

# IDAHO DADS

# MATTER!

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## The Cowboy Dad of Castleford

*...He Teaches his Kids to Dust off and Get Back Up in Life*

CASTLEFORD — “Playing basketball or branding calves” is 14-year-old Reata’s favorite thing to do with her father, says Matt Severe who has coached his daughter’s school basketball team for six years running and coaches calf roping and horse riding at home.

“So, when we brand calves, we rope everything, and we head them and then we heel them... and then we have a ground crew that comes, so that's kind of fun. We really enjoy branding season as a family.”

Reata rides horses “pretty well,” says her dad, but he helps her pick up the pace. “I call her ‘grandma’ sometimes just to razz her a little bit. If I got a calf necked and she's trying to heel it and she misses, I'm like, ‘Oh, come on grandma!’ as she's rebuilding her loop or getting ready to rope again.”

**“Lots of things don't work out as planned. You got to get back up and go back to it.”**

— Matt Severe

Skeeter, 12, likes riding in the pickup truck and “stopping at the store and getting a treat—I think Butterfingers is probably his favorite candy bar—just anything that’s not good for you,” he explained.

Ten-year-old Jaycee’s favorite things to do with her dad is to “feed the cows because she gets to drive,” while Quincy, 8, likes tagging along with his siblings and his dad. “He’s a calf rider, so one of his favorite things is me helping him in the bucking chute before he comes out on his calf,” Matt said.

Asked about his parenting philosophy, Matt said this: “Probably first and foremost, I would say that a dad

probably should provide. I grew up that the man of the house was the breadwinner. My responsibility is to make sure they have a house over their head and clothes to wear and food to eat.”

Teaching children to lose gracefully is important, he said. “You just kind of got to get up and go back to it. Lots of times things don't work the way you plan; in fact, 90% of the time they don't. You dust yourself off and figure out what you did wrong—what mistakes happened—and then you continue on.”

Matt credits his wife Anna with being a super parent and partner. “Make sure you’re married to a good woman,” he said, “because that makes me being a dad a whole hell of a lot easier. I wouldn't be able to do the things I've done without my wife.”

