

STOCK CONTRACTORS

*Stace Smith took home his
fifth consecutive PRCA Stock
Contractor of the Year award after
the 50th Anniversary Wrangler
National Finals Rodeo in 2008.*

*PRCA ProRodeo photo
by Robby Freeman.*



Stock Contractors

Working behind the scenes from long before the rodeo begins until the last animal is loaded up – stock contractors may be the most overlooked people in rodeo production.

While cowboys get most of the recognition, the livestock at PRCA rodeos plays a vital role in the success of the contestants. In roughstock events, the cowboy's riding skills get half the score and the animals' ability to buck powerfully earns the other half. In the timed events, stock contractors provide animals of similar ability so that cowboys are tested on their own skills, on a level playing field.

The stock contractors' primary goal is to ensure that the four-legged athletes of professional rodeo are healthy, well-fed, properly cared for and fit to perform. This job includes tasks familiar to all ranchers: breeding livestock with the desired characteristics, loading and transporting animals safely, providing medical care and supervising handling. Rodeo stock contractors also have sport-specific jobs, including working behind the chutes to ensure safety for both people and animals, caring for animals during the rodeo itself – even handling public relations for the sport's animal superstars.

Stock contractors are heavily invested in the health and welfare of their livestock. The value of top bulls can reach \$30,000; a first-rate bucking horse can sell for more than \$15,000. But the animals are more than a monetary investment – while they are not cuddly pets, they do become members of the stock contractors' families.

The PRCA sets rules that ensure the humane treatment of rodeo animals. (See "PRCA and Livestock Welfare" in the first chapter of this media guide.) Stock contracting companies that want to supply livestock for PRCA-sanctioned rodeos agree to follow these rules. Collectively, they set and represent the highest industry standard for animal care. PRCA member stock contractors as of Jan. 1, 2009, include:

All American Rodeo Company

Stock contractor: Sam Swearingen

LOCATION: Leicester, N.Y. **BACKGROUND:** In early 2005, an exciting new chapter began for All American Rodeo. With the retirement of Ron and Kathy Martin, Sam Swearingen purchased All American's assets and became the company's sole owner. Swearingen had successfully competed in ProRodeo as a saddle bronc rider for nearly 30 years. Since then, he has continued his commitment to rodeo as the owner of the fastest-growing rodeo company in the northeastern U.S. and Canada. Each year, Swearingen and his staff produce more than 100 award-winning performances in New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Virginia, West Virginia, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia.

Andrews Rodeo Company

Stock contractor: Sammy Andrews

LOCATION: Addielou, Texas. **BUCKING STOCK OF THE YEAR:** Bareback horse Skoal's Outlaw Willie, 1991; bull Bodacious, 1994-95 (inducted into ProRodeo Hall of Fame, 1999; passed away, 2000; grave at Andrews Ranch marked with bucking chute given by RodeoHouston). **OTHER NOTABLE STOCK:** Bull Fender Bender voted third for PRCA Bull of the Year 2007, runner-up, 2006; bull Cat Daddy voted second for PRCA Bull of the Year, 2005. **BACKGROUND:** Sammy Andrews, 2002 PRCA Stock Contractor of the Year, is a third-generation stock contractor. With knowledge gained from a lifetime of rodeo experience, Sammy and his son, James, operate the business and have enjoyed success with their breeding program for bucking bulls and horses. Nine of their bareback horses and bucking bulls were selected for the 2008 Wrangler NFR.

Bad Company Rodeo

Stock contractor: Mack Altizer

LOCATION: Del Rio, Texas. **NOTABLE STOCK:** Championship bulls include seven-time Wrangler National Finals Rodeo bull Wild Thing, Texas Circuit Bucking Bull of the Year, 1996, 1999; Hammer Time, selected to Wrangler NFR seven times; and perennial Wrangler NFR bull Walk This Way. **BACKGROUND:** Mack Altizer, 1998 PRCA Stock Contractor of the Year, is meeting the challenges of rodeo's future while preserving its rich Western heritage. Blending award-winning bucking

stock with the hottest music, Bad Company produces a rocking rodeo concert experience to appeal to a new generation of rodeo fans. From its inception in 1982, Bad Company owner Mack Altizer has striven to grow every aspect of the business (total payout, added money, spectator attendance, contestant entries) every year, keying on unique advertising, promotion and community involvement.

Bar T Rodeo

Stock contractor: Bud Kerby

LOCATION: Salt Lake City and Chester, Utah. **NOTABLE STOCK:** Wrangler National Finals Rodeo bucking horses Deception, High & Mighty and Reception. **BACKGROUND:** Bar T Rodeo has been a family-run operation for more than 50 years. Stock is kept on 2,500 acres, leased and owned, in central Utah. In 1997, Swanny Kerby, who started the business, was inducted into the ProRodeo Hall of Fame. Bud Kerby bought renowned saddle bronc War Paint for \$24,000 in 2002 at Benny Binion's Bucking Horse and Bull Sale. Eleven of their animals were selected for the 2008 Wrangler NFR.

Barnes PRCA Rodeo

Stock contractor: Bob Barnes

LOCATION: Peterson and Cherokee, Iowa. **BUCKING STOCK OF THE YEAR:** Saddle bronc Crystal Springs, 1977. **OTHER NOTABLE STOCK:** Bucking bull T Bar, Reliant Stadium arena-record 94 points with Terry Don West. Bareback horse Smokeless Bow Tie carried Wes Stevenson to 93-point ride at the 2002 U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Company Cup Finale, tying the second-highest score in PRCA history. **BACKGROUND:** Bob Barnes has been in the business for nearly 60 years; he has had stock at each National Finals Rodeo since its inception in 1959 (two animals in 2008) and at every Great Lakes Circuit Finals. One of the most respected stockmen in professional rodeo, he was 1984 PRCA Stock Contractor of the Year and was inducted into the ProRodeo Hall of Fame in 1994. Barnes is one of the most prominent stock contractors in the Midwest, where he continues to educate people about the sport and its Western heritage. Bob has served on the Wrangler NFR Commission, PRCA Executive Board and PRCA Board of Directors. **WEB SITE:** www.BarnesPRCARodeo.com.

Beutler & Son Rodeo Company**Stock contractors: Bennie and Rhett Beutler**

LOCATION: Elk City, Okla. **BUCKING STOCK OF THE YEAR:** Bareback horses SamBass, 1973; Copenhagen Comotion, 1998-2000; saddle broncs Blowout, 1985; Challenger & Skoal, 1987; bulls Cowtown, 1985; Voodoo Child, 2007-08. **OTHER NOTABLE STOCK:** Fighting Stock of the Year – 4B, 1991; Red, 1992; Wack-O, 1996; Spotted Demon, 1998-99, Black Out, 2000. **BACKGROUND:** Longtime PRCA stock contractor Bennie Beutler and his son, Rhett, joined forces in 2001 to form Beutler and Son Rodeo Company, which was known as Beutler and Gaylord Rodeo 1989-2001. The Beutler name has been synonymous with stock contracting since 1929. Bennie's grandfather, Elra, and his great-uncles, Jake and Lynn, began supplying stock to Oklahoma and Texas rodeos more than 70 years ago. Bennie Beutler has served as assistant manager of the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo since 1982; NFR chute boss, 1979-80; member of PRCA Rules Committee, 1980; stock contractor representative on NFR Committee, 1981-82; member of PRCA board of directors, 1989-91; stock contractor director on PRCA board until 2004. He was PRCA Stock Contractor of the Year in 1997. Twenty Beutler & Son bucking animals were selected for the 2008 Wrangler NFR.

