



A rider plays Hacky Sack to warm up before taking on a bull.



A rider competes at the Oakland Heights Farm rodeo.

### Year's last rodeo at Oakland Heights Farm a tribute to farm's founder, art of bull riding

**CAL CARY**  
The Daily Progress

The Stars and Stripes fluttered against the evening sky as it was carried on horseback around the perimeter of the dusty ring. The men, who moments later would chance fate on the back of a bucking bull, removed their hats and took a knee. The crowd of hundreds packed into the stands went quiet as the sound of the national anthem began to swell.

With "home of the brave" fading into the night, hats were returned to heads, riders rose from the ground and the crowd began to stir. The first rider climbed into the chute and secured his hand under a braided rope. With a violent yank, the gate before him was thrown open and the rider was propelled into the ring. For a brief moment, a matter of seconds, man and



From left to right, Matt Lamb, owner of Oakland Heights Farm, and Carey McNeil walk in the ring.

mount were transformed into a tornado of dirt, dust and denim, cowhide and cowboy courage.

It was the last rodeo at

Oakland Heights Farm of the 2023 season, the last season for the man long synonymous with the event, David Lamb.

"Safety and horsemanship were the absolute most important things, and that's



Bullfighters surround a bull after it tosses a rider.



A rider runs away from the bull as bullfighters surround him.

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# Under the roof

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