

Did you know that rodeo is one of the only sports that was originally developed based on the daily activities for a cowboy? Rodeo events are based on the real-life skills of working vaqueros and cowboys, first in Spain and Mexico, and later in the United States, Canada and Australia. Rodeo competition, in the beginning, was a natural extension of the daily challenges cowboys confronted on the ranch - roping calves and breaking broncs into saddle horses.

Did you know that cowboys pay to enter each rodeo? Each cowboy takes a risk in entering a rodeo. They will pay entry fees and travel expenses in order to compete. If the cowboy places high enough to win money, they will probably make a profit, but if they don't, they've actually lost their entry fee and any travel expenses. Every entry into a rodeo is a gamble for the cowboy; they take a chance for losing money and possibly even physical injury. However, if they do place, they will attain financial winnings and athletic glory.

Did you know that professional rodeo is a highly ranked sporting event? Professional rodeo is seventh in overall attendance for major sporting events, ahead of golf and tennis, with about 30 million fans. Fans can follow professional rodeo all year long by attending PRCA-sanctioned rodeos, watching television coverage, accessing various Web sites, and viewing other rodeo-related media outlets. In fact, rodeo is the official state sport of Wyoming and Texas.

Did you know that ProRodeo has a most coveted title for competitors? Just like football has Super Bowl Champions and baseball has World Series Champions, ProRodeo has the title "World Champion" for its champions. The sport's eight world champions are crowned at the conclusion of the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo. This title is based on total season earnings at PRCA rodeos across the continent. The ProRodeo World Champions receive a gold buckle and a specially crafted trophy saddle. In 2010 the PRCA world champions had season earnings ranging from \$101,685 to a record \$507,921.

Did you know that there are specific people who take care of the livestock involved in rodeos? The care of those animals falls to the stock contractors who buy or breed them, raise them, feed them, watch over them, provide medical care when necessary, and transport them safely between rodeos and their home pastures.

Did you know that there are several other personnel necessary to work a rodeo? . The noncontestant personnel working a rodeo include the bullfighters, who help bull riders escape from powerful rodeo bulls; the barrelmen, clowns, and specialty acts, who entertain the crowds; pickup men, who help bareback and saddle bronc riders dismount, then prepare and assist bucking stock to leave the arena; announcers, who call the action; arena secretaries, who handle extensive administrative duties; and timers, who operate the clocks for timed and roughstock events.

Did you know that professional rodeo consists of two types of competitions? Rodeos consist of roughstock events and timed events. The roughstock events are bareback riding, saddle bronc riding, and bull riding where a contestant's score depends on his performance and the animal's performance. The timed events are steer wrestling, team roping, tie-down roping, barrel racing, and steer roping where contestants compete against the clock and each other.

Did you know that there is only one true team event in ProRodeo? Team roping requires close cooperation and timing between two highly skilled ropers - a header and a heeler - and their horses. The event originated on ranches when cowboys needed to treat or brand large steers and the task proved too difficult for one man. When calves were sick or injured, cowboys had to rope and immobilize them quickly for veterinary treatment. Ranch hands prided themselves on the speed with which they could rope and tie calves, and they soon turned their work into informal contests.

Did you know that steer wrestling is the quickest event in rodeo? The world record for steer wrestling is sitting at 2.4 seconds. In this event, the steer generally weighs more than twice as much as the cowboy and, at the time the two come together, they're both often traveling at 30 miles per hour. The objective of the steer wrestler is to use strength and technique to wrestle a steer to the ground as quickly as possible.