



# SAF

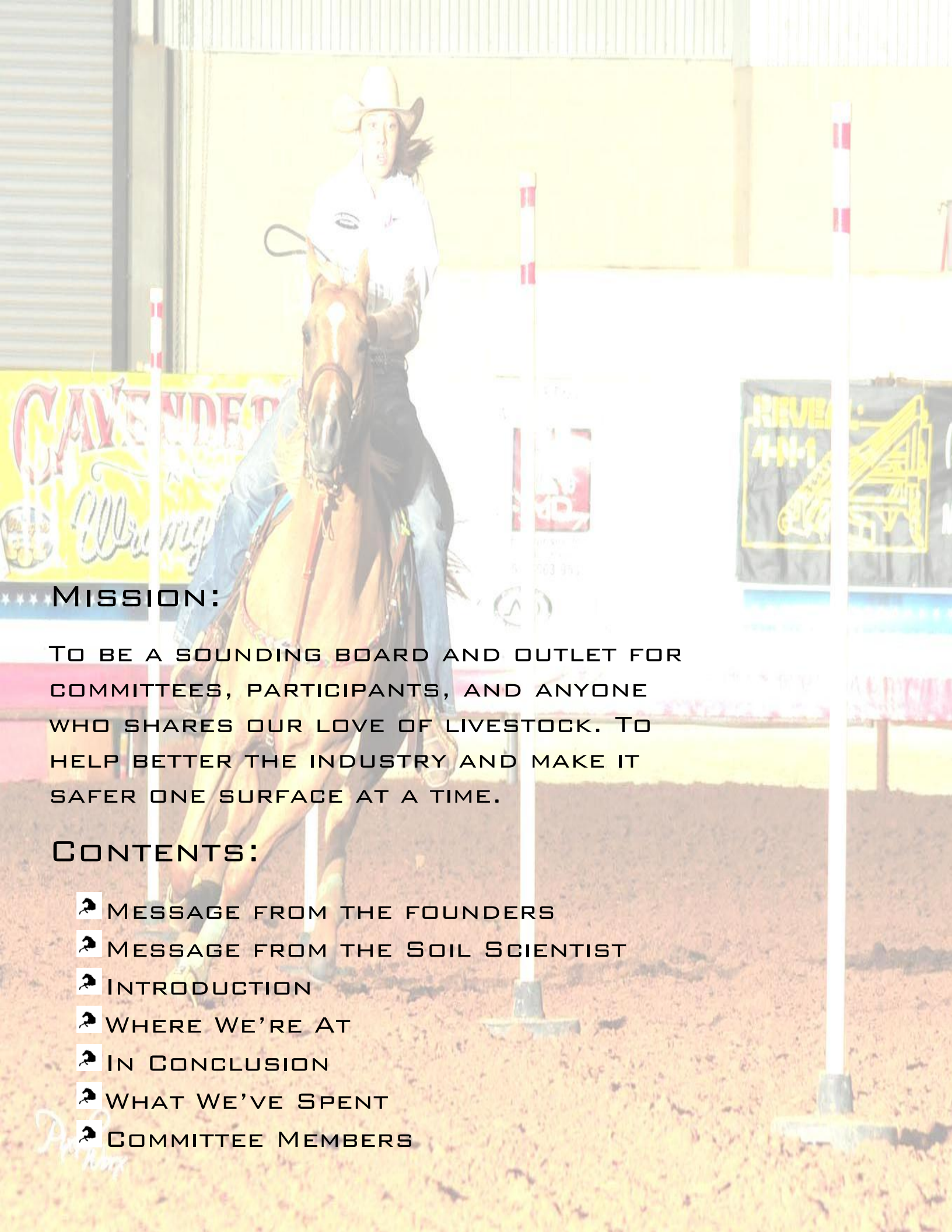
**SafeArenaFooting**  
COMMITTEE

## THE TRYING PAGES

*SAF's Annual Non-Profit Report*

**2011-2012**





## MISSION:

TO BE A SOUNDING BOARD AND OUTLET FOR COMMITTEES, PARTICIPANTS, AND ANYONE WHO SHARES OUR LOVE OF LIVESTOCK. TO HELP BETTER THE INDUSTRY AND MAKE IT SAFER ONE SURFACE AT A TIME.

