

# PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

## Proclamation No. 13-1022

Welcoming the 108<sup>th</sup> National Western Stock Show, Rodeo and Horse Show to Denver

**WHEREAS**, the annual National Western Stock Show, Rodeo and Horse Show will ride into town with a parade on January 9, and will open the annual event for the 108<sup>th</sup> time on January 11 with various activities happening through January 26, 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Western Stock Show is a storied treasure of Denver's past, with a unique and colored history dating all the way back to 1906; and

**WHEREAS**, Mayor Robert W. Speer declared Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 1906, as Denver Stock Show Day - an official holiday in the City of Denver - so everyone could partake in the first ever Stock Show. It was on this day that banks, department stores, and other businesses in every corner of Denver shut their doors at noon, while street cars hustled from the 15<sup>th</sup> street loop ever three minutes to the stockyard site, and the Burlington Railroad rushed special trains from the 'Denver Union Depot' for a roundtrip charge of 25 cents; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to exhibiting prized livestock, farming technology, and other important components of Colorado's rich agricultural traditions, the National Western Stock Show's earlier years also included entertainment shows from popular figures like Buffalo Bill, live boxing events from professional fighters Jack Dempsey and Jess Willard, and tug-of-war contests between the Denver and Omaha police departments. One of the more unusual forms of entertainment occurred between 1913 and 1916, where small toddlers were judged by the same rules as the livestock in ever-so-popular "Naked Baby Contest"; and

**WHEREAS**, the first ever "Catch-a-Calf" event was held in 1935, where crowds cheered as young boys ran around the arena in their attempts to wrestle calves down by their collarbones - with the lucky winners taking their prized calves home, feeding them, raising them and showing them off at next year's Stock Show. It wasn't until more than 35 years later when young girls were finally allowed to participate in 1974's "Catch-a-Calf" event, which is now one of the more famous and treasured events of the show; and

**WHEREAS**, today the primary mission of the National Western Stock Show is to educate urban and suburban citizens about the importance of understanding and preserving Colorado's western heritage in agriculture, providing city kids a hands-on experience with farm animals, and to host one of the world's largest professional rodeo and horse shows; and

**WHEREAS**, National Western Stock Show provides ranchers and farmers an opportunity to share the latest information on livestock, including scientific and genetic research, in addition, more than 350 vendors fill the show grounds with food and a variety of products for sale; and

**WHEREAS**, the inaugural National Western Stock Show was January 1906, attracting 15,000 visitors over six days, now the event attracts more than 600,000 visitors annually from all 50 states and 35 foreign countries, and more than 15,000 head of horses, cattle, sheep, swine, llamas, Bison and other animals are represented; and

**WHEREAS**, the most recent economic impact study suggests the National Western contributes approximately \$100 million to the Denver economy.

**NOW THEREFORE,**

**BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:**

**Section 1.** That the Denver City Council hereby enthusiastically welcomes the 108<sup>th</sup> annual National Western Stock Show, Rodeo and Horse Show to Denver, and extends their best wishes for another exciting and successful year, and encourages Denver residents to saddle up and enjoy the show.

**Section 2.** That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to Paul Andrews, President & CEO of the National Western Stock Show, Rodeo and Horse Show.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL January 6, 2014

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PRESIDENT