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(Neb.)-Cattlemen's Ball Nets More Than \$1.4 Million In Proceeds



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 10/31/2012 08:39 AM

(MCCOOL JUNCTION)—This year's Cattlemen's Ball of Nebraska raised more than \$1.4 million, which is the second highest total in the ball's 15-year history of providing support to the Eppley Cancer Center at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. This year marks the third straight one that the Cattlemen's Ball, which was held in McCool Junction this year, has topped the \$1 million mark. The all-time high was \$1.49 million raised at the 2011 ball in West Point. In 2010, the ball held in Kearney raised \$1,003,000.

As in past years, 90 percent of the proceeds go toward cancer research at the UNMC Eppley Cancer Center with the remaining 10 percent going toward local organizations. This year's breakdown was \$1,244,270 to the UNMC Eppley Cancer Center and \$141,030 distributed locally to 21 different local organizations. In addition, \$5,000 was raised for scholarships at the UNMC College of Nursing.

Proceeds were announced Tuesday evening at the Stone Creek Event Center near McCool Junction. Ken Cowan, M.D., Ph.D., director of the UNMC Eppley Cancer Center, was in McCool Junction for the announcement. Since the ball's inception in 1998, more than \$7.61 million has been raised. "I continue to sound like a broken record," Dr. Cowan said. "It seems like every year the Cattlemen's Ball does something remarkable. This year's \$1.4 million is amazing. I know it represents a ton of work by the entire community of McCool Junction as well as many other people in York County. "We are absolutely thrilled with what has happened to the Cattlemen's Ball. It has evolved into probably the biggest fundraising event for the entire state. We are honored to be associated with it."

This year's event was hosted by the Allen and Shelly Clark family of McCool Junction and held at the Stone Creek Event Center. Co-chairs of this year's ball were Paul and Cheri Underwood and Jim and Kathy Matzner of McCool Junction. Ivan Rush of Scottsbluff served as chair of the Statewide Advisory Board. "This was a total team effort involving McCool Junction and numerous surrounding communities," said Shelly Clark. "We had the help of more than 500 volunteers and 45 committees, and more than 4,000 people attended the ball. We are delighted to make such a generous donation to support the outstanding cancer research being done at the Eppley Cancer Center. It's also rewarding to see many local organizations benefit as well." The 2013 Cattlemen's Ball will be June 7-8 at the Hanging H Ranch near Sutherland, Neb. Hosts will be the Neal Hansen family and the Hanging H Ranch and Ralph and Beverly Holzfaster and family. Co-chairs are Jon Holzfaster and Tim and Deb Holzfaster. The following are local organizations that will receive funding this year:

Emmanuel-Faith Lutheran School

Friend FFA

McCool Junction FFA/McCool School

Centennial FFA

Bradshaw Fire Department

Exeter Volunteer Fire Department

Fairmont Fire Department/Friend Fire & Rescue

Henderson Fire and Rescue

McCool Junction Fire District

York Fire Department

York County Mutual Aid District

Fairview Manor

Fillmore County Hospital

4 Corners Health

Henderson Area Health Care
Home Care Plus, Inc.
York General Health Care Service
York Medical Clinic
City of York inclusive with above
McCool Community Improvement Foundation

Here's a breakdown of money raised at the past 15 Cattlemen's Balls:

1998 - Ainsworth -- \$95,000

1999 - Lexington -- \$140,000
2000 - Ogallala -- \$104,000
2001 - Valentine -- \$133,000
2002 - Valparaiso -- \$207,000
2003 - Ashland -- \$33,000
2004 - Brady -- \$174,000
2005 - Wisner -- \$595,000
2006 - Milford -- \$563,250
2007 - Lodgepole -- \$480,000
2008 - Albion -- \$697,000
2009 - Doniphan -- \$488,000
2010 - Kearney -- \$1,003,000
2011 - West Point -- \$1,490,000
2012 - McCool Junction - \$1,410,300
Total - \$7.61 million

The Cattlemen's Ball of Nebraska, Inc. is established to promote beef in a healthy diet, to showcase rural Nebraska and to raise money for health care research. For more information, visit www.cattlemensball.com.