



"Country Pride, County Wide"

August 4 – 12, 2023

Queen, Princess, and Sweetheart

The title of Lea County Fair & Rodeo Queen, Princess, and Sweetheart holds a place of honor, as well as prestige. These titles represent not only the western way of life, but the quality of leadership among young women in Lea County.

The objective of the Lea County Fair & Rodeo Queen, Princess, and Sweetheart Contest is to select representatives for the Lea County Fair & Rodeo. The Lea County Fair & Rodeo Queen, Princess, Sweetheart and Little Miss serve as ambassadors of the Fair & Rodeo to the general public, exhibiting excellent sportsmanship, high moral and ethical standards, as well as adding a flavor of femininity. The young ladies that hold these titles should be able to speak intelligently, with authority and with knowledge of the Lea County Fair & Rodeo and Lea County. They are expected to act, speak and dress according to the prestige the title deserves at all times during their reign. In addition, the following rules will apply:

MEET & GREET – JUNE 1, 2023 at 6PM – FAIR BOARD MEETING ROOM

2023 CONTEST REGULATIONS

1. A contestant must be enrolled in a Lea County School and/or must prove residency in Lea County, New Mexico prior to the day of entry deadline. The Queen Committee reserves the right to request proof of residency.
 - a. Queen Contestants-Must be 17 years old by January 1, 2023, and up to 24 years old by December 31, 2023.
 - b. Princess Contestants-Must be 13 years old by January 1, 2023, and up to 16 years old by December 31, 2023.
 - c. Sweetheart Contestants-Must be 9 years old by January 1, 2023, and up to 12 years old by December 31, 2023.
2. The contestant shall be a single girl, never have been married and never to have had a child or minor dependent.
3. The Lea County Fair & Rodeo Queen, Princess, and Sweetheart Contest will allow a minimum of one contestant to compete for the title. The title will only be awarded if the contestant proves to the judges to be adequately qualified with an overall score of 70% or higher.
4. A Candidate will be chosen Queen-elect, Princess-elect, or Sweetheart-elect and will reign as the Queen, Princess or Sweetheart in the following year. The newly elected Lea County Fair & Rodeo Queen will have the opportunity to enter and participate in the New Mexico State Fair Queen Contest. She will be responsible for providing her own horse and must arrange for transportation to and from Albuquerque, NM. She is encouraged to raise funds to participate in the New Mexico State Fair Queen Contest in order to build community and business relationships. The Lea County Fair Board will pay the entry fee for the New Mexico State Fair Contest and up to \$150 in expenses with proper receipts. The New Mexico State Fair Queen application must be postmarked by August 31, 2023.

DISQUALIFICATION

A contestant shall be disqualified if:

1. Inappropriate (e.g. public display of affection, inappropriate dress, cell phone use) or unsportsmanlike behavior in any public forum including social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, Finsta, TikTok, etc.) from a title holder, contestant, parent/guardian or anyone associated with the contestant before, during, or after the competition is cause for dismissal and relinquishment of all awards at the discretion of the Queen Committee and the Lea County Fair & Rodeo Board. Title holders and contestants will be expected to represent Lea County and the Fair & Rodeo in a professional manner at all times.
2. The Queen Committee and the Lea County Fair & Rodeo Board welcome and encourage family and friends to attend all events as designated in the agenda. The support and assistance of family and friends during the contest is very important to the confidence and success of each contestant. At no time during the contest will parents/guardians or others associated with the contestant be allowed to interfere with the judges or contest officials. This is cause for dismissal from the contest. A judge may approach a contestant after the competition concerning areas of improvement.

