

THE

BREAKAWAY

ROPING JOURNAL

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The Gunslinger

Angelone Banks \$70.9K at WRWC

| BETTER STARTS | ROPING CALVES: Ins and Outs



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Angelone Wins \$70,900 and 2022 Women's Rodeo World Championship Event Title in Fort Worth

With back-to-back breakaway runs in 2.05 and 2.04 seconds, Martha Angelone adds \$60,000 to her total earnings in Cowtown Coliseum over three days of 2022 Women's Rodeo World Championship.

—Casey Allen



COURTESY WCRABULL STOCK MEDIA

Growing up in Cross Junctions, Virginia, Martha Angelone never dreamed she would be picking up \$70,900 with a breakaway rope in one week.

On May 18, 2022, the cowgirl now based in Stephenville, Texas, put a loop on in the WRWC Showdown round in 2.05 seconds to lead the breakaway ropers into the Triple Crown of Rodeo Round, where she smoked a 2.04-second run to win \$60,000. Add that to her WRWC round winnings, and the \$5,000 she won for the year-end championship, and you've got enough money to leave Angelone nearly speechless.

"They asked me how it felt winning \$60,000 tonight, and I didn't even know what to say," Angelone admitted. "How do you even describe it? I've never had this much money—I never thought I'd have this much money."

Waiting at the out gate were Angelone's sister, Sarah, and friend, Danielle Lowman. Both Angelone and Britta Strain roped in 2.04-seconds, and the alleyway was quiet as the announcer checked on the tie-breaker. It was determined that Angelone's Showdown run, which topped the round ahead of Strain's 2.25-second run, meant the victory was hers. At that time, the ladies erupted into cheers as Angelone returned to the arena for her televised interview.

"I'm just so proud of her," Sarah said. "I love watching her win. It's a blessing to watch her rope and do good." **BRJ**

6-Month Pregnant Kelsie Domer to Bow Out of Rodeo's Regular Season for Summer Run

The 2022 ProRodeo regular season is over for Kelsie Domer.

Domer, who won Fort Worth in January, has been to 13 rodeos and won \$42,192.88 as of May 20—second only to Erin Johnson, who counted \$25,000 of her \$50,000 RodeoHouston win for the standings. That brought Johnson's 12-rodeo total to \$50,249.66. Domer, who has nine WPRA world titles, has been roping with her saddle horn cut off to make room for her stomach for the last few weeks.

"I've felt great," Domer, 31, of Stephenville, Texas, said. "I've been pretty lucky—I haven't been sick and it's all been the same for me. It hasn't been that bad at all. Honestly, it's different just because of the thought that I'm pregnant. I'm six months pregnant—I'm all there. But I haven't ever felt like I missed or scored bad because I was pregnant."

Domer's due date is August 29, meaning, theoretically, she could sneak back into the saddle for the last few lucrative stops of the rodeo season. But that's not at all on Domer's radar.

"I'm done for the 2022 rodeo season," Domer said. "I'm not going to try to hustle back or anything like that. Being due the end of August, October 1 is so close to that. I told myself I wasn't going to do that to myself. I'm happy with my winter, I'm happy with the rodeos so far, and I'm going to continue to be happy with that. I'm not going to have it in my mind that, as soon as little girl comes, I'll be pushing to be back. I want to spend time with her." **BRJ**



Makayla Boisjoli



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Nervous Horse Box Work with Lari Dee Guy



TRU FILE PHOTO/JAMIE ARVISO

We ask a lot of breakaway horses—maybe even more so than with head horses—because we demand exceptional precision for such an explosive and short period of time. That can absolutely get them feeling on the muscle.

WHAT NOT TO DO

When a horse gets nervous and wants to run backward and hit the corner, your instinct may be to put your hand down since, ultimately, you wanted them to back up. But that's the worst thing you can do.

WHAT TO DO

- **Keep hold** of the reins and ride your horse with your feet into your hand.
- **Pick up your hand** and **turn him** and keep him in the bridle—don't pull back, but keep him between your bridle reins, into the bit.

You need to **be on your feet** and maneuver the horse with your feet—not your legs.

