



Susana Martinez  
Governor

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Contact: Michael Henningsen  
o. 222-9704, c. 803-6355

## Jackpot Barrel Racing Returns FRIDAY!

### *Series open to local barrel racers of all ages*

ALBUQUERQUE—Local barrel racers of all ages and levels don't have to wait for State Fair or regional rodeo events to get their competition on. EXPO New Mexico will begin its Winter Jackpot Barrel Racing Series, where participants literally compete for the day's jackpot, beginning Friday October 25<sup>th</sup> in the Dairy Barn located on the Fairgrounds. The jackpot\* available for each event is the money raised through fees for entry and exhibition runs on the day of the event, less minimal operational costs. Entry fees are \$15 per rider for children, \$45 per rider for adults. Exhibition runs cost just \$4 each, or three for \$10. There is no admission cost for spectators and parking is FREE at Gate 6 (San Pedro just north of Lomas).

"One of the main concerns we heard from the horse community last year was about the footing in the Dairy Barn," said General Manager Dan Mourning. "So we sent our Operations crew in there and sifted through the dirt and worked it really well. They pulled out 26 50-gallon drums full of rocks, and then added new dirt and organics to achieve a good, deep footing. The result is the first brand new footing in this facility in as long as anyone can remember—certainly the last two decades—and it's been continually worked over the last several months," Mourning said.

"We've got some of the nicest horse facilities around on what is unquestionably some of the most gorgeous property in New Mexico," Mourning continued, "and now we've got the footing to go with it, and an event designed to let barrel racers come out and practice and get a little competition under their belts. Opening up the grounds to more events is one of our main goals, and we think this is a great start!"

EXPO New Mexico's Jackpot Barrel Racing kicks off at 5:30 p.m. this Friday and once a month through April. Stalls are available for \$15. Call Wayne Epstein at (580) 320-9288 for more information.

\*4D Jackpot, ½ second split. Payback is 80 percent. Additional \$100 for every 50 entries. Any funds collected through sponsorships will be added to the jackpot.

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