***Top Hand***

**APPRENTICE/INTERN PROGRAM**

*AT THE* ***Top Hand APPRENTICE/INTERN PROGRAM*** *STUDENTS WILL BE EXPOSED TO & EDUCATED ON THE FOLLOWING:*

* WEANLINGS(as available) - HALTER TRAINING, HANDLING FROM HEAD TO HOOF
* YEARLINGS(as available) - GROUND WORK EXERCISES TO ESTABLISH MANNERS &

 POSITIVE BEHAVIOR

* 2 YEAR OLDS - FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE. FIRST SADDLING &

 PERFORMANCE PREPARATION

* HORSEMANSHIP & COWMANSHIP - EXTENSIVE STUDY OF EACH & HOW

 THEY RELATE TO A SUCCESSFUL TRAINING PROGRAM

* INTRODUCING HORSES TO CATTLE
* IMPROVING POSITION & LOCATION IN CATTLE WORK
* IMPROVING SKILLS & PERFORMANCE
* OVERCOMING OBSTACLES & ADDRESSING PROBLEMS

 *\*\*All Cattle curriculum is subject to the availability of practice cattle\*\**

***THE FOLLOWING ARE DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS OF THE TOPICS COVERED IN THE PROGRAM****:*

WEANLING WORK

Students will be taught to introduce the weanlings to the concept of yielding to pressure and seeking the path of least resistance. Weanlings will be trained to follow and lead and then introduced to the halter and lead rope. Weanlings will be expected to be soft, light and willing at the end of each learning session. Each weanling will be handled and desensitized from head to hoof.

Students will be taught in great detail how and why to achieve all the above with the weanlings in an effort to prepare them for future training and handling by establishing a rock-solid learning foundation of which to build upon.

*DESCRIPTIONS (con’t)*

YEARLINGS

Students will learn to introduce and perform specific groundwork exercises to the yearlings in an effort to help them be responsive and mannerly. Additional exercises will assist in preparing the yearlings for their future under saddle.

2 YEAR OLDS

The ***Top Hand*** students will learn how to prepare the 2-year olds for accepting a saddle and rider for the first time. The 2-year olds will be handled, prepared and progressed throughout the program. Students will learn step by step approaches and exercises to develop a young horse’s confidence and positive work ethic. The 2-year olds will be expected to be proficient at a walk, trot and canter both in the arena and over the ranch. Interns will learn to establish the foundation for the future.

HORSEMANSHIP & COWMANSHIP

A successful & versatile horsemanship training program often utilizes the use of cattle as a training aid. Regularly throughout the apprentice program, students will learn about cattle handling and how to manage, read and use cattle to enhance the horse’s education and development.

INTRODUCING HORSES TO CATTLE

After the foundation for the future has been established students will learn how to introduce young horses to cattle. Students and horse’s will learn how to utilize the foundation training in an effort to help the horse’s success on cattle. Exercises to arouse and enhance a young horse’s curiosity about cattle and to develop a longer and stronger attention span on cattle and in their training will be taught and utilized.

IMPROVING POSITION & LOCATION IN CATTLE WORK

Geared toward maximizing advantage of horse over cattle, students will learn how to incorporate the use of simulated cattle tools such as a ProCutter or roping dummies to aid the horse in seeking and maintaining its most advantaged position while working a cow. Offensive and defensive positioning will be discussed, demonstrated and practiced.

IMPROVING SKILLS & PERFORMANCE

Students will learn to master the exercises that enhance horse performance. These exercises in adjustability will be utilized in achieving and improving performance skills such as rate and speed control, lead departures and Lea

d changes, stops, roll-backs and spins.

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES & ADDRESSING PROBLEMS

Students will be taught to objectively assess and understand the horse’s fears and problems in an effort to establish trust and confidence. Interns will learn the “Concept of Fear, Trust and Confidence” and solving issues by “Reducing to the Ridiculous”.

***IN ADDITION TO PRACTICAL & HANDS ON EXERCISES WITH THE HORSES, STUDENTS WILL BE EDUCATED ON:***

* SADDLE SELECTION
* SADDLE FIT AND ADJUSTMENT
* SADDLE PAD/BLANKET SELECTION, USE & MAINTENANCE
* HOOF CARE & MAINTENANCE
* RESPONSE & ASSESSMENT
* EQUINE NUTRITION & HEALTH
* PREVENTATIVE CARE
* BIT & HEADSTALL SELECTION & ADJUSTMENT
* RANCH MANAGEMENT
* RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
* BREEDING PROGRAM MANAGEMENT
* DETERMINING BOTH SHORT TERM & LONG TERM GOALS
* STALLION & MARE SELECTION AND DETERMINING THEIR PAIRINGS

*AT THE END OF THE APPRENTICE/INTERN PROGRAM THE STUDENTS WILL HAVE THE CHANCE TO SHOWCASE THEIR NEWLY DEVELOPED SKILLS & EDUCATION IN THE* ***“Top Hand HORSEMAN’S CHALLENGE”****. THE WINNER OF THE* ***“Top Hand HORSEMAN’S CHALLENGE”*** *WILL RECEIVE A ‘TOP HAND’ AWARD & OTHER SPECIAL PRIZES & OPPORTUNITIES TO BE ANNOUNCED AT A LATER DATE.*

***THE STUDENTS WILL NEED TO BRING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:***

**ADEQUATE CLOTHING FOR TYPICAL RANCH WORK**

* BOOTS
* JEANS
* LONG SLEEVE SHIRTS
* RAIN GEAR
* LIGHT JACKET / VEST
* ETC.

**APPROPRIATE RECREATIONAL WEAR\*\***

* SHORTS
* SPORTS / ATHLETIC SHOES
* SWIM SUIT
* ETC.

\*\* (CONSIDER BRINGING ONLY ENOUGH CLOTHING FOR 1 WEEK - LAUNDRY

 FACILTIES WILL BE AVAILABLE & AMPLE TIME TO DO LAUNDRY WILL BE

 DESIGNATED TO EACH INTERN)

**TRAINING GEAR REQUIRED**

* **1** - 12’ to 14’ LEAD ROPE
* **2** - 20’ to 25’ DRIVING LINES OR LONG LEAD ROPES
* **1** - BROWBAND HEADSTALL
* **1** - SNAFFLE BIT W/ CHIN STRAP
* **1** - (CHOICE OF THE FOLLOWING): MACATE’ , LOOP REIN OR SPLIT REIN
* **2** - SADDLE PADS &/or BLANKETS
* **1** - SADDLE (IN GOOD WORKING CONDITION)
* **1** - POSITIVE ATTITUDE & ENOUGH ENTHUSIASM TO SHARE WITH

OTHERS

Items you don’t have may be purchased from our store at discounted prices.

* **LEAVE THE NEGATIVE ATTITUDE & EGO AT HOME**