Y'all are cordially invited to join us as ranch hands (participants) at the SIGCSE 2011 Robot Hoedown & Rodeo. As a ranch hand, you'll get the chance to try out one or more robot breeds (platforms) that are used in educational settings. Our goal is to give those who haven't tried wrangling a robot before the opportunity to do so, and for those who have some experience to try out different breeds.

Overview
Bring your own laptop to the Robot Corral (the Live Oak Room on the 2nd floor of the Hotel) and pick a robot to experiment with. Choose from among several tasks (some platform-specific, others platform independent). Some tasks are designed to take a novice roboticist as little as 15 or 20 minutes. Others are more complex and may take you between 30 and 60 minutes. In most cases you’ll need to install some software that you can choose to download ahead of time from the website if you prefer.

To get you started, we’ve got live tutorial sessions scheduled for Thursday and Friday morning, as well as on-line material. There are also TAs in the Robot Corral to help you. After completing a task, you have the option of doing a public demo in the exhibit hall during one of the breaks and/or participating in the grand finale right before the conference luncheon on Saturday.

- **Robot Breeds:** We’ve got a wide variety of breeds (types of robots) to choose from, including Creates, Finches, Hemissons, LEGO NXTs, & Scribblers.

- **Robot Chow:** Our robots thrive on programs written in different languages like Alice, C, FLAIL, Java, and Python.

The SIGCSE Robot Hoedown & Rodeo is made possible thanks to generous support from the National Science Foundation and iRobot Corporation.
**Optional Mini Training Sessions:** Get overviews of our different robot breeds!
- 10:45-Noon on Thursday and Friday in Dallas D3

**Try the Hoedown:** Train your bot to dance to the country hit “The Chicken Coop Shuffle.”
- Estimated time for a novice roboticist: 15 – 20 minutes plus software installation time.

**Try the Rodeo:** Train your bot to do a special task that shows off the features of your breed.
- Estimated time for a novice roboticist: 30-60 minutes plus software installation time.

**Watch Professional Demos:**
- Thursday at in the back of the exhibit hall during the breaks at 10:00 and 3:00.
- The kind folks who brought their robots for you to play with show off their own skills.

**Do Your Own Demos:**
- In the exhibit hall during the breaks on Friday at 10:00 & 3:00 and Saturday at 10:10.
- Come show others what you’ve been up to in the Hoedown & Rodeo events.

**Join the World’s Largest Robot-Based “Chicken Coop Shuffle” Hoedown**
- Saturday immediately before lunch at 12:10 right outside the Grand Ballroom
- Everyone who has trained a bot to dance is encouraged to grab a bot one last time and bring it over to our grand finale group performance.

**Win Prizes!!!!!**
- Thanks to the generosity of our Hoedown & Rodeo Marshal, iRobot Corporation, we’re raffling off robots and Amazon gift cards to those who do a demo, participate in the grand finale, and/or fill out our feedback surveys after the event.

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**Shhh…. It’s a secret:**
To access the music clip for the hoedown challenge you will need a password. This is found on the sheet in your conference bag or by asking in the Robot Corral

**Robot Corral Open Hours**
Live Oak Room – 2nd floor of the hotel
- Thursday: 1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- Friday: 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- Saturday: 8:30 a.m. – 11:15 p.m.