Beutler Bros. & Cervi Rodeo Company**Stock contractor: Binion Cervi**

LOCATION: Greeley, Colo. **BUCKING STOCK OF THE YEAR:** Saddle broncs Descent, 1966-69, 1971-72; Frontier Airlines, 1975; Brookman's Velvet, 1980; bull Tiger, 1975. **BACKGROUND:** Binion's father, Mike Cervi, is responsible for producing many of the largest rodeos in the United States. He served on the PRCA board of directors for years and was named PRCA Stock Contractor of the Year in 1983 and 2001. In 1967, Mike Cervi purchased Beutler Bros. Rodeo Company, one of the oldest (since 1929) and most prestigious rodeo companies, as well as the Billy Minick Rodeo Company. Retaining the Beutler name, he formed two companies, Beutler Bros. & Cervi Rodeo Company and Cervi Championship Rodeo. In 2004, Mike sold both companies to his son Binion. A listing for Cervi Championship Rodeo appears later in this section. Beutler Bros. & Cervi sent a saddle bronc to the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in 2008.

Big Bend Rodeo Company**Stock contractor: Don and Chad Hutsell**

LOCATION: Ritzville, Wash. **BUCKING STOCK OF THE YEAR:** Bareback horse Spring Fling, 1997; saddle bronc Spring Fling, 1999-2000; bulls Rapid Fire, 1997; Unforgiven, 2002; Tahonta, 2003-04. **OTHER NOTABLE STOCK:** Dog Face, top bull of the Columbia River Circuit and selected for Wrangler National Finals Rodeo, 1992, runner-up for bull of the year, 1996. **BACKGROUND:** Don Hutsell and Sonny Riley, who also co-own Flying 5 Rodeo Company, formed Big Bend Rodeo Company in April 1992 when they bought the Kelsey and McLean Rodeo Company from the late Ralph McLean. In 1997, Big Bend completed a rare double play with bareback horse Spring Fling and bucking bull Rapid Fire both capturing stock-of-the-year honors. After the 1999 Dodge National Circuit Finals Rodeo, Hutsell decided to put a saddle on Spring Fling, and it paid off as she was voted top saddle bronc for two years, then returned to the bareback string and was voted one of the top three bareback horses for 2005. Big Bend's bulls Unforgiven and Tahonta held the top title for three years straight between them; Tahonta retired in 2006. Big Bend sent five bucking animals to the Wrangler NFR in 2008.

Big Stone Rodeo Company**Stock contractor: Bruce Sunstrum and Art Klassen**

LOCATION: Cessford, Alberta. **NOTABLE STOCK:** At the 2002 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo, Big Stone bareback horse Chester Dippin Bandit and Will Lowe combined for an event-record 91-point ride. The horse, owned and raised by Art Klassen, was selected as top bareback horse of the 2002 Wrangler NFR and has been named top horse of the Canadian Finals Rodeo four times. **BACKGROUND:** Bruce Sunstrum was a Canadian Professional Rodeo Association contestant for 13 years, competing in all three roughstock events. In 1975, he and partner Art Klassen started Big Stone Rodeo Company. In 1997, the company teamed with Mike Cervi to provide stock at rodeos in Denver, San Antonio, Houston and San Angelo, Texas.

Big Stone Rodeo Inc.**Stock contractor: Bruce Sunstrum**

LOCATION: Cessford, Alberta. **NOTABLE LIVESTOCK:** Spoonful of Sugar, Canadian Bucking Bull of the Year, 2008. **BACKGROUND:** Big Stone Rodeo Inc. is a separate company from Big Stone Rodeo Company and is wholly owned by Bruce Sunstrum.

Broken Arrow Rodeo**Stock contractor: Thomas Taylor**

LOCATION: Odessa, Texas. **BUCKING STOCK OF THE YEAR:** Bull Wardance, 2005. **BACKGROUND:** Veteran stock contractor Harry Vold purchased Broken Arrow Rodeo from Bill Owen in 1998. Thomas Taylor is now sole owner of Broken Arrow.

Brookman Rodeo Company**Stock contractor: Dave Wieferich**

LOCATION: Sidney, Mont. **BACKGROUND:** In 2006, Cathy and Dave Wieferich and their three children, LaTasha, Tesa and Tate, took over the rodeo business from the late ProRodeo Hall of Fame stock contractor Marvin Brookman, Cathy's great-grandfather. While continuing to focus on Marvin's famous breeding program, the Wieferiches have added sound, production and rodeo entertainment to the sport. They produce 10 rodeos across the northwestern United States and subcontract for many events all over the U.S. They sent five bucking animals to the 2008 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo. **WEB SITE:** www.BrookmanRodeo.com.

Burch Rodeo Company**Stock contractor: Chad Burch**

LOCATION: Rozet, Wyo. **NOTABLE STOCK:** Burch's Blood Brother, U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Company/PRCA Saddle Bronc Horse of the Year, 2008, runner-up, 2002-03. **BACKGROUND:** For more than 20 years, Max Burch has bred bucking horses that cowboys have described as "rank" or "eliminators." Burch purchased Midwest Rodeo Company from Steve Sutton in 1999, and now Max's son, Chad, runs the company. Burch Rodeo sent 12 head to the 2008 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo.

Burns Rodeo Company**Stock contractor: Hal Burns**

LOCATION: Laramie, Wyo. **BUCKING STOCK OF THE YEAR:** Bulls Mr. T., 1986; Blenderhead, top three PRCA bull, 2004. **BACKGROUND:** Burns Rodeo Company stock is kept at Hal Burns' High Plains Arena, six miles from Laramie, Wyo., and at his ranch some 23 miles from Laramie in southeastern Wyoming, where some portions of the ranch top 8,500 feet in elevation. Pete Burns' son, Hal, began his own bucking stock breeding program a few years ago. They are bucking young horses they raised and have bull calves sired by Wrangler National Finals Rodeo bulls Mr. T and Mardi Gras. Burns Rodeo has had stock selected for the Wrangler NFR every year since 1983, including six animals in 2008.

Calgary Exhibition and Stampede

Stock contractor: Keith Marrington

LOCATION: Calgary, Alberta. **BUCKING STOCK OF THE YEAR:** Bareback horses Lonesome Me, 1984, 1994; Moon Rocket, 1976; Grated Coconut, 2003-04, 2006-08; saddle bronc horses Wande Dee, 1964; Kloud Grey Skoal, 1987; Lonesome Me Skoal, 1989-90. **BACKGROUND:** In 1961, the Calgary Stampede bought a ranch to provide the flexibility needed for their event, breeding 70-plus mares a year to get a continuous supply of high-caliber bucking rodeo stock. With more than 22,000 acres of ranch, 500 horses and 90 head of bulls, the ranch recently has ventured into embryo transfers. In 2008, they sent 15 animals to the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo; Grated Coconut was voted top bareback horse.

Carr Pro Rodeo

Stock contractor: Pete Carr

LOCATION: Dallas and Athens, Texas. **NOTABLE LIVESTOCK:** Real Deal, PRCA Bareback Horse of the Year, 2005, runner-up, 2006; Riverboat Annie, runner-up, PRCA Bareback Horse of the Year, 2007. **BACKGROUND:** Carr Pro Rodeo was established in 2005 by Pete Carr to produce PRCA rodeos and provide high-caliber livestock throughout the United States. He, his wife, Sherrill, and their crew produce the richest rodeo in Oklahoma, Guymon Pioneer Day; the oldest rodeo in Texas, West of the Pecos; and the richest rodeo in New Mexico, Lea County Fair and Rodeo in Lovington. They have excelled at both ends of the arena, providing the calves for the 2007 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo and having 11 head of bucking stock selected for the 2008 Wrangler NFR. Carr Pro Rodeo has also won many circuit awards and set arena records at some of the biggest rodeos in the country. **WEB SITE:** www.CarrProRodeo.com.