- **Look** where you want to go.
- **Move** your feet and put your front end

where you want him. Ask him with your feet to get the speed you need.

- **Relax** down on your feet, but keep using them.
- **Engage his back end** while you back up, and keep the contact on the bridle—don't pull, just keep contact.
- Go **one step at a time**.
- **Let him relax** once you get to the corner.
- When you **pick him up to ride him up**, use your feet to make him go to your hand, and put the front end where you want it.
- When you want to walk forward, hold the bridle and ride him forward—**hold up, not back**, with your rein hand.



THE THEORY

No matter what, you have to have control of the bridle. That makes your horse a lot less nervous, because he's told what to do. When they're nervous, and you let *them* make the decisions on a loose rein, they're even more nervous because they *want* to be told what to do. Horses are just like kids—they're looking to *you* for direction and guidance, and when they don't get that, they'll be even more nervous. **BRJ**

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TRU FILE PHOTO BY JAMIE ARVISO

Roping Calves 101

Live calves are an integral part of breakaway roping—not only on competition day, but at home, too. But what makes a good practice calf anyway? Two of the sport's leading cattlewomen offer the 411 on what it means to buy, feed and run breakaway calves. —**Jolee Jordan**

You've got your rope, your horse, your saddle—all selected and purchased after meticulous research. You're ready to embark upon a great breakaway career and solid practice is the first step.

But do you have calves to rope?

Owning and using a good set of practice calves can be a key in your development as a breakaway roper and crucial to improving your horsemanship as well.

So what do you need to know before you head to the cow sale?

BUDGET CONCERNS

Look for prices to vary geographically.

Expect to pay \$350 for dairy calves in the Northwest and \$500-\$600 for beef calves. In Texas, calves are running around \$350-\$475. In Wyoming, corriente calves are costing \$550-\$700 a head.

Leasing can be a legitimate option if you have a supplier in your area. Most charge per head per month and again, costs can vary.

WHICH BREEDS ARE BEST?

Ropers and producers use different breeds for breakaway, but the most popular are dairy calves, like Holsteins and Jerseys, beef cattle and corrientes.

"Every producer is different and it really depends on where you are," Charity Hoar said. "For beef calves, if they're bigger, healthier calves, you can get by in the winter, but the colder weather is harder on them. The altitude is harder on them."

Together with her tie down roping husband, Stuart, Hoar produces bi-monthly jackpots from October to May in Wyoming and northern Colorado. The Hoars also provide cattle to amateur and professional rodeos in their area, including the Mountain States Circuit Finals breakaway in 2021, where Hoar was also a competitor.



"The water trailer and drag that I have from Arena Werks are two of my favorite things on our place. They are both simple to hook up and operate, and they make the ground perfect."

- Dustin Egusquiza

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"We use beef/corriente crosses in the winter," she said. "They stay smaller longer and we've found the corrientes are honest and try harder—they want to live so you don't deal with as much loss."

For practice, Jennifer Casey likes a dairy cross and both ladies agree dairy calves are best for beginners as they are slow and will generally learn and stick to a pattern.

"They give you time to think and correct mistakes for your horse, or you, in the run," she said. "I like slow and medium calves. But I don't think you accomplish much with really fast cattle."

"Variety is important—a good set of practice calves make a terrible set of rodeo calves," she joked. "I don't mind a slow-starting calf where the gate bangs and the horse has to listen to me and wait."

Casey is a past WPRA Columbia River Breakaway Roping Champion and one of the cowgirls who helped start the trend of ProRodeos adding breakaway several years ago. She is also a clinician.

Many of her clinics are taught with Seth Hopper, a PRCA circuit champion tie down roper, at Hopper's place outside of Hermiston, Oregon.

"I love doing clinics with Seth at his place because he has a good feeling arena and the right kind of cattle to learn on," she said. "If you don't have the right kind of cattle, I feel like the learning experience isn't as good."

And, according to Casey, your arena setup is just as important as the type of calves you're using.

"Your arena makes a difference, too, as much as the type of calves. If you've got a lot of left or right . . . I've got a wall on the left on mine, so I don't get much work that way," she said. "Both directions are ok to have for practice."

