



**Special Programs Planned Recognizing Significance Of The Cowboy**

Importance of the cowboy to development of this country is being recognized with the National Day of the Cowboy.

"On the fourth Saturday of July, many states in the nation celebrate the contribution of cowboys and cowgirls to America's culture and heritage. The National Day of the Cowboy was originally designated by President George W. Bush, and adopted by U.S. Senate Resolution in 2005," according to Ron Wilson, a cowboy poet of Manhattan, who's coordinating some activities in Kansas.

"The cowboy is an American icon; to recognize the cowboy is to acknowledge the ongoing commitment of the United States to an esteemed and enduring code of conduct," Wilson, contended.

The Kansas Museum of History plans the first West Fest: National Day of the Cowboy July 27, 2013, in Topeka. There will be family activities and special events in the museum's main gallery with activities appropriate for children five to 11 years of age.

Wilson has also scheduled the second annual Kansas celebration of the National Day of the Cowboy Saturday, July 27, at his Lazy T Ranch near Manhattan, featuring western entertainment at 5 o'clock, with a barbecue supper at 6.

Advertised and promoted heavily on 580 WIBW and The BIG 94.5 Country, that program will feature presentations by Wilson, cowgirl yodeler Judy Coder and cowboy poet-musician Jeff Davidson.

Coder is a native Kansan who has toured the United States and Europe performing cowboy and Western music. Now living in Topeka, she has performed with leading cowboy stars and been named the Patsy Montana National Yodeling Champion.

Davidson is a musician, president of the Kansas Chapter of the Western Music Association, and winner of the Governor's Buckle at the 2013 Kansas Cowboy Poetry Contest.

Wilson grew up near Manhattan on the Lazy T Ranch where his family resides today. He has performed on national RFD-TV, and was proclaimed by then-Governor Bill Graves as "The Poet Lariat."

"Though the cowman might break every law of the territory, state and federal government, he took pride in upholding his own unwritten code. His failure to abide by it did not bring formal punishment, but the man who broke it became, more or less, a social outcast," Wilson informed.

**Cowboy-Cowgirl Code of Conduct:** 1. Live each day with honesty and courage. 2. Take pride in your work. Always do your best. 3. Stay curious. Study hard and learn all you can. 4. Do what has to be done and finish what you start. 5. Be tough, but fair.

6. When you make a promise, keep it. 7. Be clean in thought, word, deed, and dress. 8. Practice tolerance and understanding of others. 9. Be willing to stand up for what's right. 10. Be an excellent steward of the land and its animals.



Jeff Davidson



Judy Coder



Ron Wilson



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**Padre says:**

*"A man's got to have a code, a creed to live by."*