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# A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDERS:



**STEVE THORNTON**

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"IT'S THE END OF THE FIRST YEAR, WE GOT ESTABLISHED, WE GOT STRUCTURED, AND GOT AN AUDIENCE WITH THE FOLKS WHO NEED OUR SERVICE THE MOST. AFTER A FEW MONTHS OF PEOPLE ABSORBING WHAT WE HAVE PRESENTED, THE FEEDBACK HAS BEEN PHENOMENAL. IT HAS REACHED EVERY SECTOR OF WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH IN THE LIVESTOCK WORLD. THE INSURANCE COMPANIES LIKE IT. THE COMPETITORS THEMSELVES LIKE IT. PEOPLE WHO ARE INVOLVED WITH PRODUCTS ARE EXCITED ABOUT IT. BASICALLY THE PEOPLE AND THE STRUCTURE WE HAVE PUT TOGETHER IN THIS FIRST YEAR, WE ARE SET AND READY TO GO WITH A NEED THAT PEOPLE ARE JUST NOW REALIZING."



**JIM BROWN**

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"I THINK IT'S BEEN A GOOD YEAR. AS GOOD A YEAR AS IT CAN BE FOR A NEW ORGANIZATION COMING IN TO THIS INDUSTRY. I FEEL LIKE WE HAVE HAD TO PROVE TO PEOPLE WE ARE OUT TO HELP THEM AND NOT HIT THEM WITH A BUNCH OF HIDDEN CHARGES OR SELL THEM SOMETHING. WE HAVE DONE A LOT OF TESTING AND ARE CONTINUING TO ADD SURFACES TO OUR DATABASE WHICH WILL ONLY HELP US IN OUR GOAL TO HELP AS MANY ARENAS AND PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE. NEXT YEAR I WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE INVOLVEMENT AND PARTICIPATION BY THE COMMITTEES AND CONTINUE ADDING TO THE DATABASE."

# A MESSAGE FROM THE SOIL SCIENTIST:



**MICHAEL DEPEW**

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"IT IS EXCITING TO BE PART OF AN ORGANIZATION FROM ITS FOUNDATIONS. AS WITH BUILDINGS, A SOUND FOUNDATION IS ALSO AN INTEGRAL PART OF A STRONG AND EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION. AS SUCH, WE HAVE STRIVED AT EVERY STEP IN THIS PROCESS TO BUILD A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR SAF ON WHICH TO CONTINUE TO BUILD THIS ORGANIZATION. THE KEY COMPONENTS OF THIS PROCESS IS TO FOCUS ON THE TWO PRIMARY ELEMENTS THAT MAKE FOR GOOD RODEO GROUNDS... THAT IS, THE SOIL MATERIALS WHICH MAKE UP THE GROUND AND THE METHODS AND PRACTICES FOR PREPARING THAT GROUND FOR AN EVENT. AS WE CONTINUE ALONG IN THIS PROCESS, IT IS OUR OBJECTIVE TO TAKE A PROACTIVE STANCE AND TO PROMOTE THESE TWO FACETS TO THE INDUSTRY BY PUBLICATIONS AND WEB CONTENT, ASTM INDUSTRY STANDARDS, SEMINARS, VIDEOS, INTERNET DISCUSSION GROUPS, AND DEMONSTRATION CLINICS. I LOOK FORWARD TO MY CONTINUING INVOLVEMENT IN HELPING TO BUILD THIS ORGANIZATION TO HELP IN IMPROVING CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS AND LIVESTOCK."

# INTRODUCTION:

Copy To: Jim Brown, George McDermott, Michael DePew, Randy Spraggins, Jimmie Munroe, Steve Thornton, Mike Qualls, Janet Cropper, and Cortney Guidry

The Safe Arena Footing Committee (SAF) was founded by the state of Texas on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011 through the combined efforts of the WPRA, Barrel Racer News, Texas Sand Equestrian Services LLC, and Environmental Technical Services, for the safety of the horse and rider. SAF'S goal is to provide information about the proper construction of arena grounds or surfaces utilizing the right materials to achieve an optimum surface that can be duplicated anywhere.

We have had three phone conferences with the founders of the committee; Randy Spraggins was able to join us for one conference call while Mike Qualls has been unavailable. The 2011 meetings were successful in identifying our goals and presenting SAF to the entire industry at the WPRA Presentations in Las Vegas in November of 2011. Since then interest has waned a little. Our conference call in March was not as productive as we had hoped. We visited about the data base and discussed some related events, but feel we are lacking in motivation to reach out and help. The details of our call are below:

**Meeting | 03.02.12 | 10:00am-10:56am**

**Attendees: Cortney G. (moderator), Jim B., George McD., Michael D., Randy S., Jimmie M., Steve T.**

## **TO DO/ FOLLOW UP ITEMS:**

Jimmie- get with Butch/ get with Janet on email list of committees/ possible sponsorships/ where can we get forms that judges fill out?

