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Mutton Bustin' goes Baaaad at the Eastern Idaho State Fair

Blackfoot, ID – A brand new rodeo is riding into town at the 2012 Eastern Idaho State Fair. The new PRCA sanctioned Gem State Classic Pro Rodeo combines world-class competitors from the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association with award-winning stock from Powder River Rodeo and D&H Cattle. The Gem State Classic Pro Rodeo will be held on Monday, 9/3, and Tuesday, 9/4. As is tradition at many pro rodeos around the country, this year's Gem State Classic will feature a special Mutton Bustin' competition at 7:00 pm each night as an opening act.

Mutton Bustin' is a fan favorite at many rodeo events and features young kids hanging on for dear life as a sprinting sheep does it's best to shake their young riders. The rider may use a rope or take hold of the wool itself and hang on for six seconds, using one or both hands. Children ages 4-7 weighing less than 45 pounds are encouraged to enter this thrilling competition. Chosen contestants and one parent or guardian will receive a wristband to get into the rodeo, but will have to pay their own fair gate admission. All contestants will receive recognition, with the first place contestant receiving a large, four-foot trophy.

Applications and further details can be found at www.funatthefair.com or at the Eastern Idaho State Fair's Main Office. The EISF is accepting applications now through August 24. Please mail completed applications to PO Box 250, Blackfoot, ID 83221, or drop off application in person at the EISF Main Office. Twenty contestants along with five alternates will be chosen for each night. The final contestants will be selected in a lottery drawing at Blackfoot's Westmark Credit Union on August 25 beginning at 12 pm. Those interested can tune into 96.1 The River, who will be broadcasting live.

Project Filter and Northwest Toyota Dealers sponsor the Gem State Classic Pro Rodeo and Portneuf Medical Center sponsors this year's Mutton Bustin' competition. Tickets are only \$15 for Adults and \$8 for Children. The Gem State Classic Pro Rodeo begins at 8 pm, with Mutton Bustin' at 7 pm. Gate admission is included with Pro Rodeo tickets, just like all other Grandstand Night Events.

Avoid lines by purchasing tickets through the improved online ticket ordering system at www.funatthefair.com, where you can choose your seat and print your tickets at home or work. Vickers Western Stores in Idaho Falls and Pocatello return as outlets for grandstand event tickets, and you can always call or visit the EISF Ticket Office in Blackfoot at (208) 785-2480, ext. 7.

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The Eastern Idaho State Fair is a 16 County Fair District that is in its 110th year of operations. Over 219,000 people visit the annual event, making it Eastern Idaho's longest running and largest community event. The mission of the EISF is to provide wholesome, affordable family education and entertainment in a clean and safe agricultural environment.