



ACF Riding Club

Types of Facilities and Operations (Horse Mgt)

Horse facilities come in every shape and size just like horses. No two horse operations are exactly alike, and most combine two or more functions. Below are some examples of the wide variety of horse operations in business today.



A boarding operation cares for horses whose owners cannot (or don't want to) keep the horses on their own property. At its simplest, a boarding business might just have a huge pasture where all horses are turned out together, 24 hours a day, with water and salt supplied free choice. At its most complex, a boarding business might have fancy barns with each horse in a box stall, and a

groom assigned to each group of horses, to groom and exercise each horse every day, and stable hands to clean stalls and feed the horses. Few people can afford this level of care for their horses. Most boarding operations are somewhere in between.

Horse Breeding Farm: At a horse breeding farm, mares are bred each year, and most of the resulting foals are sold sometime between weaning and their four-year-old year. Some breeding farms own their own stallion(s), which can be an additional source of income if they are used to breed outside mares. Other farms pay to breed their mares to outside stallions. Foals must be handled and trained to lead. Breeding stock must be selected carefully for good conformation and disposition, and mares and foals must be kept in good health. A "stallion



station" is a business that specializes in handling breeding stallions. A stallion station would have facilities for collecting, shipping, and probably freezing semen. It might have stabling for mares are being bred to the stallions. It might offer to train and handle outside stallions for breeding. A large stallion station would probably employ at least one vet full-time. A few farms specialize in boarding broodmares. Mares would arrive at least a month before they are due to foal, and stay

till the foal was at least a few days old. The farm would provide 24-hour surveillance of the mares during the weeks they are expected to foal, and experienced staff who could assist the mare if she had any problems in foaling.

Training: A training facility takes in other people's horses for breaking and/or more advanced training. It must include facilities for stabling the horses, and an area for the trainer to ride or work the horses, preferably with year-round good footing. Specialized training requires specialized facilities: race tracks, jumping arenas, roping chutes, cattle pens, etc.



Instruction: A facility that offers riding lessons must have a safe area (probably an arena) to ride, preferably with year-round good footing. The facility may own "lesson horses" for students to ride, or students may have to supply their own horses. A facility that offers lessons often also offers boarding, training and/or showing.

Dude Ranch: A dude stable or dude ranch is a place where people can go and pay to ride gentle horses, usually accompanied by a guide. It should be located near pleasant or scenic trails. Dude horses need to be exceptionally tolerant and sensible, but need not be great athletes or trained beyond a willingness to walk, trot and canter together down the trail. Dude stables have become less common in the past 30 years as lawsuits have made insurance indispensable and extremely expensive and open land for trail riding has been subdivided or put off limits.

Equine Vet Clinic: Although many vets who treat horses may also treat many other kinds of animals, or, more commonly, other 'large animals', some vet clinics specialize in horses. These clinics will see some horses on a routine basis, and also work with horses who have been referred to them by other, less-specialized vets. A large equine clinic may have barns with stalls to board horses who need extended care and/or mares there to be bred, a place to do surgery, and specialized equipment like a digital x-ray, ultrasound, and other imaging technology. An equine clinic would likely have both vets and vet assistants on staff.

Equine Rescue: Most equine rescue facilities are run by non-profit organizations, and depend largely on donations to pay expenses. Some are branches of an organization that also rescues other animals; others specialize in horses. Because of the amount of land and feed required, it is quite expensive to run an equine rescue, and requires many dedicated people to make it work.

Barn Supplies

Feed Room



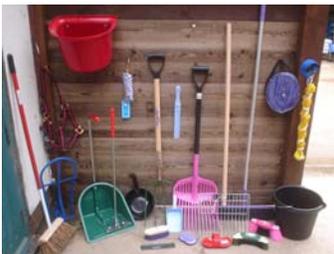
- Buckets & Feeders
- Feed Carts & Scoops
- Hardware & Fasteners
- Weight Tape Measuring
- Height Stick

Insect Control



- Fly Boots
- Fly Masks
- Fly Sheets
- Fly Traps
- Insect Control
- Supplements
- Larvicide's
- Repellents

Mucking



- Pitchfork
- Muck Boots
- Stall Safe Spray
- Broom
- Muck Cart
- Water Hose

Stall Supplies

- Buckets & Feeders
- Cross Ties
- Disinfecting/Cleaning Equipment
- Hardware/ Fasteners
- Stall Plates
- Stall Chains & Guards
- Stall Mats
- Stall Mount Fan Holder
- Fan
- Misters
- Automatic Waterer
- Shavings
- Toys



Tack Room Supplies

- Bridle Racks & Tack Hooks
- Trash/Laundry Container
- Hardware/Fasteners
- Leather Care
- Name Plates
- Tack Trunk
- Saddle Stands & Racks
- Step Stool
- Tool Box



Basic Tack

- Halter
- Lead
- Bridle
- Saddle
- Saddle Pad
- Blankets
- Boots
- Misc. Tack



Trailer

- Horse Trailer
- Hay Bags/Nets
- Trailer Aid Products
- Trailer Door Organizers
- Trailer Guides
- Trailer Supplies -1st Aid Kit, Trailer Tie, Monitoring System, Feeders
- Horse Travel Gear



Different Kinds of Bedding

Like almost everything with horses, you will develop your own preference for the kind of bedding you prefer to keep in your horse's stall. Your horse may display its own preferences as well. Your choices are sawdust, shavings, or straw.

Sawdust: Can be the cheapest to use, depending on what part of the country you live in. Sawdust is easy to clean, since it slips easily through the manure fork, leaving the bedding in the stall instead of in the manure pile. The main drawback is that it can be dusty and aggravate respiratory problems.

Shavings: Bagged wooden shavings are more widely available, both at mills and at your local feed store. Wooden shavings that are bagged for use with horses consist primarily of dry pine shavings. Make sure the shavings you buy are intended for use with horses. Avoid other kinds, as they can contain shavings from types of wood that could make your horse ill if they are consumed.

Straw: Straw is another bedding alternative. It is often used in the stalls of foaling mares, since fine sawdust will stick to the wet newborn foal. Many horses will eat straw, but usually they only try a few bites before they decide it is not very palatable.



Alternative Options: Many other types of bedding, from chopped corn husks to recycled newspaper have come on the market. Some materials are synthetic. Some may be more available in some parts of the country than others, but none seem to have caught on as much as the old standbys of sawdust or shavings. If you are unsure about what's best to purchase in your area, ask your veterinarian or a knowledgeable horse person for a recommendation.

FACILITIES