

May 9th, 2020

COVID-19 Riverwood Ranch Update

Hello Everyone!

What a year it has been for all of us!

We sure hope that during these uncertain times, that your families have been staying safe and that you all have been able to find a balance between work and life during the COVID 19 Pandemic. Things at the ranch have been different to say the least but like any rancher, we are pushing through, working hard to find solutions and trying to stay thankful for all that we have. We wanted to release a new update about the Riverwood Ranch 2020 season as Alberta begins their relaunch strategy combined with the launch of strategies for both the Alberta Equestrian Federation and Capri Insurance.

At this time, it appears that all of our events and services are going to fall somewhere between the second and third phases of the Alberta Relaunch Program. Regulations permitting the Alberta Equestrian Federation and Capri Insurance also predict late wave reopening's. At the current moment the ranch is closed to all services other than horse training and custom cattle pasturing. Riding lessons, trails ride, cattle drives, obstacle playdays, arena haul In's and events have all been postponed until more conclusive directives and regulations are given.

We know that many people are most concerned about the cattle drive events as in a normal year, spaces would be filling up fast. At this time all cattle drives will be indefinitely postponed. For those of you who have already placed deposits, will be offering full refunds or transfers to other Riverwood Ranch Events in the 2020 year. We expect that cattle drives will be the last Riverwood Ranch service to be permitted. This is due to the nature of these events and what protocols and regulations are realistic and manageable. We hope that lessons, trail rides, playdays, and arena haul ins will be able to open more quickly with regulations put in place. At this time, we are optimistically hoping for June/July for these other services. Cattle Drive reopening's are hard to predict at this time.

This news is hard for us to give; however we are optimistic that things will change as the summer unfolds. I think one of the most important things to remember is that we are all in this together and we are all trying to find the best solutions in a field of uncertainty. Ironically, I think the lessons learned from ranching can be remarkably relevant when dealing with a pandemic. There will always be hard and uncertain times during a rancher's life. However, ranching continues because farmers have faith, patience and an unwavering commitment to their lifestyle. They are not scared to work hard, make sacrifices and have the belief that all hard times will pass and that it is possible to come out on the other side stronger than ever.

We have been making the best of this situation by taking full advantage of the time spent at home. We have been working diligently to finish our new 80x200 indoor arena so that guests can use the arena all year long. Our horse training business has also skyrocketed as we are on track to train more horses this year than ever before. We have been putting lots of miles in the saddle and training some fantastic horses. We are also excited to get our cattle herds to the ranch early this year with increased numbers. Like everyone, we are doing our best to see the silver lining and to push through and make the best of this situation. Our biggest priority is the safety of our community and we will continue to provide updates and changes about events as the summer develops. We hope to provide events later in the season so that everyone can enjoy Riverwood Ranch as much as we do. In the meantime, stay safe, saddle up and let's see where this year takes us.

Your Truly,
The Riverwood Ranch Family

