



NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF TECHNICAL AGRICULTURE

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Aggies are elbow grease for GI rodeo

By NCTA NEWS

High school athletes competing in a weekend rodeo in Grand Island on Labor Day will see the NCTA Aggies in the arena – this time as volunteers.

Ten students from the Aggie Rodeo Team of the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture in Curtis are earning team funds by helping put on the rodeo at the Nebraska State Fair.

“This is a new format for the State Fair rodeo,” explained Aggie Coach Jaden Clark.



NCTA Aggie rodeo starts Sept. 9-10 in River Falls, Wisconsin with new athletes on the traveling team. Ellie Stohlmann runs barrels at the Buffalo Bill Arena last year in North Platte. (Hipple / NCTA Photo)

Previously, at the end of the action-filled contest each Labor Day, athletes from the high schools would test their skills against those from the college ranks.

This year, however, instead of using monies for prizes or scholarships that often went unallocated, Clark said organizers opted to invite one collegiate team to work at the rodeo, contributing to that college's rodeo sport.

As it worked out in the rotation, NCTA is the designated college to work at the 2022 event.

“We are the elbow grease or cogs in the wheel to keep the rodeo running,” said Clark.

Action at the US Foods Outdoor Arena on the east side of the fairgrounds starts at 10 a.m. on Monday.

Aggies will be on the ground, not on horseback, in moving stock in the alleys, opening bucking chute gates for rough stock rides, taking tickets, and helping with set up and clean up.

“In five or six hours of work, we have a chance to earn money for Aggie rodeo. This will help our team greatly in lieu of other big fundraisers,” Clark said. They can focus on practices and competitions.

NCTA is in the Great Plains Region of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association. Athletes must be NIRA members to compete at the collegiate level.

For the season opener on September 9-10, NCTA makes one of its longer trips to River Falls, Wisconsin.

Six Aggie students plan to compete.

The Aggie team drew several incoming freshmen and students newer to the sport this semester. “There’s a big range of prior experience.” Students enroll in the rodeo course for academic credit.

NCTA will go to North Platte as Mid-Plains Community College hosts the season’s second rodeo on Sept. 16-17.

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Part of the University of Nebraska system, the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture is a two-year institution with a statewide mission of preparing students for successful careers in agriculture, veterinary technology and related industries. NCTA is known for its affordable tuition, high job-placement rate for its graduates, and for the success of student teams in competitive activities including crops judging, ranch horse events, livestock judging, shotgun sports, stock dog trials, and intercollegiate rodeo. The college is consistently ranked as one of the best two-year schools in the nation.

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