BREAKING IN YOUR CALVES

Both ladies wait a minimum of a week before even taking a new set of calves to the arena.

"I give them at least five to seven days on my feed before roping or putting any stress in that regard on them," Casey said.

"We give them a week to a week and a



HUBBELL RODEO PHOTOS

half in the new environment before we do anything," Hoar agreed.

She stresses having the right help when you do begin to break the cattle in is a must.

"We have a handful of guys and girls that are our go-to help," she said. "We string them through, two or three at a time, and we'll do that two or three times before we ever rope them."

Casey has a similar process and is also picky about who's in her arena when she works her calves.

"We run them through two or three times with liners, make sure they know where the end is," she said, adding that she's not afraid to put hay or grain at the other end as well. "I want them to really know the out gate."

Once Hoar is ready to start running the cattle individually, she has her helpers just track them on the first pass.

"The second time through, we have everyone let them all the way out before they go. The beef calves usually are going to start getting stronger by the second or third time anyway," she said. "The third time, we tell them to go out and make a run."

"Then we're done breaking them in."

WHAT TO FEED?

Both Hoar and Casey give free choice hay to their calves.

"You have to feed them right if you

want them to last," Casey said. "I give mine a pelleted ration, grain of some sort, and all the hay they want since I don't have pasture."

Hoar takes advantage of local feed company NexGen's extruded corn feed, which is 92% digestible—far higher than other corn and grain products—making it a cost effective option when you're feeding a big herd.

"It lowers our costs over COB and other grain products and helps their digestive systems," she said. "We also feed an alfalfa pellet and grain mix."

Of course, veterinary care is administered as needed, whether through products like Auremycin, a medicated feed additive, or other necessary medications.

KEEPING THEM GOOD

Casey has one suggestion for ensuring your herd lasts.

"Own a sled," she offered, laughing. "I only run my calves two or three times at once, give them good feed and rope the sled."

Even as a producer, Hoar agreed.

"Unless something is getting really strong, in which case we might rope them two or three times in the week prior to a jackpot. otherwise, once they're broke in, they're not touched," she said. "I have a separate set of calves for my personal practice." **BRJ**

Boss of GLOSS

Margie's littleStar aka Lena ridden by Hanna Fandorf - Photography by Amy Will



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Dummy Up

Don't underestimate the importance of the dummy when you're practicing for the fastest sport in rodeo. Here are some tools from the industry to dial in your delivery. —**Julie Mankin**

As competitive as breakaway roping is, it pays to lock that tip-down angle into your muscle memory—but with a curl so you get a legal catch in no time flat. Enter the dummy.

Heel-O-Matic's NEX calf roping dummy is endorsed by the likes of Lari Dee Guy and Aspen Miller. It weighs only 29 pounds, has a sturdy base so it stays put, and is made of a cow-hide-like material so your rope doesn't slide around on it. What sets this dummy apart is the long neck, designed to allow your curl to kick back up correctly, while the angle of the head ensures you'll keep your tip down. The dummy runs about \$500, and you can get the sled for around \$550, which is unique for its long tongue that sets it farther from the ATV. Plus, the height is adjustable so you can practice on bigger or smaller "calves." A bonus? This sled can also carry Heel-O-Matic's Bones 2.0 heading dummy. (heelomatic.com; 888-433-5464)

NHSRA sponsor Smarty already offered the realistic and easy-to-maneuver team roping dummy designed by four-time World Champ Allen Bach, and now it has **Smarty Junior**, a calf dummy endorsed by Jackie Crawford and Shad Mayfield. It's made of durable polyethylene that can take plenty of abuse in any weather, and is made in Texas in green, black or pink. For about \$395, you can buy the Sidekick, which is just the half or full body of the ground dummy with an easy-grip handle. If you already have a Smarty sled, the Smarty Junior breakaway kit for \$495 gives you



the dummy and equipment you need to turn a Smarty sled into a Smarty Junior sled. Or starting from scratch, you can get the dummy and new sled for around \$1,295 retail. (smartystraining.com; 888-908-9047)

