



HILLTOP FARM, INC.

AHS/ARS Inspection FAQ's

What should I wear to present my horse for inspection?

Inspection judges prefer handlers to wear light colored pants (white or khaki) and solid color polos from either the breed registry or from the barn the handler is representing. If you will be presenting a performance horse where you will be going back and forth from handling to riding, presenting your horse in-hand in white breeches is acceptable if there's not enough time to change in between presentation times. Riders of horses being presented undersaddle usually wear full show attire, although a polo and breeches is acceptable. **Anyone riding at Hilltop Farm is required to wear an ASTM certified helmet.**

How should my horse be turned out for inspection?

All horses entering the inspection arena should be braided, clipped (optional), and clean. Below are some general guidelines for each category.

Foals- Foals should have a properly fitted leather halter. Some people prefer to clip their foals before the inspection but this is not required.

Young Horses- Yearlings should wear a properly fitted leather halter with a chain leadshank. Two year olds must wear a properly fitted snaffle bridle.

Mares- Mares entering the show arena, whether for inspection or with a foal for inspection, should wear a properly fitted bridle.

Free Jumping – Horses free jumping should enter the arena without any protective boots. Once the judges have performed their initial evaluation and are ready for the horse to begin freejumping, front protective boots and/or bell boots may be put on. Protective equipment must be boots (not polos) and only short hind boots are allowed on the hind legs. Horses should have bridles with removable reins for easy removal when freejumping. You should also have a short lead rope (or similar product) for leading the horse into the free jumping shoot and easy release.

Undersaddle – Performance horses participating in the undersaddle portions of the inspection should wear appropriate show equipment. Double bridles are discouraged with strong preference to show in a snaffle bridle.

How does Hilltop's professional handling work?

A Hilltop handler will meet you by the entrance to the Hilltop indoor to take your mare and/or foal into the inspection arena. Please be aware that you are responsible for leading your horse(s) to the arena and being on time for your presentation. Our handlers suggest that you lead your horses around for a few minutes before his or her inspection as a light warm up, as once the handler takes your horse, they will go directly into the arena for inspection. Hilltop will have the appropriate number of handlers there to handle both your mare and/or foal and provide a whip person, so you can relax and enjoy seeing your horse presented. Once your horse's inspection is complete, you are responsible to receive your horse at the arena entrance and lead her back to the stall/trailer.

Mares returning for the walk ring as well as foals that are called back for top filly/colt will be your responsibility to walk in the show arena, as Hilltop does not have enough handlers to handle all the horses at once. Please also be aware that if your horse is registered for inspection as well as performance testing, Hilltop is happy to handle your mare for her inspection presentation, but you will be responsible for handling during the performance testing (free jumping and riding).

How does Hilltop's braiding service work?

Hilltop braiders will braid your horse(s) relatively close to when your horse is scheduled to present so that the braids look as crisp as possible. We schedule horse holders to go with the braiders, so you do not need to be present. If you would like to be around during the braiding, we can arrange an approximate time when the braider will start. However, we ask that you remain out of your horse's stall and wait to brush, etc. your horse until the braiding is completed. While our braiders do their best to repair any braids that your horse may rub out, it is your responsibility to watch your horse, as once we've finished braiding your horse will be unattended and we may not have time to return for touch-ups.

Is trailer parking available on site?

Yes, trailer parking is available on-site, but it is a distance from the barn. You're welcome to pull up to the barn to unload your horses and supplies, but then you'll need to move your trailer to the trailer parking area to make room for the next incoming horse. A storage area will be available for equipment in the barn, but space is limited. Equipment is not allowed to be stored in the barn aisles for safety purposes.

What components are involved in the mare inspection?

Mares being presented for studbook will need to be stood up in an open stance (not square) for the judges to walk around and examine her conformation. Once this is completed, you will be asked to trot a triangle or rectangle which will be marked by poles and flowers on the ground. You are allowed to have someone follow your horse with a whip. You then will have the option to let your mare run free if you would like to present her at liberty for a few minutes (*optional*). All of the mares are called back for a walk ring at the end of the mare inspection class. Mares are hand walked in a group for the judges to evaluate the walk (expect to walk for at least 10 minutes). The judges will then announce the final individual scores for the mares.

What components are involved in the performance testing?

The performance test starts with individual free jumping sessions. The horse is allowed to warm up loose in the indoor for a few minutes before jumping if the owner desires. After all the horses have completed free jumping, the undersaddle portion will take place (usually a few hours after the free jumping). Groups of 2-3 horses will be presented undersaddle at the same time and the judges will call out patterns that the horse should follow. Patterns are usually very basic, with 20 meter circles and diagonals being common. After the riding portion is complete, the judges will announce the individual horse results.

What components are involved in the foal inspection?

Foals being presented for inspection will be stood up for the judges to walk around and examine his or her conformation. Once this is completed, you will be asked to trot a triangle or rectangle which will be marked by poles and flowers on the ground. The foal's halter should then be removed and the foal will be let free to trot next to the dam's side while the dam is trotted in hand. You are allowed to have someone follow your horse with a whip. The foal is then caught, stood up a final time, and comments by the judges will be announced. The AHS/ARS do not give scores to foals. At some of the inspections, the judges request some or all foals back into the show arena at the end of the day for the foal walk ring. The judges will then announce the top foals for the inspection and branding begins.