Steve- Possible sponsorships

Michael- Testing database

Cortney- Testing database/ E-mail list/ Follow-up call

Randy- Join the ASTM Committee

Steve, Jim, and George have visited many arenas in the area and have pulled samples and submitted them to Michael DePew (*soil scientist*) with Environmental technical Services (*ETS*) to be tested for particle size, shape, determined ratios on the sand, silt, and clay, mineralogy, uniformity co-efficient, pH, calcium carbonates, and salts. We have watched a variety of different maintenance practices, and different materials on the arenas, all providing different results. We have talked with the maintenance crews, riders, trainers, and veterinarians from one discipline to another, and in many cases it seems as if everyone has a different twist and is doing the best that they can. But without much information about the surfaces as they pertain to improving the ground, managers resort to manipulating the surface with whatever they can find... right or wrong. Many arena managers just follow standard operating procedures and changes are only facilitated by complaints or injury. Most arena managers do not have target values for ratios of sand, silt, and clay as it relates to their specific discipline. The constituents of a good ground in the past to date have oftentimes simply been analyzed by the hand: how it beads, breaks, holds together, smells, and tastes! That is not keeping up with today's standards and does not constitute the practice of "exercising reasonable care" in arena development, management, and maintenance. There are people in powerful agencies demanding the fair treatment of the livestock and they have never participated in any ranch or rodeo events, nor do they have a background in the field qualifying their demands. As such, the industry itself must be proactive in developing a set of standards or practices which outline what is reasonable care and what constitutes unreasonable risk. To leave this to those outside of the industry or to the courts may place severe restrictions on the equestrian events/venues.

The goal is to protect all participants from the riders, to the livestock; and in all areas, not just the competition arenas. We need to include warm up arenas, and areas of high traffic. For the safest and fairest event, you need to use people and labs that are trained in equine surfaces and we need to inform them what the criteria is for testing. Target data is critical for the uniformity of surfaces coast to coast. This will allow all interested parties anywhere to have relative information on the construction, and performance of grounds (*arenas*) specific to their discipline and how to achieve the best results the FIRST TIME. We get several calls from people who did not know of SAF until they talked with one of our small committee members, Jimmie or Janet, and by then they did not have money to perform even the simplest of tests. If arena operators continue to use road/construction/mining/agricultural laboratories without target values it is probable to end up with a road...and not a performance arena. Agencies and organizations

*(Insurance underwriters, PETA, ASTM, SHARK, the courts for example)* will soon be looking at safety in these areas you can be sure of that. We can assist and receive assistance from these agencies if we are proactive in securing and controlling the data and research affecting decisions like the jerk down, or drag distance, or what constitutes a safe arena surface. If some arbitrary “standard” is set for arena surface safety and a particular surface does not meet that standard; what does that mean in terms of lost insurance coverage, event cancellations, lost sponsorships, and then to still be facing remediation costs. And, if expenditures are made to remediate and arena, will the new surface actually perform better? It is our goal to have these standards developed by people within and friendly to the rodeo industry. To that end, we are in the process of establishing SAF as the primary task group for rodeo footing/surfaces within the larger ASTM Equestrian Surfaces Subcommittee (ASTM subcommittee F08.28).

#### WHAT IS THE ASTM?

ASTM International was organized over 110 years ago and now stands at the forefront as one of the world’s largest and most respected international standards developing organizations. ASTM’s international standards are developed under an open and transparent consensus process that embraces the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement principles and follow American National Standards Institute (ANSI) protocols. ASTM’s 12,000 international standards are used and accepted in diverse industries worldwide for such things as metals, paints, plastics, textiles, petroleum, construction, energy, the environment, consumer products, medical services and devices, and electronics. ASTM International standards are applied in research and development, quality systems, product testing and acceptance, and commercial transactions. They form an integral component of the modern, competitive business model.

#### LAB:

The evaluation of soil materials for equestrian footings is necessary to understand the properties of the cushion/ground and the expected performance under competitive equestrian events. The general idea for obtaining good equestrian footing is to have a high-sand arena soil of which the sand particles fall within specific size ranges. Sand which has a higher variability in size is more stable than sand where most of the particles are about the same size. Along with the sand fraction of the soil, the proper amounts of silt & clay and proper silt to clay ratio are critical elements. Other factors for



material selection, besides particle size, also come into play and include such things as mineralogy, carbonates, salinity, and particle shape. The water quality of the source (*whether onsite well, pond water, municipal*) used to maintain soil moisture is also an important factor.