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Each contestant is required to attend scheduled events/activities prior to and during fair week. Contestants must be available to meet with rodeo sponsors for public relations work when asked. Contestants must be in full western dress and wear the contestant sash at all times. Scheduled contest activities will include, but are not limited to the following:

- ❖ Luncheons with Civic Groups (*prepared speech will be given and MUST be memorized*)
- ❖ Radio Interviews
- ❖ Livestock Sale (*if needed*)
- ❖ Fair Parade
- ❖ Rodeo Performances
- ❖ Media Activities
- ❖ Personal Interview
- ❖ Prepared Speech
- ❖ Modeling
- ❖ Impromptu Questions
- ❖ Mutton Bustin'
- ❖ Sell Day Sheets
- ❖ Special Rodeo
- ❖ Livestock Shows
- ❖ Horsemanship Clinics
- ❖ Personality Clinics
- ❖ Rodeo Introductions
- ❖ Horsemanship Knowledge
- ❖ Horsemanship

LUNCHEON TICKETS

All contestants must be responsible for selling 10 tickets at \$15 each. Money is due on Thursday, August 10, 2023 by 3pm to the Lea County Fair Office. All contestants are responsible for returning all unsold tickets after the mandatory 10 have been sold. **NO PERSONAL CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** The contestant's sash will be her ticket for admittance to the luncheon. Parents, family and friends are encouraged to purchase a luncheon ticket.

PASSES

The contestant's sash will be her ticket for admittance into the events at the Lea County Fair. Parents and chaperones are encouraged to purchase tickets early. Season Passes will be available in the Fair Office until August 4, 2023.

JUDGING

The Lea County Fair & Rodeo Queen/Princess/Sweetheart Contest will be judged on personality and horsemanship. A silent judge may be present to observe the contestants during any part of the Fair & Rodeo. The silent judge's score may be included in the final score. At no time during the day of the contest is the contestant to be using her cell phone.

HORSEMANSHIP

The horsemanship portion of the contest will account for 60% of the judging criteria. Attire required is a solid white, long-sleeved, collared shirt, blue denim jeans, cowboy hat, and boots. The Contestant's shirt must be tucked in at all times. No sequins, fringe, vests, jackets, or pullovers may be worn. Neck scarves, belts, and jewelry are acceptable. Contestants will be judged on:

1. Western Horsemanship/Rail Work
 - Position of feet and hands
 - General balance, control, and poise of rider
 - Display of confidence and personal appearance
 - Grooming of horse, proper fit, and cleanliness of tack
2. Required Riding Pattern (*listed on final page*)
 - Knowledge and awareness of leads, speed, stopping, and backing
 - Proper execution of pattern
 - Control and skill in handling horse
 - Ability to control a proper Queen's mount and dismount
3. Horsemanship Interview
 - Immediately following the required pattern, before exiting the arena, each contestant will dismount her horse in front of the judges for her horsemanship interview
 - Questions may include but are not limited to the contestant's knowledge of horses, tack, horsemanship, and rodeo
 - Ability of the contestant to answer questions with poise and ease, including proper grammar, knowledge, and delivery
 - After answering the judge's questions, the contestant will properly re-mount her horse and exit the arena
 - Interview will be approximately fifteen (15) minutes
4. Horsemanship Free Time
 - Each contestant is required to turn in a free time pattern no later than 5:00PM on Friday, July 28, 2023 to the Lea County Fair Office
 - Time will be called at two (2) minutes
 - Props or aids are not required, but may include cones, barrels, poles, etc.; each contestant is responsible for set-up and tear-down of any props or aids used during her free time
 - Music, bareback, or roman riding will not be allowed
 - Originality, creativity, and versatility, as well as control and skill in executing the pattern correctly will be part of the judging criteria
5. Queen's Run
 - Control and speed of run
 - Queen wave
 - Projection of personality, self-confidence, and crowd appeal
 - SMILE

PERSONALITY

The personality portion of the contest will account for 40% of the judging criteria. Private interviews will be conducted by the judges prior to the scheduled personality luncheon where each contestant will model, give a prepared speech, and respond to an impromptu question. Contestants will be judged on:

