

Dream Ride In The Flint Hills At Elmdale's Clover Cliff Ranch

Grass is again green, ponds are nearly full once more, and days have cooled off.

It's time to enjoy the world renowned native prairie of Kansas.

"The 19th annual Dream Ride in the Flint Hills is this weekend at the 4,000-acre Clover Cliff Ranch near Elmdale," announced Ernie Rodina.

Coordinated by Rodina of the Better Horses Network and Suzan Barnes of the Grand Central Hotel in Cottonwood Falls, participants are expected from throughout the Midwest.



The Better Horses Radio Show airs Saturday morning on 580 WIBW and on Country 106.9 every Sunday morning.

More than 20 sponsors are assisting with the trail ride and festivities headquartered at the picturesque Clover Cliff Ranch Bed & Breakfast pavilion.

"Riders will receive free Purina horse feed, and water will be available," Rodina said. "However, horse owners must provide their own hay. Limited horse pens are available."

It's said lots of camping space is available, but there are no hookups. Recommendation is that horses be shod, and a Negative Coggins test is required. No stallions or dogs will be allowed.



Activities kick off Friday afternoon, Sept. 7, with check-in at 1 o'clock with a two hour ride starting at 3 o'clock. A hamburger and hot dog cookout with side plates has been planned for supper.

"Guests are also welcome to eat at the Grand Central Hotel Grill and then stroll Broadway where live music is planned," Rodina said.

To do that, reservations should be made with Barnes at 620-273-6763, or email suzan.barnes@sbcglobal.net.

Breakfast is at 7:30 Saturday morning, when check-in continues. Drawings for door prizes are also on tap. Following discussion of safety on the trail, there will be a two-hour ride in the lush 'hills. "We're especially excited that well known horse trainers Kerry Kuhn, Curt and Tammy Pate, Josh Rushing and Lee Hart are riding with us," Rodina said.

Barbecue brisket is on the noon dinner table at the Clover Cliff headquarters with the afternoon ride starting at 1:30.

A horse clinic is scheduled for late afternoon before horse owners feed, water and bed their horses down for the night.

The steak supper with all the trimmings is to be prepared by Mark Burkdoll. An equine nutrition program has been scheduled before cowboy veterinarian stories by Ron McDaniel.

Coffee is on Sunday morning, Sept. 8, while riders do morning chores before cowboy church at 8 o'clock. Hot breakfast is at 8:30, and final ride of the weekend begins at 9:30, to be completed at noon when camp breaks.

Information and registrations are available from Barnes, with details at www.betterhorses.com.

Wildlife Appreciation And Conservation Days Educational, Fun Attractions For All

"Let's get these kids off the couch and outdoors."

That's Bruce Burenheide, longtime serving in management at Bluestem Farm & Ranch Supply of Emporia.

He's encouraging and inviting children of all ages, even those most mature often over-exercising rocking chairs, to participate in the 16th annual Wildlife Appreciation and Conservation Days, Friday and Saturday, Sept. 7-8.



The educational and fun attractions are being hosted by the farm and ranch business serving the Flint Hills for more than 57 years.

A regular advertiser on 580 WIBW, Country 106.9 and The BIG 94.5 Country, Bluestem Farm & Ranch is one of the longest continuing

advertisers on WIBW.

"We work to make this wildlife appreciation and conservation days a fun event for everybody," Burenheide emphasized. "That's especially the children, who often just don't know, understand and appreciate the entire wonderful outdoors."

Among the conservation groups to be in attendance include Ducks Unlimited, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Fishing's Future, National Wild Turkey Federation, Lyon County Soil Conservation, Kansas Hunter Education, Camp Alexander, Kansas Fur Harvesters, Kansas Muzzleloaders, Kansas State Rifle Association, the Beau Arndt Foundation, and others.

"These important organizations come into the store, set up booths and welcome an opportunity to meet everyone to explain about the importance of wildlife and conservation to the region," Burenheide said.



"Officials from the Kansas Wildlife and Parks will have their laser shooting booth for everyone to test their skills on all kinds of game and targets," Burenheide explained. "There'll be an air-rifle range, and the Kansas Bow Hunters will have an archery shooting range here."



Representatives from several manufacturers who offer products in the store's sporting goods department will have displays. Some of these are knives, fishing equipment, guns, archery, wild game calls, decoys, storage cabinets, outer ware and ammunition.

Gas-fueled grills are to be set up outdoors for a hot dog stand with beef and beans for brunch, dinner, or early supper.

"All proceeds from the stand will be divided among the conservation groups," Burenheide related.

There will be drawings for prizes, with the grand prize being a Thompson Centerfire rifle, Burenheide stated.

Information can be found at www.bluestemfarmandranch.com.

Padre Says:

"Nature gives to every time and season some beauties of its own."

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