

WESTERN HERITAGE CLASSIC

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**For more information:
Denice Bailey - 325-672-4000, extension 720 or 325-829-4300**

HAYTHORN LAND & CATTLE CO. CAPTURES CHAMPION TITLE

ABILENE, TEXAS – Haythorn Land & Cattle Co, of Arthur, Nebraska, was awarded the 2008 Champion of the 24th annual Western Heritage Classic's (WHC) Ranch Rodeo Saturday night (May 10, 2008). Tongue River Ranch of Dumont, Texas, placed second, Pitchfork Land & Cattle Co. of Guthrie came in third, and Spade Ranches of Lubbock, was awarded fourth place. Ten participating ranches competed in the WHC Ranch Rodeo.

The annual WHC Remuda Award was awarded to the Pitchfork Land & Cattle Co. of Guthrie. The WHC Top Hand was Jason Pelham of the Spade Ranches. "Peako," ridden by Mark Voss, was named the 2008 All-Around Horse.

Event winners for the Ranch Rodeo were Matthews/Nail Ranches of Albany for Team Penning; Pitchfork Land & Cattle Co. for Team Doctoring; Team Branding was won by Green Cattle Co.; Haythorn Land & Cattle Co. won Wild Cow Milking; and Guitar Ranches of Abilene won the Bronc Riding.

-more-

Other events throughout the three-day weekend included the National Finals for the Ranch Horse Association of America (RHAA) Working Ranch Horse Competition. The Top Cowboy Class winner was Owen Kuntz. Top Ranch Hand Class winner, Riley Smith; Top Junior Class winner, Chris Littlefield and Craig Haythorn was awarded the winner of the Top Open Class.

The WHC hosted the Invitational Ranch Horse Sale. Seventy-five registered Quarter Horses consigned by 18 ranches brought an average price of \$4,127. "Smokin Black Haida," a 2002 sorrel gelding consigned by S-D Cattle Co. of Alpine, Texas, topped the sale with a \$16,000 bid.

The "J & L Ranch" took home Chuckwagon Cookoff honors for best overall, and best wagon for authenticity and camp was awarded to "Break Away Wagon." In the meat division, "J & L Ranch," won; "Broken Spur" placed first in the beans category; best potatoes went to "Scorpion Cattle Co.;" "Rhinestone Girls" won the bread division; and the number one dessert winner was "J & L Ranch."

Thursday's evening parade also sent home winners. Leon and Sue Barr won in the Antique Vehicle division and Don Vickery took first in the Antique Tractors division. In the Wagon divisions, the rubber tire wagon winner was David Beard, Bill Winton won the buggy division, the West Texas Rehab Center took first for the chuckwagon division, and Deanna Bailey won first for the other wagon division. The Tarrant County Sheriff's Posse was honored with first for the over-30-miles-riding club division and Lone Star Ladies won first for the local-riding club division.

Co-sponsored by Budweiser and the Expo Center of Taylor County, the 25th annual Western Heritage Classic will be May 7 - 9, 2009. Tickets will go on sale 10:00 a.m., Saturday, April 25, 2009. For more information call 325-677-4376 or visit www.westernheritageclassic.com.