

Spring Cleaning Checklist for Your Barn and Horse Farm

Spring is here. It's time to get started on your spring cleaning plan.

On cleaning day, be sure to:

Turn out horses so they are not exposed to dust stirred up by cleaning.

Open all windows and doors for ventilation.

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Barn

- Scrub buckets, feed bins and water tanks that were difficult to clean during cold weather.
- Remove dust and cobwebs from all surfaces, including rafters.
- Inspect your barn; complete any repairs or maintenance.
- Don't forget to check wiring for rodent damage.
- Clean gutters and downspouts.
- Clean hayloft.

Stalls

- Strip stalls, scrub walls, remove and disinfect mats.
- Repaint or re-stain walls.
- Repair or level floor underneath mats.
- Before re-bedding, make sure everything has air dried.

Pasture Inspections

- Check automatic waters.
- Clean out and inspect run-in sheds.
- Walk the fence line and make repairs.
- Walk the field and fill any holes.
- Inspect pasture quality.
- If needed, send samples off for testing to develop a fertilizing plan.
- Chain harrow to spread manure, dead grass, and even out rough areas.
- Add gravel as needed to high traffic areas like walking paths and gates.
- Work on problem drainage areas you noticed over the winter.

Riding Areas

- Harrow and drag arenas.
- Inspect your footing and perform maintenance.
- If you have trails you frequently use, you may need to pick up fallen trees and limbs.

Feed/Tack Rooms

- Clean and replace any old or damaged feed bins.
- Check the quality and dates on all supplements, feeds, and medications. Discard all outdated drugs or supplements.
- Inspect smoke detectors; replace batteries and any non-functioning units.
- Inspect fire extinguisher; recharge as needed.
- Review your plan for spring weather emergencies.
- Restock first-aid kit.
- Disinfect and clean brushes.
- Send blankets for cleaning and repair, then store in a dry rodent-proof location.

Horse Trailer

- Look for rust.
- Inspect tires.
- Check lights and brakes.
- Look under the mats for any floor damage.
- Inspect roof and windows for leaks.
- Lubricate hinges.