Cervi & Guidry Rodeo Company

Stock contractor: Vernon Guidry

LOCATION: Madisonville, Texas. **BACKGROUND:** "Ranch-reared" Vernon Guidry raises most of his formidable bucking bulls. In 1993, Guidry purchased the Dorenkamp Rodeo Company, Holly, Colo. He also has established a phenomenal "born to buck" program with such notable sires as Red Wasp, Hot Damn, Coopers Comet, Western Hauler, Final Dose, XS Energy and Hopscotch, each of whom possesses foundations that go back to legendary bulls such as Rooster, Hobo, Houdini, Tequila and Spook. Guidry partnered up with Binion Cervi in 2005; the Cervi family brings in outstanding foundation-bred horses. Two Cervi & Guidry bulls went to the 2008 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo.

Cervi Championship Rodeo

Stock contractor: Binion Cervi

LOCATION: Sterling, Colo. **BUCKING STOCK OF THE YEAR:** Saddle bronc Brookman's Velvet, 1980; bull Tiger, 1975. **BACKGROUND:** The man responsible for producing many of the largest rodeos in the United States is Binion's father, Mike Cervi. In 2004, Mike sold the business to Binion, who now runs one of the largest stock companies in rodeo history. The Cervis draw from a herd of more than 600 head of bucking stock and thousands of head of other livestock at their Colorado ranches. The company is a conglomeration of several company interests acquired over the years, including Beutler Bros. & Cervi Rodeo Company. In 1973, Mike Cervi acquired Cervi Championship Rodeo Company, previously owned by Harry Knight and Gene Autry. Mike was named PRCA Stock Contractor of the Year in 1983 and 2001. Cervi Championship Rodeo sent five bucking animals to the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in 2008.

Classic Pro Rodeo

Stock contractor: Scotty Lovelace

LOCATION: Waskom, Texas. **NOTABLE LIVESTOCK:** Wise Guy, most outstanding bareback horse of the 2006 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo; Cattle Drive, who carried Ryan Stutes for a 93-point ride in Texarkana, Ark., the second-highest scored bareback ride in PRCA history, in 2006; Big Tex, third-place U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Company/PRCA Bucking Horse of the Year in 2008. **BACKGROUND:** Lovelace, a former bareback rider, developed a love of rodeo in high school. He, his wife, Tonya, and his mother, Patty, purchased Classic Pro Rodeo as an amateur company in 1991; in 1995, it received its PRCA stock contracting card. Lovelace reached the top of his craft in 2003, when he was named PRCA Stock Contractor of the Year; he currently serves as a PRCA stock contractor member on the PRCA's Board of Directors. Classic Pro Rodeo has taken livestock to every Wrangler NFR since eligibility in 1997, sending nine bareback horses, one saddle bronc and one bucking bull in 2008. **WEB SITE:** www.ClassicProRodeo.com.

Corey & Horst Rodeo Company

Stock contractor: Mike Corey

LOCATION: Moses Lake, Wash. **NOTABLE LIVESTOCK:** Bull Seven of Hearts, three-way tie for third, PRCA Bull of the Year, 2005. **BACKGROUND:** Mike Corey, a bull rider, pickup man and amateur contractor, joined forces with financial partner George Horst in 1999. The next year, Corey purchased Southern Rodeos from Billy Jaynes, who started that company in 1990. The company sent seven animals to the 2008 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo.

Cowtown Rodeos

Stock contractor: Grant Harris

LOCATION: Pilesgrove, N.J. **BACKGROUND:** Grant Harris' grandfather started producing rodeos in 1930 as a sideline to the family's livestock market. In 1955, Grant's father, Howard, started a weekly rodeo. In 1978, Grant Harris purchased an Eastern rodeo and renamed it Cowtown; he continues to produce rodeos in conjunction with livestock auctions, farmer's markets and farming operations. Harris, who joined the PRCA in 1973, competed in bull riding, team roping and saddle bronc riding. He was First Frontier Circuit saddle bronc riding champion in 1975 and 1977-78.

D & H Cattle

Stock contractors: Lori Franzen and Dillon Page

LOCATION: Wright, Wyo., and Ardmore, Okla. **BACKGROUND:** In 2005, Powder River Rodeo Company owners Hank and Lori Franzen formed a partnership with renowned bull breeder Dillon Page to start D & H Cattle. The Franzens' horses reside on their 15,000-acre ranch in Wright, Wyo., while the bulls are raised on Page's ranch in Ardmore, Okla. They sent eight bucking animals to the 2008 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo.

David Bailey Rodeo Company

Stock contractor: David F. Bailey

LOCATION: Fort Gibson, Okla. **NOTABLE LIVESTOCK:** Dippin' Super Cool, top bull, Wrangler NFR, 2002-03; Lucky Strike, top bull, Wrangler NFR, 2005-06. **BACKGROUND:** Though 1989 was his first year as a PRCA stock contractor, David Bailey has been in the rodeo business for more than 40 years. Bailey and his wife, Lisa, own and manage both the David Bailey Rodeo Company and the ranch where David Bailey's family roots go back to Oklahoma statehood. They sent a bucking bull to the 2008 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo.

Diamond G Rodeos**Stock contractors: Steve and Cyndi Gilbert**

LOCATION: Toquerville, Utah. **NOTABLE LIVESTOCK:** Cody Hancock, 2000 world bull riding champion, scored 96 points on Mr. USA at the 2001 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo – an event record. **BACKGROUND:** Steve and Cyndi Gilbert purchased two stock contracting companies in 1991. Steve Gilbert served as a stock contractor representative on the PRCA Board of Directors from 2005 to 2008. The Gilberts sent six animals to the Wrangler NFR in 2008.

Five Star Rodeo**Owner: Marty Johns; general manager: Paul Bowers**

LOCATION: Davie, Fla. **BACKGROUND:** Five Star Rodeo was formed in 1986 when brothers Troy, Dan and Wayne Weekley and their lifelong friend, Donald Parrish, purchased Flying G Rodeo from Eric Goolsby of Okeechobee, Fla. Marty Johns bought Five Star Rodeo in October 2006.

Flying Diamond Rodeo Company**Stock contractors: Tom Lange and Mike Corey**

LOCATION: Moses Lake, Wash. **BACKGROUND:** In 2007, longtime PRCA stock contractor Frank Beard, of Beard Rodeos, retired. Tom and Leslie Lange, of Greeley, Colo., took over the operation, changing the name to Flying Diamond Rodeo and putting PRCA stock contractor Mike Corey in charge of day-to-day operations. Corey, with George Horst, also owns Corey and Horst Rodeo Company. Flying Diamond sent three bucking bulls to the 2008 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo.

Flying Five Rodeo Company**Stock contractor: Walter "Sonny" Riley**

LOCATION: Pomeroy, Wash. **BUCKING STOCK OF THE YEAR:** Bulls Yellow Jacket, 1999; Border Patrol, 2000. **BACKGROUND:** After producing amateur rodeos in the Northwest for four years, Flying Five joined the PRCA in 1974. The rodeo company is a family-oriented operation, as are their wheat farm and cattle ranch. Riley is a former sale yard owner and has established a breeding program for bucking horses. It isn't unusual for Flying Five to put on a rodeo with as many as 20 young horses in the draw. "Nothing pleases us more than to be able to buck a good cowboy off one of our colts," Riley said. He sent four animals to the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in 2008.