1. Appearance
 - Poise – posture, manners, ladylike behavior and self-confidence
 - Modeling – ability, style, and confidence – Modeling outfit description is due on or before 5:00PM, Friday, July 28, 2023 to the Fair Office
 - Fashion – western attire that is appropriate and stylish with particular attention given to proper fit, style, color, and coordination (fashion-forward western attire should consist of dress, contestant sash, belt, cowboy hat, and boots)
 - General overall appearance, grooming, and cleanliness
2. Private Interview
 - Conversational ability, intelligence, maturity, and common sense
 - Integrity, high moral standards, sincerity, and disposition
 - Genuine interest in people and consideration for others
 - Interviews will be approximately fifteen (15) minutes
3. Speech
 - Contestant's speech topic should reflect the current year's Fair & Rodeo theme
 - Speeches will be limited to two (2) minutes for Sweetheart, three (3) minutes for Princess and five (5) minutes for Queen, at which time will be called
 - Projection of personality to audience
 - Richness, expression, and projection of voice
 - Enunciation, clarity, and English diction
 - Enthusiasm, confidence, and showmanship
 - Interesting and well thought out speech content
 - Flow and appropriateness of speech
 - Time used efficiently
 - Points will be deducted for not staying within the time limit range
4. Impromptu Questions
 - Ability to respond quickly and intelligently with poise and self-control
 - Ability to use proper grammar, knowledge, and delivery
 - Questions may pertain to but are not limited to Lea County, fair and rodeo, or current events

TIE BREAKING PROCEDURE

In the event that the final score is a tie, it will be broken by the highest horsemanship score, then by the highest personal interview score, then by the highest speech score. If a tie still exists, the judges will be asked to rank the contestants as to whom they think will do the best job as the Lea County Fair & Rodeo Queen/Princess/Sweetheart.

FINALITY OF JUDGES' SCORING

As a condition of entry into the contest, the contestant agrees that the judges' scoring is FINAL in all aspects and are not subject to appeal by any person or body; administrative or judicial.

CONGENIALITY AWARD

Contestants will vote by secret ballot for the Congeniality Award. The Congeniality Award will be awarded to the contestant that demonstrates friendliness, sincerity, a genuine and caring attitude towards other contestants, as well as a pleasant and courteous demeanor throughout the contest. These points will not be included with the judge's final scores.

CROWNING

The coronation will take place on Saturday afternoon, August 12th at 3:00 PM. All contestants are expected to appear at the coronation. The Queen/Princess/Sweetheart will be crowned at that time. All awards and prizes will be presented during the coronation ceremony except for the scholarship award which will be presented to the Queen at the conclusion of the Queen's reign.

The newly crowned Queen/Princess/Sweetheart, along with her parents and/or guardians will be expected to meet briefly with the Queen Committee immediately after coronation on Saturday, August 12, 2023.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. If selected as Lea County Fair & Rodeo Royalty, winners are responsible for their own transportation, clothing, and expenses incurred while representing the Lea County Fair & Rodeo.
2. No sponsorship donations may be accepted in the name of the Lea County Fair & Rodeo Queen/Princess/Sweetheart contest without knowledge and consent of the Queen Committee and Lea County Fair & Rodeo Board. All donations including money, clothing, horse, tack, etc. received by the contestant must be with the donor's knowledge and understanding that it is for the contestant's personal benefit.
3. The contestant agrees that the Queen Committee and the Lea County Fair & Rodeo Board shall determine and manage the method of conducting the competition including time, method, and manner of judging, presentation, and supervision of all awards. The decisions of the persons designated by the Lea County Fair & Rodeo Board to judge the various events in any and all matters pertaining to the selection of the winners shall be FINAL in all respects.
4. By signing and submitting this application and contract, the contestant agrees that:
 - Each requirement of eligibility set forth has been met
 - All facts and representations presented by the contestant are true and accurate
 - The contestant and parents or guardians will abide by all rules and regulations of the Lea County Fair & Rodeo Board as set forth by the Queen Committee in the period before, during, and the year following
 - The contestant has never been convicted of any criminal offense and there are no criminal charges presently pending against the contestant
 - The contestant does not use or consume any illegal controlled substances or engage in the illegal use of alcohol or other dangerous substances
 - The contestant will not curse, smoke, drink alcoholic beverages, or be under the influence of narcotics at any time after her application is received by the Queen Committee

- Any unsatisfactory behavior before, during, and the year following the contest will be cause for dismissal of the contestant with relinquishment of title and all awards
- The Queen Committee and the Lea County Fair & Rodeo Board shall have sole discretion in determining whether a contestant may continue to participate in the program in the event that any statement or representation by the contestant is found not true and accurate or that any action by the contestant is inconsistent with the rules and regulations of the program
- The Queen Committee and the Lea County Fair & Rodeo Board reserves the right to monitor any form of social media

5. The Contestant sashes, as well as, Queen, Princess, and Sweetheart perpetual chaps are property of the Lea County Fair and Rodeo and must be returned to the Fair Office at the end of the contest or the end of the respective reign.

