



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

For Immediate Release
Jan. 7, 2005

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Governor Bill Richardson unveils plan to support Rodeo and 4-H in New Mexico

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson today outlined a comprehensive plan designed increase support for rodeo and 4H programs and round up private sponsorships for New Mexico rodeo competitors.

“The idea is to identify, train and support New Mexico’s most talented rodeo competitors to represent New Mexico on a national level - whether at 4-H, high school, college or as professionals,” said Governor Bill Richardson.

Governor Richardson’s plan, which was developed with help from high school and college rodeo and 4-H participants, dedicates \$2.2 million for a number of programs that will benefit all areas of the state. The Governor will push for the funding during the upcoming legislative session.

Here are details of the plan:

- **\$400,000 to support education and free rodeo clinics at Expo New Mexico.** The money will help recruit rodeo professionals, dorm rentals and other necessities that enable the state to offer clinics that are free to New Mexicans.
- **\$553,000 for improvements at Expo New Mexico.** The money would improve dorms, restrooms and outdoor arenas; to purchase shoots and other equipment for rodeo events; and for improvements to Tingley Coliseum and the Palomino Barn.

- **Direct the State Fair to reduce fees for use of Tingley Coliseum, the horse arena and other facilities** for use for youth rodeo competitions as part of the educational program.
- **\$100,000 to create a State Rodeo Commission**, which will implement these rodeo programs.
- The commission will oversee the **New Mexico Patch Program**, which will promote New Mexico athletes in a number of ways. It will help round up private sponsors in order to provide incentives and pay for expenses for eligible contestants at national rodeo competitions. Those contestants will wear a New Mexico patch on the sleeve of their shirts when they compete.
- **\$400,000 for college scholarships** for New Mexico residents who attend and participate in one of the four higher education institutions that have rodeo programs.
- **\$400,000 in capital matching money for improvements to rodeo and fair facilities**. The money would go to cities and counties for rodeo grounds, and will be contingent upon agreements to allow the facilities to be used at no cost or reduced cost for youth rodeo competitions.
- **\$400,000 to enhance 4-H, high school and college rodeo programs**, including developing the New Mexico Intercollegiate Rodeo Finals, which will be rotated between the four college rodeo programs.