Flying U Rodeo Company**Stock contractor: Cotton Rosser**

LOCATION: Marysville, Calif. **BUCKING STOCK OF THE YEAR:** Classic Velvet, PRCA Bareback Horse of the Year, 1981; Buckskin Velvet, PRCA Saddle Bronc of the Year, 1982. **BACKGROUND:** Cotton Rosser, president and operations manager of the Flying U Rodeo Company, has a successful bucking horse breeding program that has produced excellent bucking stock. Flying U Rodeo Company sent five bucking animals to the 2008 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo, where Troubadour was named top bull. Rosser raises 80 percent of his bucking horses, 10 percent of his bulls and 50 percent of his calves, making only one or two trips to purchase stock each year. Rosser's oldest son, Lee, also holds a stock contractor's card. Sons Reno and Brian and son-in-law Julio Moreno are all PRCA contestants; Brian Rosser and Moreno are also Flying U pickup men. Cotton Rosser's wife, Karin, and his daughter, Cindy Moreno, are PRCA rodeo secretaries and timers. Rosser has served on the PRCA's Board of Directors.

Four L Rodeo Company**Stock contractor: Charlie Lowry**

LOCATION: Summerville, Ga. **BACKGROUND:** 4L is a family-owned and -operated firm founded by former PRCA contestant Charlie Lowry, 2002 Women's Professional Rodeo Association Stock Contractor of the Year. In 1981, Lowry won the steer wrestling and all-around titles at Cheyenne (Wyo.) Frontier Days, pocketing \$18,000 – at the time, the most money ever won at a single rodeo. He qualified for the National Finals Rodeo in 1978-79 and 1981. He also holds 16 year-end titles in the Southeastern Circuit. He obtained his PRCA card in 1974 and started his stock contracting business in 1985. The 4L Rodeo Company works rodeos in the southeastern part of the country and is Georgia's largest, most established professional rodeo producer. **WEB SITE:** www.4LRodeo.com.

Four Star Rodeo Company**Stock contractor: Jeff Davis**

LOCATION: Folsom, Calif. **BACKGROUND:** In 2007, Dan M. Russell, of Russell Rodeo Company, sold his operation to California stock contractor Jeff Davis, who renamed it Four Star Rodeo Company. They sent two bucking bulls to the 2008 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo.

Franklin Rodeo**Stock contractor: Shane Franklin**

LOCATION: Bonnyville, Alberta. **BUCKING STOCK OF THE YEAR:** Bareback horses Kingsway Skoal, 1988; Airwolf, 1993; saddle bronc Kingsway Skoal, 1995-96. **BACKGROUND:** Franklin Rodeo Company has been in operation since the early 1970s and produces rodeos in British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan. Franklin Rodeo raises its own bucking stock from a carefully selected breeding program. They raise 40 colts and 50 bull calves a year on 14,000 acres, deeded and leased; in 2008, they sent four animals to the 2008 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo.

Frontier Rodeo Company**Stock contractors: Jerry Nelson and Jim Crowther**

LOCATION: Winnie, Texas, and Roxbury, Kan. **NOTABLE LIVESTOCK:** Big Bucks, three-way tie for third place, bull of the year, 2005. **BACKGROUND:** In 2004, Jerry Nelson partnered with Jim Crowther, who had been in the rodeo business for more than 25 years, to form Frontier Rodeo. Operating on his ranch in Roxbury, Kan., Crowther has 500 head in his cow-calf operation and runs 2,000 head of yearling grass cattle. The partners have more than 500 bulls performing in amateur and PRCA events, and sent 15 animals to the 2008 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo.

Gold Buckle Rodeo Company**Stock contractors: Dr. Bruce and Christie Fink, Mark Dreesen**

LOCATION: Fairburn, Ga. **BACKGROUND:** Dr. Fink and Mark Dreesen have been in the rodeo business as contestants and stock contractors for more than 20 years each. They both ran their companies as family-owned and -operated businesses, and they merged in 2004. Since then, Gold Buckle has produced and promoted rodeos in the Southeast and the Northwest; it provided a bareback horse to the 2008 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo.

Growney Brothers Rodeo Company**Stock contractor: John Growney**

LOCATION: Red Bluff, Calif. **BUCKING STOCK OF THE YEAR:** Bulls Red Rock, 1987; Dodge Ram Tough, 1996 (also Dodge Truck Bull of the Year). **OTHER NOTABLE LIVESTOCK:** Moulin Rouge was top bareback horse of the 2003 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo; bareback

horse Dreamboat Annie paired with Larry Peabody for an 89-point ride in 1981 for a record that held until 1995; bull Wolfman (whose bloodlines include ProRodeo Hall of Fame bulls Red Rock and Oscar) in 1991 teamed with Wade Leslie for the only 100-point ride in rodeo history. **BACKGROUND:** Growney Brothers Rodeo Company started with stock that Growney, a PRCA roughstock competitor, used for practice. In 1979, Growney purchased Rodeo Stock Contractors and, after three years in the amateur rodeo business, turned professional. Growney, the 2000 PRCA Stock Contractor of the Year and 2008 winner of the PRCA Remuda Award for best pen of livestock, has added partners Don Kish, who oversees the bull program and works as a pickup man, and Tim Bridwell, who oversees the horse program. Growney Brothers' headquarters is on 50 acres just south of Red Bluff. Another 2,000 acres three miles west of town are leased for winter ranging. Growney Brothers sent a dozen bucking animals to the 2008 Wrangler NFR; Sock Dancer was named top saddle bronc.

Harry Vold Rodeo Company

Stock contractor: Harry Vold

LOCATION: Avondale, Colo. **BUCKING STOCK OF THE YEAR:** Saddle broncs Sarcee Sorrel, 1976; Rusty, 1981; Angel Sings, 1978-79; Wrangler Savvy, 1986; Bobby Joe Skoal, 1991-93; bareback horse Smokey, 1974; bulls Panda Bear, 1976, No. 777, 1979-80. **BACKGROUND:** Born and raised in Canada, Vold started his rodeo company in 1954, relocating to a Colorado ranch in the late 1960s. Vold's goal is "to produce top rodeos all over North America and to have the best stock at the biggest and best rodeos, featuring the top cowboys." Vold, voted PRCA Stock Contractor of the Year 11 times, buys most of his bulls but breeds many bucking horses and raises approximately 50 colts a year. He puts on rodeos in 15 states, including Cheyenne (Wyo.) Frontier Days, and sent four bucking horses to the 2008 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo.

Harvey Northcott Rodeo

Stock contractor: Harvey Northcott

LOCATION: Caroline, Alberta. **NOTABLE LIVESTOCK:** Wyatt Earp, top saddle bronc of the 1997-98 National Finals Rodeo; Matt Dillon, top NFR saddle bronc, 1988; bull Truck Payment, reserve world champion, 1989. **BACKGROUND:** Harvey Northcott raises some of his bulls from a herd of 65 ranch-raised Brahma-cross cows on 1,600 acres of deeded lands in the west-central hills of Alberta. Northcott produced his first rodeo July 1, 1967, in Carlsland, Alberta. He picked up his Canadian Professional Rodeo Association membership in 1972 and became a PRCA member in 1975.

Honeycutt Rodeo

Stock contractor: Roy Honeycutt

LOCATION: Alamosa, Colo. **BACKGROUND:** Roy Honeycutt, a former PRCA competitor, uses knowledge he has acquired through the years to produce fair competition and expand ProRodeo's scope and reach. Based in Alamosa, Colo., Honeycutt continues the traditions of his father-in-law, Walter Alsaugh, who passed along his legacy of wisdom in stock contracting and breeding award-winning bucking horses. Four generations of the Honeycutt Rodeo family create quality family-oriented rodeo entertainment with award-winning bucking stock, top contract personnel and dynamic music. Honeycutt Rodeo sent a bucking bull to the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in 2008.

