

TEAM BRANDING CONTEST- Men's, Women's, Co-Ed's, and Jackpot

Saturday – August 8th, 2026

Start time: 10:00 AM

Competition

- Timed basis – 10-minute time limit
- Prizes for 1st – 3rd place in Men's, Women's, and Coed.
- Checks will be issued to the top teams after the fair in the Men's, Women's, and Co-ed

Branding Rules

- Individuals may only enter twice (example – women & coed.) No double entries in co-ed, men & women divisions. Two children 15 and under included in coed teams can substitute either gender (example-1 adult male and 1 adult female can have 2 children 15 and under of any gender including two boys or two girls or one of each) Two adults must be a part of coed teams included with children.
- All entries must be pre-paid and received by August 3, 2026.
- Entry Fee: \$400 per 4-person team.
- All members of the team must sign Branding Contest Entry Form and agree to the Express Release and Assumption of Risk on the entry form.
- All participants must be in Western Attire – Long sleeve shirt, hat, etc.

Ground Rules

- Each team will head and heel four head of cattle.
- Slick horns only
- No tie down allowed.
- Legal head catches:
 - Around horns (no figure-eight allowed)
 - Around head
 - Head and front leg (figure-eight allowed)
 - Half head
- Illegal head catches can be removed and animal can be re-caught.
- All four feet must be stretched with ropes before paint is applied.
- Dropped head rope can be picked up without penalty if the ground crew is back in the circle before the animal is heeled.
- Dropped head rope after animal is heeled can be picked up without returning to the circle.
- After an animal is branded, it must be on all four feet before the next animal is caught. If the animal is up on all 4 legs, then lays down the next animal can be roped.
- On the last animal, the animal must be on all four feet, free of ropes, iron back in the bucket, ground crew in the circle, then the judge will signify final time.
- No person but the team and judges are allowed in the pens.
- Only two horse holders are allowed outside pens.
- Once the contest has started, there will be no discussion with the judge.
- If a fence goes down or time stopped in any pen, all three watches will be stopped. Time will be recorded, and all three watches cleared and restarted. That time will be added to the first time.
- The Eureka County Fair Board will supply branding iron and paint.
- Complaints, concerns, or discrepancies must be presented to a Fair Board member for review.

Penalties

- A penalty of 20 seconds will be applied for not walking to the edge of the herd for each steer.
- A 30 second penalty per incident will be applied if the ground crew leaves the circle before the animal is headed and heeled.
- A 30 second penalty per incident will be assessed if a horse is ridden through the circle.
- A 30 second penalty for each heavy or improperly placed brand.
- A 30 second penalty for each light or upside-down brand.
- A 30 second penalty if iron is dropped or placed on the ground outside of the circle.
- A 30 second penalty if a new animal is roped before the previous animal is on all four feet.
- A 90 second penalty for undue roughness; a second incident of roughing cattle will disqualify the team. This includes running cattle into the fence.
- Failure to properly rectify or remedy an illegal catch will result in disqualification.
- Animal branded on the wrong side will result in disqualification.

Final Decision

- In the event of a discrepancy of penalties or disqualification between times and judges- the decision will be reviewed between timers and judges and the judge will make final determination.
- The Eureka County Fair Board Committee shall have the overall final decision on any disputes regarding entering, penalties, procedure, and events.
- Disputes, harassment, intimidation, or threats towards the judges, timers, or any volunteers will result in immediate disqualification.

For entry form please visit: <https://www.eurekacountynv.gov/recreation-culture-in-eureka-county/eureka-county-fair/formsrules/>