

SEAHORSE RUN ARENA

CASE STUDY



BUILDING NAME

Seahorse Run Arena

BUILDING OWNERS

Laura + Flynn Gladden

LOCATION

Suffolk, VA

SIZE

**100 ft x 200 ft
(22,000 sq ft)**

MARKET SECTOR

Equestrian

APPLICATION

Riding Arena

SPECIAL FEATURES

**Pavilion-style building with
10' wide overhangs**

INSTALLATION

Legacy in-house crews



SEAHORSE RUN is an equestrian boarding and training facility that provides a full range of services to riders of all disciplines, including training, clinics, and competitions. As a top class riding facility, Seahorse Run uses specialized footing that allows the horses to perform their best and prevents injuries. Protecting this footing is a high priority for Seahorse Run owner Flynn Gladden. "If you don't have a cover, the ground is too inconsistent to ride," said Gladden.

Allowing horses and riders to exercise year-round is another priority. Direct sun and frequent rains made it impossible to ride on a daily basis, so Seahorse Run invested in a pavilion-style fabric building by Legacy Building Solutions to create a new arena in a better location.





The white fabric roof keeps direct sun and UV rays off but allows sunlight in – a major benefit of fabric that creates a more natural environment inside the arena. “We didn’t want to burn light during the day,” said Gladden. Now that the building is in place, Seahorse Run is enjoying the natural light as anticipated. “The lighting is really great. At night, we use LED bulbs connected to solar panels placed at the end of the arena. The system cost less than \$1,000 to set up and we have no electric bill for the arena. We reflect the lighting off the roof, which prevents shadows.”

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Choosing a pavilion building with extended eaves keeps rain and direct sun off the riding surface, allowing horses and riders to use the entire width of the arena. The extensions also provide a covered area for storage and for spectators to safely and comfortably watch activity happening within the arena. The eaves extend 10 feet past the sidewalls of the building, which is 100 feet wide by 200 feet long. The pavilion style allows cooling breezes to come in from every direction. With the open sides and roof vents, fans have not been necessary to keep air fresh and moving. “No matter how hot it was in the summer, it was always 20 degrees cooler under the canopy,” said Gladden. “In the winter, the light and moving air

allow the space to warm up in the morning, unlike an enclosed arena.”

In addition to keeping the inside of the arena cooler, the pavilion style meant cost savings over an enclosed arena. “Without walls in the design, we saved money and were able to build bigger,” said Gladden. The additional space makes a big difference for jumping, barrel racing, driving, etc.

The area’s climate also contributed to the decision to purchase a rigid frame building rather than a fabric structure built on open web trusses. “We have high humidity. I was worried about rust getting inside the tubes and not being able to see the rust,” said Gladden. “With the Legacy frames, you can inspect properly for rust.”

Legacy’s service was another benefit of the process. Gladden worked with one salesperson from the initial design stages through the project’s completion. “Having a single point of contact that was knowledgeable was valuable,” said Gladden. “He always returns calls quickly and was great to work with.”

Legacy teams installed the facility according to plans compliant with building codes and approved by the Gladdens. With the covered arena in place, Seahorse Run can offer a full calendar of open riding and special events without worrying about the weather or the condition of the specialty footing – and horses and riders can enjoy a safe, comfortable area to exercise horses and enjoy riding.