J Bar J Inc.

Stock contractors: Mark "Sparky" and Marlene Dreesen

LOCATION: Clare, Mich., and Circle, Mont. **NOTABLE LIVESTOCK:** Perennial Wrangler National Finals Rodeo bucking bull Nightjacket; 1999 Great Lakes Circuit Bull of the Year Stone Cold; PRCA world champion bucking horses, including 2005's Real Deal of Pete Carr and Stace Smith Pro Rodeos, who was ranch-raised on J Bar J land. **BACKGROUND:** Sparky Dreesen was a PRCA bareback rider in the Badlands Circuit. He and Marlene got started in the rodeo business in the mid-1980s when they bought out Harlan Gunville, of Eagle Butte, S.D., and started producing high school and amateur rodeos. In 2004, they merged with Dr. Bruce Fink and Gold Buckle Rodeo Company. In December 2008, they merged with Jim and Maggie Zinser's J Bar J Ranch to form J Bar J Inc. In 30 years as J Bar J owners, the Zinsers developed a bucking horse breeding program that produced PRCA world champions; they sent a bareback horse to the 2008 Wrangler NFR. Now, the combined companies will produce rodeos from Montana to Pennsylvania. PRCA steer wrestler Cody Zinser is staying on as a pickup man and will help with arena preparation; barrel racer Shannon Zinser will time events and help Maggie with rodeo secretary work, as well as planning patriotic openings with her daughter, Jayce.

JK Rodeo Company

Stock contractor: Jim Kenney

LOCATION: Carlsbad, N.M. **BACKGROUND:** Jim Kenney, PRCA Gold Card member, began competing in tie-down roping and steer roping in 1961 and has been involved in rodeo ever since. He purchased Custer-bred mares from Harry Vold in the early 1990s and, with help from Ike Sankey, started raising bucking stock. He also raises commercial stock on his ranch in Guadalupe Peak, Texas. In 2000, Kenney purchased Auger Rodeo Company and renamed it. In 2008, he sent two bareback horses to the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo.

JS Rodeo

Stock contractor: John Smith

LOCATION: Vaughn, Mont., and Belt, Mont. **NOTABLE STOCK:** Let's Play, tied for top bareback horse of the Dodge National Circuit Finals Rodeo, 2008. **BACKGROUND:** Smith has been raising bucking horses since he was very young and competed in the saddle bronc riding for more than 20 years, qualifying for the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in 1990 and 1991. Smith won a Canadian saddle bronc championship in 1988. He is partnered with rancher J. Patrick Johnson, who has been in the rodeo business since the 1970s. JS Rodeo sent two saddle bronc horses to the 2008 Wrangler NFR. **WEB SITE:** www.JSRodeo.com.

Kesler Championship Rodeo

Stock contractor: Duane Kesler

LOCATION: Helena, Mont., and McGrath, Alberta. **BUCKING STOCK OF THE YEAR:** Cool Alley, PRCA Bareback Horse of the Year, 2001, and U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Company/PRCA Saddle Bronc Horse of the Year, 2004, tied in 2008; Alley Ways, PRCA Bareback Horse of the Year, 2002, 2004. **OTHER NOTABLE LIVESTOCK:** Kesler's Cover Girl teamed with Wes Stevenson for a PRCA-record 94-point ride at the 2002 ProRodeo Classic in Dallas. **BACKGROUND:** In 1995, Duane Kesler took over the company started by his grandfather, Reg Kesler, in 1950. In 2008, Kesler Championship Rodeo sent eight animals to the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo.

Kesler Rodeos**Stock contractor: Greg Kesler**

LOCATION: Helena, Mont. **BUCKING STOCK OF THE YEAR:** Saddle broncs Painted Smile, 2001-03; Skoal's Alley Cat, 1988. **OTHER NOTABLE LIVESTOCK:** Saddle bronc Country Cat, most outstanding saddle bronc, Wrangler National Finals Rodeo, 2006. **BACKGROUND:** As the son of the late stock contractor Reg Kesler, Greg Kesler was reared in the rodeo industry. "My dad started his business in 1950 and I branched out into my own in 1974," said Kesler, who runs 375 head of horses, 125 bulls and a large beef herd on six sections of land 14 miles south of Lethbridge, Alberta. Kesler has competed in all rodeo events except bull riding. Kesler's family-operated stock contracting company produces about 15 rodeos a year, and he takes great pride in his stock. "Only the best is good enough," he said. Kesler Rodeos sent a dozen bucking animals to the 2008 Wrangler NFR.

Klein Brothers Pro Rodeo**Stock contractor: Errol Klein**

LOCATION: Jackson, La. **NOTABLE LIVESTOCK:** Cochise, most outstanding bull, Wrangler National Finals Rodeo, 2007. **BACKGROUND:** Klein & Sons Rodeo Company was started in 1970 as Circle K Rodeo by Dan Klein. His son, Errol, is the primary stock contractor, chute boss and arena director. Errol's brothers, Roy "Boo" and Dan Jr., are pickup men. Now named Klein Brothers Pro Rodeo, the company has progressed through the ranks, producing Little Britches, high school and college rodeos, as well as providing stock for professional rodeos since the company began. The Klein family joined the PRCA and became a professional stock contracting company in 1978. The next year, the company produced 15 rodeos, including two college and two high school rodeos, spanning five states and 700 miles from Arkansas to Mississippi. Klein Brothers Pro Rodeo sent two bucking bulls to the Wrangler NFR in 2008.

Korkow Rodeos**Stock contractor: Jim Korkow**

LOCATION: Pierre, S.D. **BUCKING STOCK OF THE YEAR:** Saddle bronc, Slippery, 2006, also top saddle bronc, Wrangler National Finals Rodeo, 2005. **NOTABLE LIVESTOCK:** Badlands Circuit Saddle Bronc of the Year, tie, Vidalia and Queenie; 2008; Badlands Circuit Bull of the Year, Mortachi, 2008. **BACKGROUND:** Korkow Rodeos, heading into its 60th year, has a strong breeding program, raising 90 percent of its own bucking stock, and its saddle broncs are in high demand. The Korkows produce professional, 4-H, college and high school rodeos. Korkow Rodeos remains one of only three contracting companies that has had stock chosen for every NFR since it began in 1959; in 2008, they sent eight bucking animals to the big show. In 1996, the WPRA selected Jim Korkow as its stock contractor of the year. **WEB SITE:** www.KorkowRodeos.com.

Lancaster & Pickett Pro Rodeo Company**Stock contractors: Chad Lancaster and Cullen Pickett**

LOCATION: Fairfield, Texas. **BACKGROUND:** Chad Lancaster and Cullen Pickett formed their partnership in 2002. Their livestock performed at the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in 2005 and 2008 and at the Wrangler ProRodeo Tour Championship in Dallas, 2005-08. Lancaster's father, Ray, has been involved in stock contracting and rodeo production for nearly 30 years. Besides producing top livestock, the company strives to give its crowds a great production. All-American Cowgirl Chicks, an equestrian drill team, performs at Lancaster and Pickett rodeos throughout Texas. In 2008, Lancaster & Pickett Pro Rodeo sent a bucking bull to the Wrangler NFR.

Mid-States Rodeo Company**Stock contractor: John Walter**

LOCATION: Kirksville, Mo. **BACKGROUND:** Mid-States Rodeo Company marked its 36th year in business in 2008. Walter became a PRCA stock contractor in 1979 and was named Great Lakes ProRodeo Circuit stock contractor of the year in 1985.

