

The folks at McCoy's Building Supply understand that it takes a lot of hard work and the whole family pitching in to get things done on a farm or ranch. That's why we'd like to take some time out to salute Texas High School Rodeo Association families who are farmers and ranchers. In our monthly Farm & Ranch Family Spotlight, we'll feature one family, sharing their story of how they work together as a family to make their farm or ranch successful. The spotlight will run for 10 months; each month will feature a different region. Each Regional McCoy's Farm and Ranch Family will receive a \$100 McCoy's Gift Card. The McCoy's Farm and Ranch Family of the Year will receive a \$500 McCoy's Gift Card and will be announced at the 2009 THSRA State Finals.

## The Chown Family of Region IV



McCoy's Farm and Ranch would like to recognize the Chown Family from Region IV as their Farm and Ranch Family. Robert, Cheryl and Riley Chown own Chown Quarter Horses a 96 acre ranch in Gainesville that has been in operation for 20 years. Operating a successful horse ranch requires something that might seem obvious, but in the Chown family it is in their blood ... a genuine and deep love for horses. This love for what they do gets them up in the morning to start the long list of chores that are required for taking care of the 40 horses in stalls, 35 more in the

pasture and the hundred or so cows that are used for training those horses.

The Chown families' deep love for horses goes back to the fact that Robert is a 19 time World Champion in Reining and Cowhorse events and Cheryl is a 3 time World Champion and 4 time NHSRA Finals Qualifier. Riley is following her parent's trail by being a true All Around Cowgirl, competing in barrel racing, pole bending, cutting and breakaway roping.

Chown Quarter horses is a horse ranch where the family breeds, raises, trains, shows and sell elite performance horses geared towards reining, working cowhorse and barrel racing events. The training of the horses takes place no matter what the weather is and the whole family has to work together to make this happen. About half of the horses on the ranch are owned by the Chown Family, but the other half are owned by outside clients. Their job is to turn a rough, untrained horse into an elite performer, which you might guess does not happen over night.

Robert manages the ranch and handles the training and showing of all the reining and cowhorses. Cheryl runs the office, coordinates events and trains the barrel horses. Riley, like many other ranch kids, is homeschooled to be able to help with the family business and be free to travel to the many events the family participates in. At the ranch, Riley can be found gathering and penning cattle or helping her Dad and Mom with the training and preparation of the horses.

The day to day work on the ranch includes pre conditioning the cattle that will be used to work the horses, keeping plenty of feed and shavings for the horses (40 horses in a stall means A LOT of stall cleaning) and staying on top of the daily ranch repairs that come with operating a ranch of this size.

To prove the quality of their horses the Chown family must constantly compete and show their horses at events across the country. This means that the Chown family is on the road a lot. Last year they went to shows as far East as Harriman, TN and as far West as Reno Nevada, not to mention the countless rodeos that the girls compete in. The family tries hard to schedule their many events around Riley's high school rodeos so they can attend them as a family.

Cheryl and Robert say, "This business really chose us! Robert sometimes jokes that he never learned how to do anything else." His family has been in the horse business for over 100 years. Riley is destined to continue the family tradition.

The Chown family feels lucky to have a McCoy's close by in Gainesville. They buy supplies for the ranch on a regular basis such as fencing, panels and hardware. McCoy's helps keep Chown Quarter Horses running smoothly!

