



# Crash Course for Horse Housing

## Topics

Barn Layout, Barn Design, Material Selection, Pasture Planning & Management

## Content Expert

Dr. Christine Skelly will guide you each week through a course unit to answer your questions about horse facilities. Through online discussion groups and an interactive video discussion, Dr. Skelly will assist you in developing a horse facility plan that you can be confident in!

## Format

Self-paced with moderated discussion forums

## Price

\$75.00

## Course Overview

Some equine facilities are designed with attention placed on human comfort and aesthetics at the cost of the horse's wellbeing. Equine and human injuries resulting from faulty design or improper material usage can lead to costly medical emergencies. However, a well-designed facility can save both time and expenses in daily equine management and maintenance. This course will give you tools to prioritize your horse's safety and wellbeing as you build or renovate your own equine facility.

## Course Details

**Unit 1. Behavior and Health Considerations** - Understanding how housing can effect horse behavior and health will help you plan for a happy horse. At the end of this unit, you will learn:

- How housing influences a horse's behavior and health
- How horse's regulate their body temperature in hot and cold weather

**Unit 2. Barn Layout** - Whether building a new facility or renovating an old farm, a well thought out layout will include the best land-use practices while enabling you to enjoy your horse. After completing this unit, you will learn about:

- Spatial elements of common equine structures
- How horse farm layout can influence day to day farm activities
- Explain the relationship between facility design and human and animal safety

**Unit 3: Barn Design and Material Selection** - In this unit we will look deeper into designing a barn and the selecting pros and cons of material options. In this unit, you will learn:

- How to design a barn based on the number of horses and the facility's function
- How to optimize natural ventilation through building design and material selection
- About the pros and cons of different building materials for the barn

**Unit 4: Pasture Planning and Management** - A good pasture or turnout area is the cornerstone of an equine facility. Horse pastures should be managed to increase the grazing season, improve the environmental impact of horse ownership, and increase the overall health and welfare of horses. In this unit, you will learn about:

- Fencing options suitable for horses
- Different types of grazing systems
- How to manage and renovate a pasture
- Different manure management options