



Overview of the Colorado State University Legends of Ranching Program

David J. Denniston, Director

In the months of August and September of each year, Colorado State University (CSU) begins to receive yearling fillies and geldings from some of the most historic and prestigious working ranches around the country. When received, most of the young stock have had very little to no handling and / or training. Upon arrival, they are entered into the fall semester CSU Horse Training and Sale Preparation 1 course (ANEQ340) that is taught by Mr. John Snyder, a Colorado State alumnus. The fall horse training class will consist of approximately 30 students in 3 different class sections. Throughout the semester, Mr. Snyder will teach the students how to properly begin a young horse's training program including safely catching and halter breaking, longing, ground manners, the first saddling, and the first ride. By the end of the fall semester horse training class, most (if not all) young horses will be started under saddle in an arena and in an open pasture.

While the colt training class is being taught in the fall, so too is our fall semester Equine Event Management course (ANEQ358). Mrs. Tiare Santisteven leads the instruction of the Event Management course in which students learn the many "ins and outs" of planning, organizing, and managing an equine event. At the end of the fall Equine Event Management course, students will apply and be interviewed to participate in the spring Sales Management Course (ANEQ359). Students who are accepted into the Sales Management Course (taught by Dr. David J. Denniston) will learn about the many details involved in planning and managing the very large and successful Legends of Ranching Performance Horse Sale. Students in the Sales Management class will be intimately involved in all of the decisions associated with the Legends of Ranching Sale including but certainly not limited to: sale contracts, producing a sale catalog, producing several hospitality events, soliciting both advertisers and sponsors, communicating with all involved, hiring sales staff, and much more.

After the winter break and holiday season, the fall horse training students will return to CSU in late January to continue their horse training education in part two of the CSU Horse Training Program (ANEQ341). In early February, the young horses will be brought into stalls, put under lights, and begin their fitting and training program in preparation for the April sale. Mr. Snyder will again lead the education and training of all young horses and their assigned students. All horses will continue to be ridden, trained, and prepped for the Legends of Ranching Performance Horse Sale under the careful watch of Mr. Snyder.

On the Saturday prior to the Legends of Ranching Performance Horse Sale, the students who have participated in the fall and spring horse training classes have the opportunity to demonstrate how much both they and their young training horse have learned in the annual Wagonhound Student Competition – generously sponsored by Wagonhound Land and Livestock, LLC. The competition consists of both a showmanship class and a riding class in which the students have the opportunity to "show off" their accomplishments. As a result of the Wagonhound Student Competition, \$10,000 in scholarship money and other various awards will be presented recognizing the outstanding performance of our CSU students.

In a relatively new program (started in 2016), horses that have been sold through the CSU Legends of Ranching Performance Horse Sale will be eligible to return to CSU and participate in the Legends of Ranching Futurity and Maturity Horse Show. The show will consist of both a Ranch Riding class and a Cow Horse Class and have both a Non-Pro and Open Division. Over \$10,000 in prize money will be awarded at the end of the show in addition to various other awards. Sponsorship from Bar Rock-N-Bean Ranch makes this event possible and we are proud to offer such a unique venue for past Legends of Ranching sale horses to compete.

Following the Futurity and Maturity Horse Show on Friday evening, we will welcome all of our valued consignors, sponsors, some VIP guests and students to a hospitality event at the CSU Equine Center sponsored by Purina Animal Nutrition Center. This event is planned and organized by our Sales Management class and we are proud to host over 300 people throughout the evening. In addition to the social event, outstanding students in both the Horse Training and Sales Management class will be awarded \$10,000 in scholarships thanks to the generous support of Miller International (Cinch).

The Legends of Ranching Performance Horse Sale will start early on a Saturday morning in April as the sale horses will begin to be prepped for both the preview and sale. Throughout the morning, horses will be previewed for potential buyers to view. A formal preview will take place in which each young horse will be ridden by their student trainer for a buying crowd of nearly 400 people. Students will answer questions and visit with buyers, consignors and sponsors throughout the day. Students in the horse training class will take the lead in showing their horses to potential buyers while sales management students will tend to the details of managing both the preview and the sale itself. The sale itself will take place in the early afternoon and each horse will be led into the sale ring by their student trainer and sold to the general public. Approximately 50-60 horses will be sold on sale day that includes both young horses in the CSU horse training class and other horses consigned by our various consignors.

Once the sales gavel has dropped for the last time, the necessary paperwork is completed by the sales management class and the horses are turned over by the horse training students to their new owners who will take them home and continue their training program. Many Legends of Ranching sale horses have gone on to become successful in many different arenas. The CSU Legends of Ranching Program is a unique program that engages a large number of CSU undergraduate Equine Sciences students in many different classes. There is not better educational opportunity than a "hands-on" experience for a student. Colorado State is extremely proud of the Legends of Ranching Program and it could not be possible without the generous and kind support of our many valued consignors and sponsors. For more information about the Legends of Ranching Program, please contact Dr. David J. Denniston via the below information.

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