

RISING STAR

Name: Jesse Rempel

Age: 22

Hometown: Swift Current, SK

Discipline: Working Cow Horse

A small town Saskatchewan kid, Jesse Rempel is a young working cow horse trainer who is blazing a hot trail through the arena. Still new to the performance horse industry, he is taking the life and lead changes in stride.

Recent Accomplishments:

- 2011 Alberta Snaffle Bit Futurity Ltd Open Champion
- 2011 Cowtown Derby Ltd Open Reserve Champion

How did you get involved in showing cow horses?

I was taking the Ranch and Feedlot Rider program at Lakeland College. To fulfill the programs' practicum requirement, I went to work with Peter Gonnet. I rode pasture with Gonnet for a month or so and shortly after he introduced me to Dale Clearwater.

When did you start at Justaboutaranch?

I have been riding at Justaboutaranch (the home and training facility of Dale and Teri Clearwater in Hanley, SK) for over two years. I am very thankful for the opportunities that Dale has given me, and the way they have welcomed me into their home. It was shortly after I started working there that Dave Freeland (a longtime customer of Clearwater's) offered to let me show Bobby Jo Rooster at a weekend show. That was an incredibly opportunity to show a great horse.

Did you grow up showing horses?

No, showing horses was not something that I grew up doing. I was raised on my family's mixed farm in Swift Current, Saskatchewan, where we farm and pasture about 300 cows. Horses were for working on, not showing.



Photo courtesy of Teri Clearwater

Rempel treating yearlings in the pasture on Dale & Teri Clearwater's Hanley, SK ranch.

What has been the biggest eye opener for you?

It would have to have been going to (the Alberta Snaffle Bit Futurity) in Claresholm, Alberta. Of course, I had the opportunity to see the great horses that Dale has in his barn, but it was incredible to see so many talented and well-trained horses at one time. I was excited to be there and be part of that. I have always admired a very well broke, versatile horse. The reined cow horse discipline lends itself to creating horses that are good, all around using horses. I like that.

Have you had a 'lightbulb' training moment yet?

I haven't had a one-time moment yet. The longer I stay riding with Dale the more I realize that each horse has a completely different feel. It isn't just my job to train the horse and show it, but to get the most out of that unique horse and show it to the best of its' ability, which is sure to be different than the horse I was on right before him. Just when you think you have training horses figured out, you step on a new one that has an entirely different feel. My favourite horse that I have ridden since coming to Dale's is Solanos Major Hick, the

horse that I won the Ltd Open Alberta Snaffle Bit Futurity on. She is really talented and strong in her reined work, and we are really working on building her confidence on a cow. She has taught me a lot.

Tell us a bit about your future plans?

This year has been amazing for me. I plan to keep on riding with Dale. He is great to work for and learn from. They treat me like part of their family, and I appreciate that. In the summer, when we aren't busy riding, they take me with them to the lake and we all have a ton of fun together. I also make sure to make time to head home and help with the farm. There is a lot of work to be done there, and I still have some cows there as, so I go back to help with my share of the work as much as I can. My family is very supportive of what I am doing. That means a lot to me. I want to stay in Saskatchewan and hopefully get to the point where I can run my own training operation. Until then, I am thankful for the opportunities I have been given and the people who have given them to me. I wouldn't be here without them.

~ Interview by Dainya Sapergia