

## Prepare for Yearling Prospect

The horses shown in the weanling classes in last year's fair are eligible to compete in this class with no entry fee. If an individual has purchased a yearling that they think will be a good candidate for this class then they may enter by paying \$100 at the time they submit their entry form. All requirements in the rules do apply. **REMEMBER – ENTRY DEADLINE - NO LATE ENTRIES.**

**REMEMBER – FILLIES AND GELDINGS ONLY. NO STALLIONS. THIS IS NOT A BREEDING PROSPECT BUT RATHER A PERFORMANCE PROSPECT.**

Those who did not have a weanling entered last year but might this year, review this information because it is the foundation for the Yearling Prospect competition now and in the future.

When you check the dictionary and find one definition of 'prospect' reads 'VISION OF THE FUTURE something that is expected or certain to happen in the future' then you can apply this idea to the Yearling Prospect in the following manner. Horses, unlike other livestock, serve us in a relationship. We have them as pasture companions, riding animals, halter/breeding stock, or driving and the list goes on. With this in mind, think of the Yearling Prospect Show as a place to demonstrate the talent you see in your horse. Put in the time and effort in preparing your horse to demonstrate 'what kind of horse he/she could be in the future' either for you or someone else. Attitude and willingness mean a lot.

Much can be accomplished in horse training with small, regular sessions rather than long sessions. This will allow you to make progress even when school is in session and winter comes. Small regular sessions will also build a relationship between you and your horse.

The following are judging considerations for this class:

Halter – the horse will be judged on conformation. When being considered the judge is looking for a well-balanced horse that will have athletic ability, not just looks.

Fitting/conditioning – It is important that the horse be in good physical condition. Some things that will be considered are coat condition, body weight, hoof condition, grooming, muscling for age, does it appear to be growing as it should. Cleanliness will be considered in this section.

Handling – How does the horse perform what is asked of it? Will it negotiate obstacles, is it mannerly being led, is it willing to follow directions, is it calm?

Attitude – Is the horse respectful of the handler, is it willing to follow directions, does it resist, and is it spooky?

Overall – Will this horse be worth someone's time and money to follow up with?

You need to be dressed to show so you and the horse look like a nice package. You may use a rope halter on the horse for presentation in this class. Make sure it is clean and in repair. Your failure to be properly dressed to show this class or having tack that is dirty or in disrepair will result in points being deducted from your total score. Judge's discretion.

We will also ask you to submit a short statement at the time of entry that tells a little about the training you have put in and what you think the horse is capable of.

Tests you will perform.

Show the horse in halter – This is a combination of halter and showmanship. There will be a showmanship pattern that will show how the horse leads, stops, sets up, backs up, turns 360 and trots. This will allow the judge to consider conformation, way of moving, fitting/conditioning, handling and attitude.

Obstacle course - There will be a course of obstacles that will challenge the horse to go over, around/next to, and through. The horse may be asked to do this forward, backward or sideways. The horse may be asked to stop and stand at something spooky for a specified count. You may encounter a tarp, barrels, poles, cones, slicker/jacket/sack. This will allow the judge to consider attitude, handling and athletic ability. You can make a choice on how you work each obstacle. You may be asked to pick up a foot or feet or do something from the horse's right side rather than the left.

Example – Back through a channel. This would be two poles on the ground with room between for the horse to back through. You can choose how you take/send your horse through the obstacle. If you need to be close and have the horse on really short line, do so. If your horse works off a longer lead (maybe 5-6 feet) then let him work off the end of the line. Remember, the goal is to have the horse perform without bumping/moving the logs or stepping out. The least pressure you can use will definitely add points to your score.

Your Choice – You will have 30 seconds to show something your horse does really well. This too will be part of the judging.

So, how does one go about preparing? There are a lot of horse videos on You Tube that show people being very creative with their horses on the ground. Use your imagination – the purpose is to gain the horse's trust and for him to have confidence in what you ask.