As part of our activities to better understand equestrian footing for rodeo applications, we sampled and analyzed over 25 separate soil samples of cushion material and/or amending materials. The data collected thus far have not suggested much adjustment in our initial recommended target values (*those values which we have used for evaluating generic equestrian (riding) arenas for over 10 years*). In addition to sampling/testing of samples, we also participated in testing and recommendations for the improvement/renovation of three separate rodeo arenas. This was completed as part of our NFR/WPRA testing “give-away” drawing from last November’s NFR conference. These facilities included Spanish Fork Rodeo (*Utah*) and Tremonton Rodeo (*Utah*). A report of our services from each of these facilities is included in this report as well as more information about the data below.

#### DATA BASE:

Our database of tests is growing! We are up to 60 tests run on arenas and surfaces across the U.S. Our vision for the database is to one day be a place competitors and maintenance professionals can use via the internet to compare their surface with other like surfaces and to eventually “grade” the surface. We would like to incorporate the input from the judges and riders and need the WPRA’s help in doing so. This is just another major component to educating the competitor and the ones who manage the surface.

Tex-Sand is controlling the data currently and to date we have only released the information to the arena itself. But again, one day we would like the information obtained in the form of target values be given to any that it may potentially benefit. With that thought we are considering copyrighting the data in order to control and manage all the information associated with SAF. So that the information cannot be REUSED, MISUSED, or MISINTERPRETED. We mean to control the potential for damages at this infancy of our organization. The people mentioned in this report are available for comment and have waived confidentiality but we would like to be sure they are not targeted by any persons or groups.



We have enjoyed this year in the arena, and look forward to helping more if everyone is on board. Our lab results are quite impressive as it shows that most of the folks working on arenas need the help. We have worked with Spanish Fork Fairgrounds Rodeo Arena in Spanish Fork, Utah and we were able to assist Mr. Steven Money (*City of Spanish Fork*), for a new soil blend coming in to renovate the rodeo arena. Through these efforts we were able to help identify good amending sands and blend ratios. Our involvement was initiated after the project had already had some progressions. Mr. Money had utilized a local testing lab for sampling and analyzing the ground, but the lab had no target data nor were they identifying the ratio of sand, silt and clay (*illustrating the importance of standard test protocols*). As an engineering lab, they were lumping the clay and silt into one number (*as is often common when evaluating road base aggregates*) and that creates problems for evaluating soils for rodeo arenas. We were able to adjust his ground and Mr. Money is a very happy arena owner, and would like to speak for the SAF if we plan on being in Las Vegas this year. We have also worked with Mr. Dirk Hoffman and the Black Hill Association (*Belle Fourche*) in South Dakota in a similar fashion. We were able to assist them in identifying a specification (*particle size*) for an amending sand. The material that was thought to be good as an amending sand showed some serious limitations after it was tested. Through a process of emails and phone conversations, we were able to offer suggestions and make recommendations that helped to improve the rodeo ground and at the same time allowed the client to save money.

As you can imagine, forming, promoting, and doing tests “pro bono” has costs us (*Tex-Sand*) some money. We have been excited and continue to be excited about what we feel SAF can accomplish and the amount of people and committees we could help, but feel we have hit a stale mate and need to make some decisions on committee members and the participation level as a whole.

## IN CONCLUSION:

If the WPRA (*Jimmie, Janet*) feels the committee is a good source for their committees, we would love to continue. We would love some support in contacting the committees. An email list that we could use to contact each committee president or their members would be very helpful in getting the word out and promoting the site as well. We are willing to spend the time and some money to update the site and add some valuable

features (*discussion board, chat feature, etc.*), but want to know that we have the resources available to make it a success.

Steve is preparing for the event in Waco and setting up a clinic to show how to manipulate the arena with the proper equipment. Jimmie and Janet have contacted Steve to work the grounds in Lincoln. This is great and what we are looking for BUT what about the testing? No one has even suggested that the ground in either place be sampled, and tested, and if it has been tested, what is the criteria? The clinics in both locations are critical to our agenda in showing how we should be using the information provided by SAF. We have to believe and support our organization!

