



AQHA Ranching Heritage Breeder Youth Young Horse Development Project

Introduction:

This project will showcase the stock being bred and raised by AQHA Ranching Heritage members. Additionally, it will provide an opportunity for youth to become engaged in the horse industry at a fundamental level that will be fun and educational. AQHYA members have the chance to receive a free weanling from several generous AQHA Ranching Heritage Breeders. The second way youth can participate in the Young Horse Development Program is to purchase a Ranching Heritage Challenge-nominated foal from a Ranching Heritage Breeder.

Scholarships:

Youth will be vying for \$5,000 in scholarships and prizes

- 1st Place - \$2,000 and Montana Silversmith Belt Buckle
- 2nd Place - \$1,500 and a pair of Justin Boots
- 3rd Place - \$1,000 and a \$100 Wrangler Gift Certificate
- 4th Place - \$500 and a \$100 Wrangler Gift Certificate

*awards and placing's are subject to change

Monthly Reports:

All participants in the program are required to write a 1 to 2 page progress report on their foal each month. The reports should highlight the daily routine care of the horse, nutrition plans, goals for your horse, and training plans. Reports will be graded each month and will count for the overall score of the program. All papers will be typed in a Word Document and emailed to the Ranching Heritage coordinator for grading.

Social Media:

Although it is not required we encourage all members of the program to interact each other via Facebook. If selected for the program youth members will be given access to a private facebook group that is only allowed for current/past members, their parents and select staff at AQHA.

Competition:

Youth will take their Ranching Heritage yearling to an AQHA, 4-H, FFA, or other local show (a novice or introductory show is permitted) in their respective state/province this summer prior to August 15, and show in either a halter class or a showmanship class. Youth will have a member of show management verify their entry by signing the Ranching Heritage Show Achievement Form. The youth will be required to write a 500-word essay on their experience. Their placing at the show will not affect their scholarship chances. You can find a show in your area by clicking on the following link: <http://www.aqha.com/Showing/Content-Pages/Shows/Shows-and-Events/Show-Schedule.aspx>.

Project Book:

Youth will be required to complete a project book documenting their training, health care, nutrition and management practices.

Professional Horsemen:

Youth will schedule a mentoring and evaluation session with an AQHA Professional Horsemen in their area to discuss and get tips on competing, health care, training and management of their yearling. The Professional Horsemen will complete a check list provided by AQHA. The form will provide a place for the Professional Horsemen to comment on the youth's strengths and weaknesses and provide three priority areas the youth should focus on with their foal. The form must be signed by the Professional Horseman. To find a Professional Horsemen in your area visit <http://www.aqha.com/en/Showing/Content-Pages/Resources/AQHA-Pro-Horsemen/Find-a-Trainer.aspx>.

Judging:

Youth will submit their Ranching Heritage Show Achievement Form, Project Book and Professional Horsemen checklist by September 1 for judging. The forms will be judged by the Ranching Heritage Council. Results will be announced on October 1.