The San Antonio-based dummy firm RopeSmart, a WPRA sponsor, has been around for more than a decade. Its founder analyzed the best ropers to find common denominators in angle and plane of swing, then designed dummies to force you to develop those good fundamentals as you isolate and eliminate your bad habits. **RopeSmart's The Runner** calf dummy endorsed by John Douch comes in pink, blue or black and is portable so you can take it on the road or put it on the sled to pull behind your ATV. The versatile Runner comes in just a calf head for \$75, or \$525 for the full dummy, while the sled runs about \$325. The great part is you can add horns and collapsible legs to make it a team roping dummy, and store your rope inside the dummy. (ropesmart.com; 866-814-5917)

Other options on the market include

SS Roping's hayrack-friendly **Tuf-Kaf dummy**, modeled off the Josh Peek-endorsed flank-and-tie dummy with jointed legs that breaks away from the sled. Their new GTS Ground Training System is anatomically correct to a real running calf, and you can easily slide it off the sled to rope on the ground, too, in five colors, for about \$450. You can order the dummy and sled for around \$999. (tufkaf.com; 307-217-0392)

Another possibility is **Rope-Steer's calf dummy** which, for \$999, is mounted permanently on a sled with four wheels, eliminating drag so you can pull it fast from a dead stop. (ropesteer.com; 480-442-ROPE).

And Beastmaster Rodeo offers the **Stop N' Clock life-size breakaway dummy**, which sits permanently on steel skis and can be roped stationary or pulled with a horse or ATV. For \$999, it has real cowhide around the neck and a head-and-neck shape designed to make you throw your rope deep and keep your elbow up (beastmasterrodeo.com; 855-763-3648). **BRJ**

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Jessi Wade

Futurity Barrel Horse Trainer

“Equinety, with its 100% pure amino acids, has made a huge difference in all of my horses—from young horses who needed help with faster recovery and ulcer prevention to aged horses who needed support for bone health and soft tissue repair. Every horse I ride gets a scoop of Equinety every day, and the results have been phenomenal.”

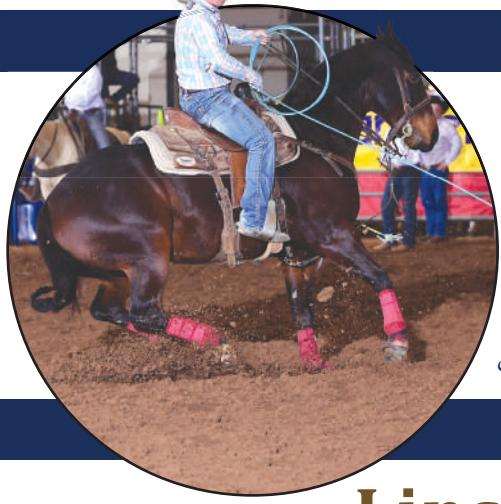


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Jessy Remsburg

WPRA World Champion Heeler

“It’s very important that my horses be on the top of their game while competing. Equinety keeps them at a top level performance wise. Their stamina is the best it has been. They recover after a hard day of work with no soreness and are ready to go back to work the next day. We haul our horses hundreds of miles a year to compete. I love the fact that Equinety naturally supports their immune system. I need them to stay healthy, fit and sound. Equinety has that all covered. And, to top if all off they have never looked better.”



Lindsay Sumpter

National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association Head Coach
Breakaway Roper

“Equinety products are my go-to for a solid supplement foundation for all of my horses. I can totally see a difference in my horses performance and their recovery. Equinety is super easy to feed. They are great products to use and I couldn’t ask for anything better.”



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“There’s been so many women fighting for it to get where it is and I think the whole end game is us wanting it to be in the NFR as an added event. We don’t want to take away from any other events. We just want to be part of the rodeo. So that’s our goal.

“We’re spending just as much money as all the other athletes out there, and we don’t rope for near as much in our end game. [And we’re] so grateful for places like this, you know, to come here and win \$58,000 in two days and have had this experience. It’s unbelievable. And I know it can get there cause these guys. These guys have done it for us, but we’re going to keep working hard and keep pushing for it.”

—**Hope Thompson** addressing the trajectory of the sport after roping at the WRWC on “The Breakdown” podcast, available to stream or download where you listen to podcasts.

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