**THIS IS OUR HORSE TO RIDE, BE SAF!**

Let's please get together on the committee's future and how we can make SAF a "house hold name" in the rodeo industry.

With Thanks,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. On the left is the signature of Cortney Guidry, which is written in a cursive, flowing style. On the right is the signature of Jim Brown, also in cursive but with a more compact and angular appearance. The two signatures are positioned side-by-side, separated by a small space.

&

CORTNEY GUIDRY & JIM BROWN



## WHAT WE'VE SPENT:

Date	Total Cost	Memo
11/10/2011	\$25.00	Certificate of Formation
11/17/2011	\$121.92	Smartpress.com, flyers for NFR
11/16/2011	\$43.89	11 months hosting for safearenafooting.com
11/3/2011	\$9.17	Domain name registration safearenafooting.com
11/28/2011	\$720.80	Spirit Airlines, seats and stay at Excalibur
11/28/2011	\$185.00	Bags and seats
12/2/2011	\$112.00	Excalibur, resort fees
12/1/2011	\$83.29	Fed-Ex, return of Clegg
6/1/2012	\$17.28	Hosting for safearenafooting.com March-June
12/2/2011	\$560.00	Credit card charges for NFR (food, misc expenses)
6/15/2012	\$48.00	Cards for WPRA mailer
08/27/2012	\$60.59	Cutlets for WPRA Applications
To Date	\$5,800.00	Testing (Value)
	<b>\$7,786.94</b>	

\*THE TABLE ABOVE DOES NOT ACCOUNT FOR THE TIME DONATED  
BY STEVE THORNTON, JIM BROWN, CORTNEY GUIDRY, GEORGE  
McDERMOTT, AND MICHAEL DEPEW\*

	New Cushion sand	Old Cushion composite	Labeled as: 'Clay' source	New/Old Computed 90/10	New/Old Computed 85/15	July 16, '12 Arena QC sample	
<b>Textural Analysis</b>							
Sand	93.0%	66.2%	69.8%	90.3%	89.0%	84.1%	
Silt	5.5%	16.4%	12.4%	4.8%	5.4%	10.6%	
Clay	1.5%	17.4%	17.8%	4.9%	5.6%	5.3%	
Total Silt+Clay	7.0%	33.8%	30.2%	9.7%	11.0%	15.9%	
Fine Gravel (3.35 - 2.0 mm)	2.7%	19.7%	21.3%	4.4%	5.2%	9.6%	
<b>Sand Particle Size Distribution</b>							
2.0 - 1.0 mm	2.2%	25.8%	26.5%	4.6%	5.7%	12.2%	
1.0 - 0.5 mm	10.9%	17.6%	16.6%	11.6%	11.9%	12.1%	
0.5 - 0.25 mm	37.8%	20.2%	17.6%	36.1%	35.2%	25.9%	
0.25 - 0.15 mm	26.6%	16.5%	15.0%	25.6%	25.1%	22.7%	
0.15 - 0.106 mm	10.9%	9.7%	9.0%	10.7%	10.7%	11.8%	
0.106 - 0.053 mm	11.6%	10.2%	15.3%	11.5%	11.4%	15.3%	
<b>Organic Matter (LOI)</b>							<b>Outdoor/Rodeo Arena Target Values</b>
Silt + Clay	-	33.8%		-	-	-	1.5% - 2.5%
Silt to Clay ratio	0.94	0.94		9.7%	11.0%	15.9%	5% - 15%
Carbonates (CCE, %)	-	-		0.98	0.97	2.00	< 1.0
<b>Sand CU<sup>#</sup> (D<sub>60</sub>/D<sub>10</sub>)</b>				-	-	-	< 5%
<b>Sand D50</b>		9.1		3.5	3.6	3.0	4.5 - 5.5
		0.36 mm		0.28 mm	0.29 mm	0.30 mm	0.35 - 0.55 mm

<sup>#</sup>Sand CU and D50 calculation includes gravel fraction

Environmental Technical Services, LC  
835 Herricksville Rd.  
Tekonsha, MI 49092

Report for: Steve Money

517-227-1127  
proturf@hotmail.com



### Sand CU and D50 calculation includes gravel fraction

THANKS FOR A GREAT YEAR!



**SafeArenaFooting**  
C O M M I T T E E



[WWW.SAFEARENAFOOTING.COM](http://WWW.SAFEARENAFOOTING.COM)

[INFO@SAFEARENAFOOTING.COM](mailto:INFO@SAFEARENAFOOTING.COM)