MJM Rodeos**Stock contractors: Marty and John Barnes**

LOCATION: Peterson and Sutherland, Iowa. **NOTABLE LIVESTOCK:** MJM Rodeos horses were high-point winners in three of 10 saddle bronc riding performances at the 2005 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo; Valpo Johnny was selected fourth-best saddle bronc. **BACKGROUND:** The sons of prominent rodeo producer Bob Barnes, Marty and John began their own stock contracting business in 1984, producing eight rodeos. They have also begun a horse breeding program. John Barnes serves as a PRCA stock contractor member on the PRCA's Board of Directors.

Mo' Betta Rodeo Company**Stock contractors: Maury and Nikki Tate**

LOCATION: Apache, Okla. **BACKGROUND:** This husband-and-wife team has been raising bucking bulls since 2000, and sent two bucking bulls to the 2008 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo. Maury has been a PRCA tie-down roper for 18 years and was the 1991 Dodge National Circuit Finals Rodeo tie-down roping champion. When the Tates acquired the contract for Cody Nite Rodeo (Wyo.), their business started to grow. The Cody Nite Rodeo has also grown through increased contestant appearances, rodeo crowds and contestant payout since they've taken over, said Maury Tate. The company is also known for its Mo' Betta shirt line and for hosting the Mo' Betta Invitational Calf Roping and Mo' Betta Celebrity Quail Hunt.

Mosbrucker Rodeos**Stock contractor: Wally Mosbrucker**

LOCATION: Mandan, N.D. **NOTABLE LIVESTOCK:** Silver Moon, on whom 2007 World Champion Saddle Bronc Rider Taos Muncy won the seventh round of the 2007 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo with 87.5 points; War Chick, on whom five-time World Champion Saddle Bronc Rider Billy Etbauer won the eighth round of the 2007 Wrangler NFR with an 88.5; Magic Wars, top bareback horse of the 2007 Wrangler NFR, highlighted by a 91.5-point ride with three-time World Champion Will Lowe that won the 10th round and tied the arena record. **BACKGROUND:** Mosbrucker Rodeos has been in the stock contracting business since 1978, turning professional in 2004 and sending two horses to the Wrangler NFR the very next year. Their central location means they can supply stock from Pasadena, Texas, to Ottawa, Ontario, to Sisters, Ore., to Albany, N.Y. Cowboys have won money on Mosbrucker stock at major rodeos including the Fort Worth (Texas) Stock Show and Rodeo; Black Hills Stock Show and Rodeo (Rapid City, S.D.); Sisters, Ore.; Cheyenne (Wyo.) Frontier Days; the Wrangler Tour stop in Omaha, Neb.; Dodge City (Kan.) Roundup Rodeo; Days of '76 Rodeo (Deadwood, S.D.); Lewiston (Idaho) Roundup Rodeo; and the Wrangler NFR. Mosbrucker Rodeos sent six bucking horses to the 2008 Wrangler NFR.

New West Rodeo**Stock contractor: Wade Sankey**

LOCATION: Joliet, Mont., and Powell, Wyo. **BACKGROUND:** Wade Sankey, the son of long-time stock contractor Ike Sankey, is both a stock contractor and PRCA contestant. New West Rodeo sent a bucking bull to the 2008 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo. **WEB SITE:** www.NewWestRodeo.com.

Northern Cross Rodeo Company

Stock contractor: Glenn Herriman

LOCATION: Omak, Wash. **BACKGROUND:** Glenn Herriman and his wife, Belinda, started their stock contracting business in the amateur ranks 20 years ago. Eventually, their five daughters had a hand in the operation too. In 2004, the company purchased its PRCA card. Herriman, a former PRCA contestant and still a pickup man on occasion, has two ranches in Omak, Wash.

Painted Pony Championship Rodeo

Stock contractor: Shawn Graham

LOCATION: Lake Luzerne, N.Y. **NOTABLE LIVESTOCK:** Partner, 2008 First Frontier Circuit Bull of the Year; Misfit, 2008 First Frontier Circuit Bareback Horse of the Year; 2007, Shasta, 2007 First Frontier Saddle Bronc Horse of the Year. **BACKGROUND:** After six years in amateur rodeo, Shawn Graham got his PRCA stock contractor card in 2006, shortly after purchasing the 56-year-old Painted Pony Championship Rodeo company from Jack McCue. Painted Pony sent a saddle bronc horse to the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in 2008 – the first New York stock contractor to take a bucking horse to Las Vegas for the big event.

Outlaw Buckers Rodeo

Stock contractor: Art Peters

LOCATION: Hythe, Alberta.

Powder River Rodeo

Stock contractors: Hank and Lori Franzen

LOCATION: Riverton, Wyo. **BUCKING STOCK OF THE YEAR:** Bareback horse Khadafy, 1990, 1995-96; saddle bronc Miss Congeniality, 2005, 2007; reserve champion bareback Skoal's Frontier, 1991. **BACKGROUND:** Hank Franzen, a PRCA Gold Card member, began in the PRCA stock contracting business in 1986 after spending all his life in a rodeo arena. He and his wife, Lori, started the company on their own. In more than 23 years of business, they have earned 148 "top stock" awards, including Dodge National Circuit Finals Rodeo and circuit awards. The Franzens' children, Jill and John, are a huge part of their family entertainment productions. The Franzens run more than 350 head of horses, 150 head of bulls and 50 head of cows, most of them raised in the "born to buck" breeding program they started 19 years ago; they sent six bucking horses to the 2008 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo. The Franzens produce and lease to 35 rodeos a year. Hank also serves as stock contractor representative for the DNCFR.

Pro Rodeos

Stock contractors: Terry Walls, J.C. Kitaif

LOCATION: Tylertown, Miss.; Goldthwaite, Texas **BACKGROUND:** In 2008, J.C. Kitaif's Pro Rodeos and Terry Walls Rodeo Company merged to form Pro Rodeos Inc., with more than 40 years of rodeo experience from Florida to Texas. ProRodeos Inc. provides top stock to the major tour rodeos.

Rafter G Rodeo Company

Stock contractor: Neal Gay; general manager, Jim Gay

LOCATION: Terrell, Texas. **BACKGROUND:** In 1958, a group of cowboys, including Neal Gay (father of eight-time world bull riding champion Don Gay), Jim Shoulders, Ira Akers, Bob Grant, Harry Tompkins and D.J. Gaudin, formed the company. (Gay also founded Mesquite Championship Rodeo, formerly Mesquite Rodeo Company.) Gay and Shoulders purchased an old auction barn in 1957, tore it down and built the Mesquite rodeo arena, which opened in 1958. The \$6.5 million "Home of

the Mesquite Championship Rodeo" made its successful debut in 1986 and played host to the 2000 Copenhagen Cup Finale of the summer Wrangler ProRodeo Tour. In 1999, Gay sold the Mesquite Championship Rodeo Complex and changed the name of his rodeo company to Rafter G. In 2008, Rafter G Rodeo Company sent six animals to the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo.

Rafter H Rodeo Livestock Company

Stock contractor: Dell Hall

LOCATION: Hulbert, Okla. **BUCKING STOCK OF THE YEAR:** Saddle bronc Alibi, 1983; bull No. 105, 1981, 1984; Skoal's King Kong, 1998. **BACKGROUND:** Dell Hall has been in the stock contracting business since 1961, and a member of the PRCA since 1976. Rafter H Rodeo is a family-run operation on a ranch 10 miles northwest of Tahlequah, Okla., and sent three animals to the 2008 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo. Dell's wife, Betty, is a PRCA timer, while his daughter, Shelley, is a PRCA secretary. As a former contestant in both riding and timed events, Hall knows that the stock draw can make or break a contestant. Hall raises most of his bucking horses and bulls, but still makes two or three buying trips a year for stock.

