



Wow, I can't believe it has been almost five months since I was crowned Miss Rodeo Nebraska 2009. Time flies when you're having fun. Since the last time we talked I have been traveling the countryside doing all sorts of things. I have to say the best part is the people I get to meet. I have had the best experiences and made life-long friends. And my host families have become the same as family. They have opened up their homes and their hearts to me and I am eternally grateful. I will begin where I left off last time when I was a contestant in the Working Cowgirl Competition at The National Day of the Cowboy Celebration in Ainsworth. It was fun and I bet the audience got a kick out of seeing me in full queen attire doing ranch chores. I know the cow I had to milk gave me a double-take when I milked her wearing a bright, purple, sequined shirt. I got the job done and placed second to boot! Another crazy adventure was at McCook at the Red Willow Fair and Rodeo. Before the rodeo, Samantha Shearer, Kristin Kohmetscher, Samantha's brother, and I were in the chore time races. We had so much fun. If only my pig would have gone into the pen a little easier we would have finished better. He was very ornery. The rodeo had its moments as well. My horse was a little different to begin with—short-strided in the front and long-strided in the back—then he wouldn't

stand during the National Anthem, and when we presented sponsor flags I literally lost my left stirrup, so I left the arena at a trot since he was so rough to ride. The clown found my stirrup in the arena during the bareback riding. Those are the times when all else fails, just smile, it can't get any worse. This crazy streak continued the next weekend when I planned to take my horse Special to the Sioux County Parade and Rodeo in Harrison. That morning he decided to put his leg over the fence and leave me horseless. I called my friend Crystal who said I could borrow her horse any time I wanted. We got to Harrison which was Pig Pen's first trip to town, first time around flags, parades, and rodeos. So I was thinking to myself "Oh boy do I have my work cut out for me!". I just thought if I get dumped on my head I will always be jabbed about it by everyone in Northwest Nebraska. When the parade started we followed the Sioux County Fair and Rodeo Royalty without a problem. I was thinking this is great. I then decided to sack him out with my flag. What happened next will forever be etched in my mind. I have had horses jump, snort, shy, and kick when being sacked, but never whine. Yes, he groaned like he was in agony. It was the funniest thing. And after a few times passing the flag all around him he thought eating grass more entertaining. For a five year old I was thinking this horse is worth his weight in gold. Pig Pen's next test was the rodeo arena with the flag before the rodeo. He went in thinking it was a little scary but came out half asleep. His final test for the day—which would settle the score if he was the horse that every rodeo queen dreams of getting—the rodeo. Yes, he passed with flying colors—literally the flag run went well. The rodeo chutes, calves, and other horses didn't bother him a bit. Pig Pen has been the most honest, open-minded, young-old horse that I have ever ridden. He takes top honors in my book of good horses. Now let's talk about some good cowgirls. I went to the Miss Rodeo Cherry County Queen Contest in Valentine. Coronation had us anxious to hear the results because two of my dear friends were contestants. Kari Qualley won and Shy Lee Hewitt was runner-up. I was so very proud of both of them. Next stop was Gordon for the Miss Rodeo Sheridan County Queen Contest. Tay a Lemcke was crowned queen, Chamayne Strong was crowned Princess, and Ev a Oliver was crowned Junior Princess. It is always nice going to contests, cheering on the girls, helping them calm their nerves, and seeing them accomplish their goals. Any girl who takes the time to prepare and compete in a rodeo queen contest is a winner in my eyes win or lose. It shows that she believes in herself and her abilities. With faith and determination she will eventually prevail. I competed in four contests before tiling. Never give up, dreams do come true. I love to watch new titleholders represent for the first time at their rodeo. It has always been an adrenaline rush for me and by watching and helping girls I think it is for them too. It makes accomplishment sink in. I saw this first-hand at the rodeos I have attended lately—Harrison, Gordon, and Valentine. I also represented at two performances of the Wahoo Rodeo. I had a blast and they do a swell job with their rodeo as far as stock, entertainment, committee, and production. I represented at other rodeos throughout the state such as McCook and the Mid-States Rodeo Association Finals in Valentine. Among all of the traveling, I found time to attend some community events such as the Dawes County Fair Gymkhana, Chadron Town-Car Sale, Brewster Community Picnic, and Old West Days. My dear friends Shirley Sellman and Natalie Noecker hosted a reception for me in Chadron. It was very nice and fun to see friends who couldn't make it to North Platte for the contest. Amidst the hustle and bustle of our two schedules, Kristen Schott and I snuck away to Denver to go shopping at WESA Market. What a place! It's huge and if you don't go in with a mission you will be swept away by the awe of the size, things, and variety that is there. Kristen showed me the ropes and it was wonderful for the two of us to be able to spend some quality one-on-one time together. I saved the best for last, Kristen's Send-Off Celebration at the Haythorn Ranch. It was wonderful seeing everybody. I love functions like that where we can all get together. Some people who were there I hadn't seen since the pageant in June. Did I mention Kristen is going to Rock Vegas!! She is such a wonderful, determined, genuine, and beautiful young lady thru and thru and has an awesome wardrobe for the Miss Rodeo America Pageant. She will do her best and represent us well.

