

Kirsten Vold

The youngest of six children, Kirsten took over the Harry Vold Rodeo Company when she was just 25 years-old and, since that time, has managed to build on the legacy that her Canadian-born father began nearly six decades ago. It may seem like a natural progression, but Kirsten didn't always see herself living on the rodeo trail.

"I was going to be a lawyer and drive a sports car and live in L.A.," she said in a 2009 interview.

Home-schooled until her freshmen year in high school, Vold grew up on the road, ensconced in the life of the cowboy and the excitement of the rodeo. After graduating from University of Southern Colorado in 1996 with a BA in Communications, Kirsten decided to put her degree to work with a job in sports marketing and promotion. Even though her job involved promoting and marketing the sport she so loved, Kirsten felt that her professional destiny was as yet unfulfilled and decided to move back to her father's ranch.

Kirsten now spends more than 200 days each year on the rodeo trail and oversees what is undeniably one of the leading rodeo stock companies in the industry today. A genuine love of animals is the driving force behind the young woman that now manages 15,000 acres of short-grass prairie, raising some 250 bucking horses. According to Kirsten, her greatest personal achievement is Painted Valley, a breeding stud who was selected to six Wrangler National Finals Rodeos, was voted best Saddle Bronc Horse of the WNFR in 2009 and in 2010 Painted Valley was named PRCA Saddle Horse of the Year.

"If you ask me the number one reason why I do what I do, it's because of the animals," she beams. "I love working with animals."

Vold, is now considered a trusted veteran in the industry and her family's company sets the standard by which all others are measured. Whether at the rodeo or the ranch, Kirsten's horses are her life and she is committed to breeding and raising champions. In 2015 Kirsten Vold was the recipient of the "Tad Lucas Memorial Award" and was inducted into the Rodeo Hall of Fame.

By Courtney Elam