An Efficient and Tidy Barn

Courtesy of the Roaring Fork Valley Horse Council
Always display clear signage to avoid unnecessary mishaps.
Keep grooming stalls clean, safe of obstructions and ready for the next user.
Provide heat lamps to ensure riders comfort and pleasant working conditions during those cold winter months.
Provide muck buckets with shovels and brooms in multiple locations throughout the barn. Clean the shovels once a week.
Keeping the brooms either hanging to the wall or not resting on its bristles will ensure a longer lifespan.
Having a retractable extension cord in grooming area can help keep the area safe and organized.
Having grain arranged neatly with am and pm feed buckets color coded and clearly labeled helps to avoid confusion.
Always have schooling boots available for riders that are clean, polished and organized by size.
Keep the stall water buckets clean and dry when not in use and in the stalls ready for the next horse.
Fill the water buckets to the same level to ensure knowledge of the horses water intake. A horses water intake MUST be observed daily by the stable help and any changes reported to management.
Have safety equipment in working order, with up to date maintenance and in clear view.
Always keep hose neatly wound. If there is a chance of freezing temperatures, promptly remove from water source.
Always keep stalls clean with fresh bedding. To help keep aisles clean of sawdust when horses walk in and out, sweep bedding back from the first ¼ of the stall.
Always have salt blocks available for horses.
Have recycling and trash clearly marked, receptacles clean, and easy to empty.
Always have insurance waiver displayed where it is clearly visible.
Have suitable washer and dryers available to wash blankets, pads, wraps, etc.
Display directions for the washer and dryer to avoid costly repairs from common mistakes.

Please brush all pads before washing.
Do not overload. The machine has a sensor. It will not wash if too heavy.
Add detergent into basket, not on top of clothes/pads.
Do not lock during wash cycle. To open press pause.
Do not put soap into chimney dish.
Hang brooms and dustpans to keep a tidy area, and ensure a longer lifespan...
...this applies to other farm tools as well.
Keep harmful chemical off of the ground and neatly arranged on shelving.
To ensure horses comfort and safety, have a fly spray system in the stalls and grooming areas.
Display Federal Posting Requirements.
Always display employee rights sign in a visible area.
Clearly mark all restrooms.
Keep restrooms clean and fully stocked.
Having a system for riders entering and exiting the arena can help avoid accidents.
Keep water clean in tack cleaning station.
Properly hang tack clean and in an organized fashion.
Keep tack rooms clean and inviting. The riders' tack is the second most valuable asset in a stable. Treasure it!
Keep horse indoor blankets neatly folded and hung on stall door ready for next use.
Hanging the outdoor blankets to dry ensures the horse will be more comfortable when re-blanketed. There needs to be a place and space to do this. They are large and cumbersome.
Stack bedding and or shavings in aisles against the wall in an orderly fashion providing maximum clearance.
We like to display information about all of our horses.

Introducing Midnight Patches

Patches is 31 years young this summer and happily takes to the trails with beginners of all ages. He was the top trail ride horse at El Rio Grande Ranch in Sedona, Arizona before coming to Rock-a-Ridge Farm with Karin.

Patches is a Muck Tobiano Paint and is registered by the American Paint Horse Association. Patches is gentle yet sensitive to his students. He has been teaching the children in the YMCA Riding Program during the Fall and Winters.

He enjoys games, playing follow the leader and loves to be in the fields with his friends Playboy, Dallas and Storm.

Patches is the model for many of our students who draw and paint pictures of the horses.
Displaying colorful flags in the arena will make it more inviting.
Having skylights can help avoid costly electricity bills.
Provide mounting blocks tucked away in the corner. Make sure there are clocks available throughout the stable.
Provide an area designated to hang whips in an organized fashion.
Hang mirrors to help riders improve. This includes at the end of the arena...
...and the side walls.
Provide a viewing area for spectators in the arena.
Having a rubber mat upon exit of the arena can help save expensive footing. Riders can dismount and clean their horses feet and sweep the footing back into the arena.
Keep grain in an enclosed area that can be locked and latched to keep out unwanted use and pests. If a horse finds the grain and eats on his own, the result could be serious injury or death.
Always have backup feed available...
...this applies to salt bricks as well.
Having a clean and stocked observation room, provides a pleasant and comfortable area for visitors.
Placing bars over the observation window ensures extra safety measures.
Provide a designated area for literature, and reviewing videos.
Sweep aisles throughout the day to keep the barn as dust free as possible. This not only benefits the appearance of the barn, but also the health of the horses and people inside.
Thank you for taking the time to review this presentation.

The mission of the RFVHC is to provide a unified voice for equine related interests by working to preserve access to trails, promoting charitable involvement in equine related experiences and activities, educating the public on equestrian issues, providing connections and resources for the equine community, and supporting the overall well-being of horses and horsemanship.