Amy Amack MRN 2009



RIDE FOR THE BRAND

WHO: AMY AMACK MRN 2009
WHAT: 2009 MRN CORONATION
WHEN: SATURDAY JANUARY 10, 2009
WHERE: CHADRON STATE COLLEGE STUDENT CENTER BALLROOM
 CHADRON, NE
COST: \$15/PERSON OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



5 P.M. SOCIAL HOUR AND SILENT AUCTION
6 P.M. BUFFET DINNER
7 P.M. PROGRAM W/LIVE AUCTION TO FOLLOW

PLEASE RESERVE YOUR TICKETS BY DECEMBER 30 BY CALLING OR EMAILING SHERRI DODSON @ 308-532-1880 OR HUH@KDSI.NET

HORSESHOE IN SHAPE OF A LONGHORN W/ BRAND CANDLEBRA'S ARE BEING SOLD. FIRST 30 @ \$50 AFTER THAT THE PRICE IS \$75. WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE HOME AFTER CORONATION. CALL AMY AMACK MRN 2009 TO RESERVE YOURS TODAY @ 308-430-4723!



2009 MISS RODEO AMERICA PAGEANT INFO

This year the MRA added a new award to be presented during the 2009 Miss Rodeo America Pageant. Anyone with a cell phone will be able to vote for his or her favorite contestant. The People's Choice voting will take place Saturday, November 29th (beginning at noon) and ends Thursday, December 4, at midnight. [Votes accepted only during those times/dates.] The winner will be announced at the MRA Scholarship Foundation Cowboy Christmas Auction, Dec. 5. If you wish to vote: text to **73997**, type **Miss Rodeo**, then type her **state**. (example: Miss Rodeo Michigan) Each vote is 50 cents; standard text rates apply. There is no limit on how many times you can vote for your favorite! You look over the contestants on the [Contestants' Pages](#) and learn more about them on their respective state websites.

Good luck wishes can be emailed to the 2009 Miss Rodeo America Pageant contestants beginning Friday, November 29th until Friday, December 6th at noon. The email address is missrodeopageant@yahoo.com

Thanks so much for your support!



NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

WE ARE HEADED TOWARD THE END OF THE YEAR, AND IT HAS BEEN A GOOD ONE FOR THE MISS RODEO NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION. THE SEND-OFF AT THE HAYTHORN RANCH WAS AS ALWAYS AN ENJOYABLE EVENING; THE HAYTHORNS PROVIDED A WONDERFUL MEAL AND SUCH A BEAUTIFUL SETTING TO PREVIEW THE CLOTHES THAT KRISTEN WILL BE WEARING IN LAS VEGAS. THERE WERE MANY GOOD COMMENTS ON HER SELECTION AND WE KNOW THE SHE CAN BE "MISS RODEO AMERICA 2009". THANK YOU TO LORI BORTNER AND THOSE THAT HELPED PUT ON THIS SPECIAL EVENT. THE MEETING IN OCTOBER WENT WELL, AND I APPRECIATE THOSE WHO TOOK THE TIME TO COME AND BRING SOME NEW MEMBERS. I APPLAUD ALL OF THE COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND MEMBERSHIP FOR THEIR HARD WORK THIS YEAR AND GETTING THEIR BUDGETS FOR 2009 INTO THE TREASURER. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WILL MET ON THE 10TH OF NOVEMBER TO WORK ON THE OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2009 AND PUT COMMITTEE LISTS TOGETHER FOR NEXT YEAR. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO WORK ON A CERTAIN COMMITTEE, PLEASE LET ME KNOW, AS WE WILL FINALIZE IT IN JANUARY. WE WILL HAVE TWO MEETINGS IN JANUARY; THE FIRST MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THE AFTERNOON OF AMY'S CORONATION—JANUARY 10TH IN CHADRON @ 3:00 P.M. MST AT CHADRON STATE COLLEGE STUDENT CENTER LOBBY ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE BUILDING. THE SECOND MEETING WILL BE IN NORTH PLATTE @ 3:00 P.M. ON JANUARY 18TH @ THE LAQUINTA INN. SEVERAL OF US ARE HEADED TO LAS VEGAS TO SUPPORT KRISTEN AND WORK AT THE PAGEANT. MOST OF US ARE VERY BUSY WORKING ON DIFFERENT COMMITTEES, BUT OUR MAIN PURPOSE IS TO CHEER KRISTEN ON AT EVERY EVENT. PLEASE CONTINUE TO CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR UPDATES ON ALL OF OUR ACTIVITIES. AS THE HOLIDAYS APPROACH, I PERSONALLY THANK EACH OF YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR SUPPORT THIS LAST YEAR AND WISH EACH OF YOU A BOUNTIFUL THANKSGIVING, A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS, AND ONLY THE BEST IN THE NEW YEAR.

MARDEE SWANSON, MRNA PRESIDENT