Rosser Rodeo Company

Stock contractor: Lee Rosser

LOCATION: Wheatland, Calif. **NOTABLE LIVESTOCK:** Wrangler National Finals Rodeo selections have included Lady Red Hawk, Flood Waters, Black Jack, Dirty Water and Hot Water. **BACKGROUND:** Established in 1994, Rosser Rodeo Company is family-owned and -operated. Rosser competed in the PRCA for more than 18 years in saddle bronc riding, steer wrestling, tie-down roping and team roping. His wife, Bonnie, is a Gold Card member and PRCA timer, while his son, Levi, is a PRCA steer wrestler, roper and pickup man, and his daughter Linsay competes in barrel racing, ropes and is part manager of the company. The company works extensively with breeding programs for replacement bulls and horses, and sent a bucking bull to the 2008 Wrangler NFR. Rosser has been a PRCA card member since 1966 and serves on the PRCA Stock Contractors Executive Council.

Rumford Rodeo Company

Stock contractors: Bronc, Tommy and Lola Rumford; Elmer Anderson

LOCATION: Abbyville, Kan. **BACKGROUND:** The company has been involved in rodeo for three generations for whom rodeo is more than a tradition, it's a way of life. Every member of the Rumford and Anderson families is involved in breeding programs that generate bucking horses and bulls used at their rodeos. Rodeo production is managed by Bronc Rumford, a Gold Card member of the PRCA. Son Tommy Rumford and Doyle Anderson work behind the scenes, transporting and handling livestock. Jerome Schneeberger, one of the premier tie-down ropers in the world, works as a pickup man, while his wife Haley, Bronc's daughter, handles secretary/timer chores with Kate Rumford, Bronc's wife. Other Rumford children, Justin, Tyrell and Tamara, compete and run the family companies. Bronc's mother, Lola, shares her wisdom and guidance. PRCA members since 1984, the company produces 10-15 PRCA-sanctioned events annually and takes part in high school and college rodeos. The company has produced Wild West shows and rodeos in Finland, France, Venezuela and, most recently, the Middle East country of Oman.

Salt River Rodeo Company

Stock contractors: Skip Beeler and Ward Macza

LOCATION: Mayer, Ariz. **NOTABLE LIVESTOCK:** Primetime, top bucking bull of the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo, 2001; son Out of Time, Wrangler NFR, 2005.

BACKGROUND: Skip Beeler became a PRCA bullfighter in 1978, working many top rodeos. After retiring from bullfighting in 1984, he teamed with two partners to build a successful concrete and framing company in the Phoenix area. As that company matured, Beeler ventured into farming and ranching. In 1994, he started breeding bucking bulls and returned to the rodeo industry as a stock contractor. In 2006-07, he served as president of the Turquoise Circuit; in 2008, he was elected to the PRCA's Executive Council. Ward Macza is a former saddle bronc rider and an active pickup man. Although he grew up in the cattle industry, his love of horses inspired him to become a stock contractor. In 1995, he produced his first rodeo and in 2008, partnered with Salt River Rodeo Company, bringing extensive knowledge, horsemanship and quality horses. Salt River owns 150 head of horses – 100 bucking horses, the rest brood mares and colts – and 150 head of bulls, 40 bucking today and the rest calves in the breeding program. Salt River Rodeo Company sent three animals to the 2008 Wrangler NFR.

Sammy Catalena Rodeo Company

Stock contractor: Sammy Catalena

LOCATION: Bryan, Texas. **BACKGROUND:** Sammy Catalena has been involved in rodeo his entire life, and became a PRCA stock contractor in 1987. Before starting his stock contracting business from scratch in the mid-1970s, Catalena competed in youth, college and amateur rodeos. Catalena's wife, Carolyn, and their three sons handle many of the responsibilities of the rodeo business. "We strive through the years to continually upgrade our bucking stock and keep the best timed-event cattle possible," Sammy Catalena has said. He has more than 2,500 acres of ranch land for his 215 head of horses and 60 head of bulls.

Sankey Rodeo Company

Stock contractor: Ike Sankey

LOCATION: Joliet, Wyo. **BUCKING STOCK OF THE YEAR:** Saddle broncs Skitso Skoal, 1994, 1997; Skoal's Wild Card, 1998; Surprise Party Skoal, 2000. **OTHER NOTABLE LIVESTOCK:** Show Biz, Montana Circuit Finals Saddle Bronc Horse of the Year, 2008; Gus, Montana Circuit Finals Bareback Horse of the Year, 2008; William, PRCA Bareback Horse of the Year, second in 1996-97, third in 2006. **BACKGROUND:** Ike Sankey started rodeo competition in 1969 and has stayed involved in the sport since then, getting his stock contracting card in 1978 with his father, Bud. Ike Sankey qualified four consecutive times for the National Finals Rodeo (1975-78). In 1978, he qualified in two events – bareback riding and saddle bronc riding. His evolution from competitor to producer makes him sensitive to the needs of the cowboys and their point of view. He believes that professional rodeo should be fast, fun, family-friendly entertainment. All Sankey horses ever taken to the Wrangler NFR are raised by Sankey; the company sent eight bucking horses to the 2008 Wrangler NFR. **WEB SITE:** www.SankeyProRodeo.com.

Silver Spurs Club Inc.

Stock contractor: Doug Partin

LOCATION: Kissimmee, Fla. **BACKGROUND:** The Silver Spurs Club's first full-dress rodeo was held July 4, 1944, and has been a yearly event since. An annual February rodeo was added in 1951, and the club celebrated the production of its 100th rodeo in February 1998. It continues to produce rodeos every February and June. The club also provides the stock for rodeos in Okeechobee, Fla., in March and September. The famous Silver Spurs Quadrille has performed at every rodeo produced by the club. **WEB SITE:** www.SilverSpursRodeo.com.

Silverado Rodeo Company

Stock contractor: Harlan Robertson

LOCATION: Ennis, Texas. **BACKGROUND:** In early 2008, Harlan Robertson, of Southwick Robertson Rodeo Company, purchased Silverado Rodeo Company from 1981 World Steer Wrestling Champion and 16-time Wrangler National Finals Rodeo qualifier Byron Walker. Silverado Rodeo sent 11 bucking bulls to the 2008 Wrangler NFR.

Slash T Rodeo Company

Stock contractor: Pat O'Maley

LOCATION: Gooding, Idaho. **NOTABLE LIVESTOCK:** Bull Snake Eater, who in 2003 paired with Terry Don West for a 95-point ride, the second-highest Wrangler National Finals Rodeo score ever; Desperado, top bareback horse of the Wilderness Circuit Finals, 2007-08; Gone Wild, top bareback horse of the Wilderness Circuit Finals, 2006.

BACKGROUND: Pat O'Maley got into stock contracting in 1981, and joined the PRCA in 2002 when he bought out Gilbert Rodeo Company and renamed it Slash T Rodeo Company after he and his wife, Juanita, decided to trade their stock cow operation for a life in rodeo. Pat O'Maley, a former champion bull rider, has served as stock contractor director for the Wilderness Circuit board for the last seven years. The company supplies livestock to more than 25 rodeos each year.

Smith, Harper & Morgan Rodeo Company

Stock contractor: Stace Smith

LOCATION: Athens, Texas. **BUCKING STOCK OF THE YEAR:** Bareback horse Real Deal, 2005. **BACKGROUND:** Stace Smith, a stock contractor since 1995, became owner of Smith, Harper and Morgan in 2004. Harper and Morgan had been producing rodeos since 1965 and had been stock contractors since 1983. Smith, Harper & Morgan Rodeo sent a saddle bronc horse to the 2008 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo.

