



## Overview of the Colorado State University Legends of Ranching Program

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 I course (ANEQ 340), instructed by Mr. John Snyder. 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. Safely catching, halter breaking, ground manners, leading, first saddling, and the first ride are all covered in the fall semester. By the conclusion of the fall semester the colts will all be started under saddle in the arena and riding out in the 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 basics of planning, organizing and managing an equine event. At the end of the fall semester these students, through an interview process to participate in the spring Sales Management Course (ANEQ 359). Students who are accepted in the Sales Management course, taught by John Snyder and industry professionals, will learn about the many details involved in planning and managing the unique 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 not limited to: sale contracts, producing a sale catalog, pedigree research, producing several hospitality events, soliciting both advertisers and sponsors, communicating with all parties 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 the stalls, put under lights, and begin their fitting and training program in preparation for sale day. 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 and his teaching assistants.

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 salesmanship class and a riding class in which the students have the opportunity to display skills they have learned in ANEQ340 & ANEQ341. As a result of the Wagonhound Student Competition, \$10,000 in scholarship money and 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 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, complete with Non-Pro and Open divisions. Over \$10,000 in prize money is 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 graduates to compete.

Following the Futurity and Maturity Horse Show on Friday evening we welcome all of our valued consignors, sponsors, buyers and students to a hospitality event at the CSU Equine Center sponsored by Purina Animal Nutrition Center. This event, proudly catered by Ram Country Meats (CSU Meat Judging Team), is planned and organized by our Sales Management class and we are proud to host over 300 guests throughout the evening. In addition to the social event, outstanding students in both the Horse Training and Sales Management classes are 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 Saturday morning, as horses will begin to be prepped for both the preview and sale. In addition to the horse preview, the CSU Seedstock Merchandising Team offers a select group of individuals for sale. A formal preview will take place in which each young horse will be ridden by their student trainer for a buying crowd of nearly 500 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 will begin 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. This includes both the young prospects that have been in the training class and additional seasoned aged-horse consignments.

Once the gavel drops on the last horse, the paperwork is handled in our sales office by students and university faculty. Many Legends of Ranching sale graduates have gone on to become successful in many different arenas. The Legends of Ranching Program is a unique program that engages a large number of CSU undergraduate and graduate students from varying backgrounds with diverse scholastic and professional goals. There is no 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 consignor and sponsors. For more information about the Legends of Ranching Program, please contact John Snyder via the below information.

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