6. The value of the Lea County Fair and Rodeo Queen/Princess/Sweetheart is limitless. She is the official representative of the Lea County Fair and Rodeo and should constantly be aware of the value of public relations between the general public and the Lea County Fair Officials with whom she comes in contact. The experience gained during her reign will be one that will enrich her life in countless ways.

The contestant and parent/legal guardian have read the rule packet and agree to abide by all rules, regulations and deadlines set forth by the Lea County Fair Board and the Queen Committee. When signed by the contestant and approved by the Lea County Fair Board, this application and contract, together with its attachments, shall solely and exclusively determine the contestant’s rights, privileges and responsibilities to the Lea County Fair Board. No other oral or written statement that is in any way inconsistent with the provisions of this application and contract shall be binding upon the contestant, the Lea County Fair Board or the Queen Committee.

Contestant Signature

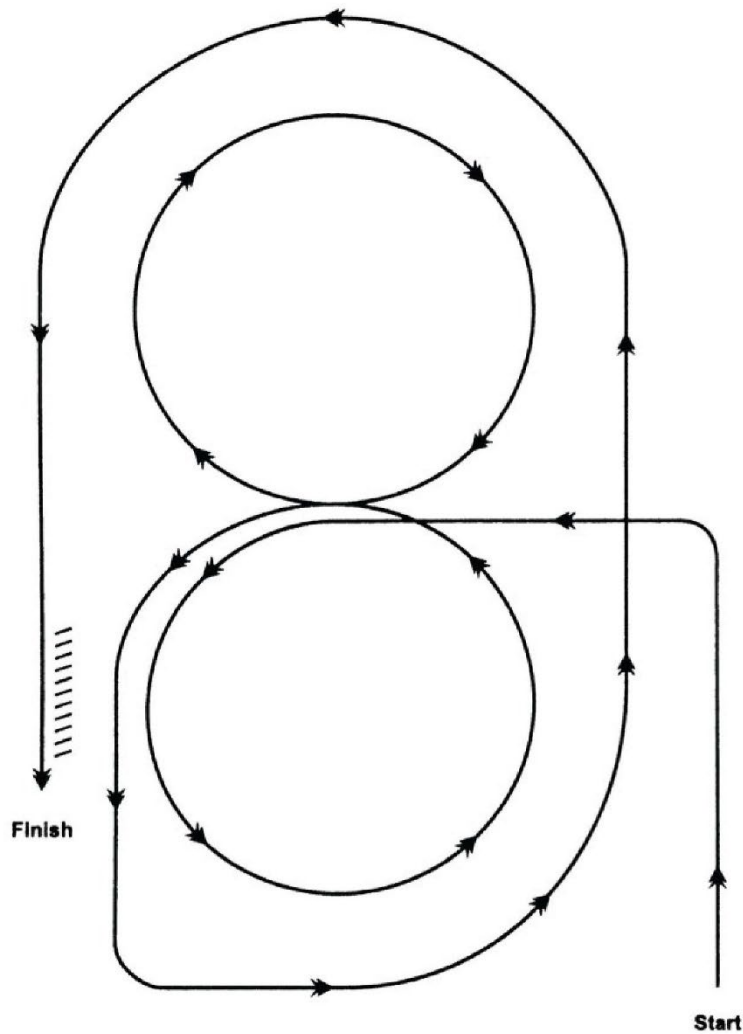
Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

Signed before me on this _____ day of _____, 2023

Notary Signature

Notary Seal

LEA COUNTY FAIR & RODEO
QUEEN, PRINCESS, AND SWEETHEART
REQUIRED RIDING PATTERN



1. Do extended jog along the side of arena, then to center
2. Begin lope at center of arena and lope left circle on left lead
3. Change leads at center of arena and lope right circle on right lead
4. Change leads and continue loping around end of arena
5. Once on the straight, increase speed and continue around end of arena
6. Stop and back