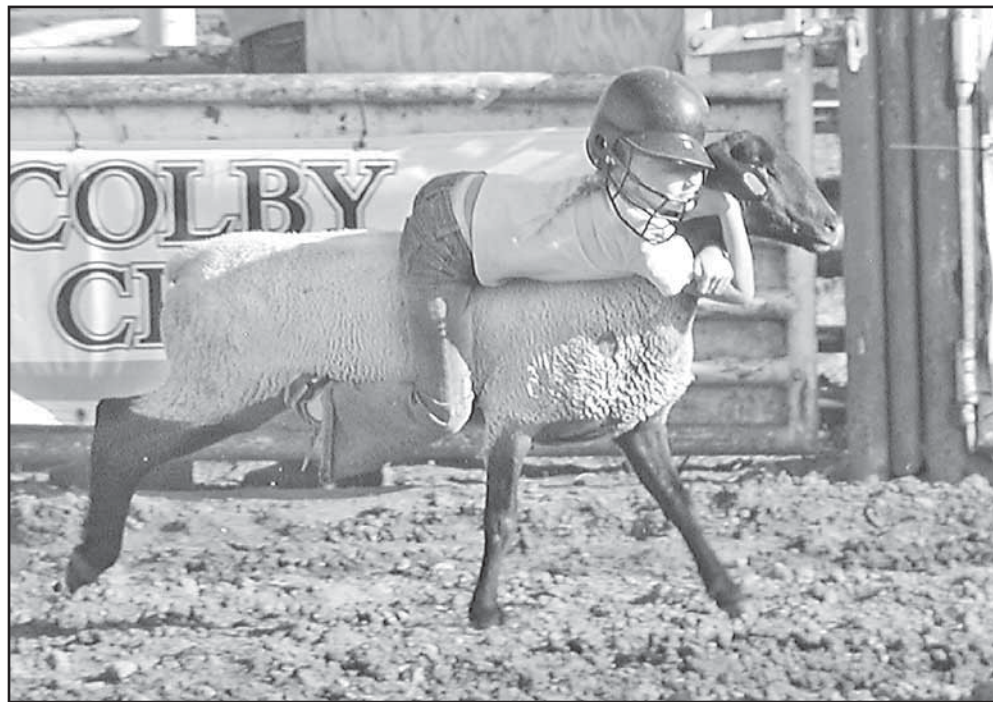
Get dressed and let those kids latch onto you for awhile!

Both phrases apply to two anticipated events connected with the Thomas County Fair Rodeo this week: mutton busting Monday evening and Tuesday night's return of calf dressing.

"We haven't had it the last two years," calf dressing organizer Clair Schrock said. "But we've had people in the past who were wanting us to do it again. It will provide a little entertainment between rodeo events."

Calf dressing also features a lot of exercise for both the calves and the four-person teams. It should ignite a fun rivalry between several area implement companies who've entered their calf dressers.

"There will be a little bit of prize money and a traveling trophy given to the winning team," Schrock said. "And bragging rights



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

A Mutton Bustin' competitor tried to be one with the animal during last year's Thomas County Fair competition. The mutton had other ideas – as usual.

definitely come into play. Normally, it's three-member teams, but we thought teams of four would cause less stress for the calves."

Like most animals, calves can usually shake off stress during fair week. They'll be hang-

ing out in a sort of "how you doing" nonchalant style Tuesday night until the determined dressing teams draw close.

Teamwork, agility and tenacity then take center stage.

Or, another way to describe it would be a wild few minutes of chasing, corralling and giving up freedom from clothing to achieve certain goals.

Calves will get to try on three soft, hopefully well-fitting items: socks, bras and underwear.

Not bad. They should still be able to run pretty well in those.

That's what teams are hoping as they race their dressed calves across the finish line.

Whoever crosses first wins this year's Thomas County Fair calf dressing competition.

"You can actually run it across the line and then dress it," Schrock explained. "Either way, it's whoever gets done first. It should be about five to maybe six or seven minutes of entertainment."

Meanwhile, six or seven seconds may be considered a victory during Monday night's annual and always popular Mutton Bustin'.

Any youth weighing 60 pounds or less can prove some prowess by seeing how long he or she can ride a feisty sheep.

Competitors have to wear helmets, though county fair officials weren't aware of any accidents during several years of this event.

Normally, about 50 youths each year typically test their ability to bust muttons.

Mutton Bustin' begins at 6 p.m. on Monday, leading into the even more intense 8 p.m. rodeo.



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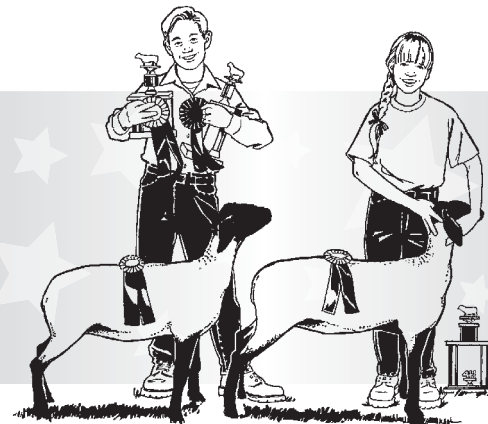


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