Southwick's Rocky Mountain Rodeo Company

Stock contractors: Glenn Southwick, Jesse Hill, Will Cook, Cody Ohl

LOCATION: Jay Em, Wyo., and Madill, Okla. **BACKGROUND:** Glenn Southwick has been involved in rodeo since his youth, when he was a bull rider. For the past 20 years, he has been contracting stock for rodeos at all levels, and he has been a PRCA member since 1998. Partners Jesse Hill and Cody Ohl are both PRCA contestants; Hill is a former bareback rider, while Ohl, a tie-down roper and steer roper, is a five-time tie-down roping world champion who won the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo all-around in 2001. Will Cook has been contracting rodeos at all levels in Oklahoma for 20 years.

Stace Smith Pro Rodeos

Stock contractor: Stace Smith

LOCATION: Athens, Texas. **BUCKING STOCK OF THE YEAR:** Bull Hurricane, 2001. **OTHER NOTABLE LIVESTOCK:** Saddle bronc horse Big Jet finished third for stock of the year and third for Wrangler National Finals Rodeo top stock, 2005. **BACKGROUND:** A PRCA stock contractor since 1995, Stace Smith has made a name for himself by sending stock to the Wrangler NFR every year since 1999. The owner of a telecommunications construction company, Smith also stays busy building his bull and bucking horse breeding program. He has been named PRCA Stock Contractor of the Year five years in a row, 2004-08, earned the Remuda award for best pen of bucking horses in 2004-05 and sent 10 bucking animals to the 2008 Wrangler NFR.

Sutton Rodeos

Stock contractor: Jim Sutton

LOCATION: Onida, S.D. **BUCKING STOCK OF THE YEAR:** Saddle bronc Deep Water, 1979; bareback horse Tombstone, 1985. **BACKGROUND:** Jim's father, James H. Sutton – a ProRodeo Hall of Fame member – produced his first rodeo on the home ranch in 1926. Sutton Rodeos was formed in the late 1960s, and with 80 years of rodeo experience, the Sutton tradition continues. Jim's son, Steve, is co-owner and has worked as a pickup man at the National Finals Rodeo in three decades (1978, 1981, 1986, 1993, 1995). The Suttons raise 90 percent of their breeding horses. Sutton Rodeos produced NFR openings in 1995 and 1996, and Jim started the Wrangler Bullfights in 1981 in Rapid City, S.D. Jim's wife Julie is in charge of publicity and advance promotion, and is a PRCA timer, as is Steve's wife, Kim. In the family's fifth generation, Steve and Kim's daughter, Amy, is a PRCA timer; one son, Brent, is a PRCA contestant and pickup man, and their youngest son, Brice, was a state high school rodeo finalist. **WEB SITE:** www.SuttonRodeo.com.

Three Hills Rodeo

Stock contractor: David Morehead

LOCATION: Maquoketa, Iowa. **BACKGROUND:** The stock contracting and production company has been in existence since 1986 and features award-winning livestock and quality production. The ranching operation features a bucking horse and bull breeding program with superior genetics as well as a commercial cow/calf herd and registered quarter horses and paints. Three Hills Rodeo sent five bucking horses and two bulls to the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in 2008.

Triple V Rodeo Company

Stock contractors: Dona Vold-Larsen, Doug and Darce Vold

LOCATION: Avondale, Colo., and Casper, Wyo. **NOTABLE STOCK:** Q, Mountain States Circuit Bull of the Year, 2006-08, Dodge National Circuit Finals Rodeo Bull of the Year, 2008. **BACKGROUND:** Known for having produced many top rodeos in the past, this three-sibling partnership formed Triple V Rodeo in March 2005. Their continued success is credited to outstanding production in the arena as well as raising top quality bucking horses and bulls through a longstanding breeding program. Their father, Harry Vold, has been in the rodeo business for more than 50 years and is a member of the ProRodeo Hall of Fame, and Doug Vold was inducted into the Canadian ProRodeo Hall of Fame in 2005. Dona Vold-Larsen produced "A Tribute to Chris Ledoux," voted 2005 Small Indoor Rodeo of the Year. Triple V Rodeo Company, the Women's Professional Rodeo Association's 2008 Stock Contractor of the Year, has sent stock to the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo every year since 2000, including a bucking bull in 2008.

Universal Rodeos

Stock contractor: Mark Johnson

LOCATION: Jackson, Mo. **BACKGROUND:** Johnson started producing amateur rodeos in 1994. In 2004, he merged with Glenn Southwick, of Wellington, Colo., and their company was selected to provide livestock to the 2004 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo. Johnson operates on a 300-acre ranch in Jackson, Mo., with a herd of 80 horses and 55 bulls.

Wayne Vold Rodeo Company

Stock contractor: Wayne Vold

LOCATION: High River, Alberta. **BUCKING STOCK OF THE YEAR:** Saddle bronc Try Me, 1984. **OTHER NOTABLE LIVESTOCK:** Awesome, top bareback horse, Wrangler National Finals Rodeo, 2005, 2007. **BACKGROUND:** Wayne Vold is a son of Harry Vold, one of the PRCA's most highly regarded stock contractors and a member of its ProRodeo Hall of Fame. Wayne Vold got into the business in 1965 through a partnership with his father, and the liaison continues today. Father and son often work together to supply stock for a rodeo, even though Wayne locates his string in De Winton, Alberta, and Harry's home base is Avondale, Colo. They also work together on a breeding program, helping raise their own bucking stock; Wayne Vold raises about 75 percent of his livestock. He has sung the Canadian national anthem several times at the Wrangler NFR, and sent five bucking horses to the 2008 Wrangler NFR.

Western Rodeos

Stock contractor: Dan M. Russell

LOCATION: Henryetta, Okla. **BUCKING STOCK OF THE YEAR:** Bulls Skoal Pacific Bell, 1988-90; Copenhagen Rocky, 1992; Grasshopper, 1993. **BACKGROUND:** Dan H. Russell bought the company in 1963 to start a hobby, a place for him to buck vast numbers of bulls on his ranches in Nevada, Wyoming and California. Son Dan M. Russell became sole owner when he bought out his father, Dan H. Russell, keeping Western Rodeos a family business. Through hard work in securing some of the best stock on the West Coast, as well as a successful breeding program, Western Rodeos has become one of the strongest contracting businesses in rodeo. In 2002, Dan M. and his wife Linda moved their breeding program to Oklahoma, where they are successfully running the program with semen that they started collecting in the late 1980s. They sent three bulls to the 2008 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo. **WEB SITE:** www.WesternRodeos.com.

Western Trails Rodeo

Stock contractor: Jerome Robinson

LOCATION: Boulder and Fort Collins, Colo. **BACKGROUND:** After being inactive in rodeo stock contracting for 12 years, Rex Walker combined forces with longtime friend and rodeo producer Jerome Robinson. Walker runs 1,200 head of horses on his two Colorado ranches and is active in the outfitting guide business. Robinson runs the day-to-day business and is responsible for rodeo production, promotion, advertising and sponsorship services. "Our goal is to provide service to the rodeo industry with any one or all of our company's facets that are aimed at a family entertainment package," says Walker. Western Trails Rodeo sent a saddle bronc horse to the 2008 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo.

Wild Card Rodeo Company

Stock contractor: Tom Reeves

LOCATION: Ranger, Texas. **BACKGROUND:** In 2007, Tom Reeves, 2001 world champion saddle bronc rider, started his PRCA stock contracting career with the founding of Wild Card Rodeo. Reeves also serves as college rodeo coach at Ranger College; he led the men's team to the national team title in 2007. Charles Pat Halverson is also associated with Wild Card Rodeo Company.