

Upcoming Fundraising Project

Horsemanship Arena

To those of you have come to camp before, you know how big of a deal the horse program is to our campers. For a lot of us, the horses at camp are the only experience we will have riding or working with a horse. Not every summer camp has the capabilities to have a horse program due to the space and resources needed to operate one.

The horse program has been a part of the camp ministry since the early 1960's. The program has changed over the years, but there have been horses offered as part of the camp program every summer.



The past few years we have invested a lot of time and resources into the horse program here at camp. The new barn is finished, we installed several acres of pasture on the adjoining farm fields and have brought in several new horses to re-supply our program.

If you have not seen our new barn, you might be surprised to find out how nice it is! We were able to finish out six 10' x 10' stalls (a huge upgrade from the 7' stalls in the old barn), a stairwell up to the hay loft area, as well as the upper storage room that runs the length of the barn.

We have already been putting this new space to use with the addition of several fall horsemanship clubs for kids in grades 2-8. We had 24 kids participate this fall across 3 separate clubs. While the new barn has been great, another need has come to our attention. The additional usage from these clubs has shown us that the layout and condition of the riding ring and barnyard needs work.

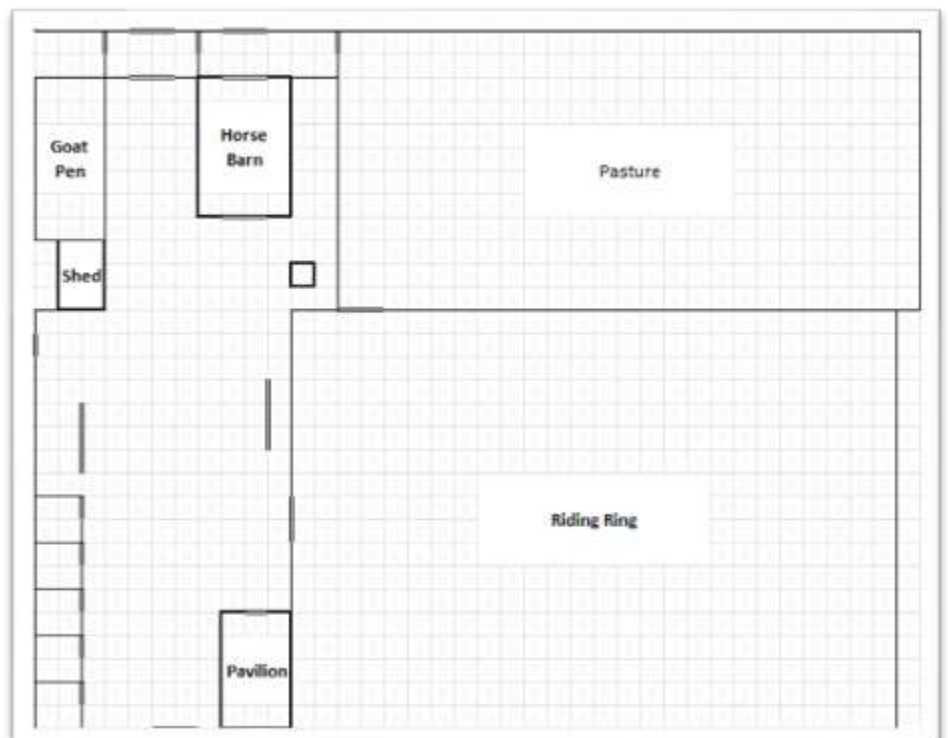
It is our desire to construct a new riding ring that will better fit our needs for years to come.

Our Current Design

Our current setup consists of the two pastures where one is set up as the "ring" and the other is a small grazing pasture. This fencing was installed in the early 2000's.

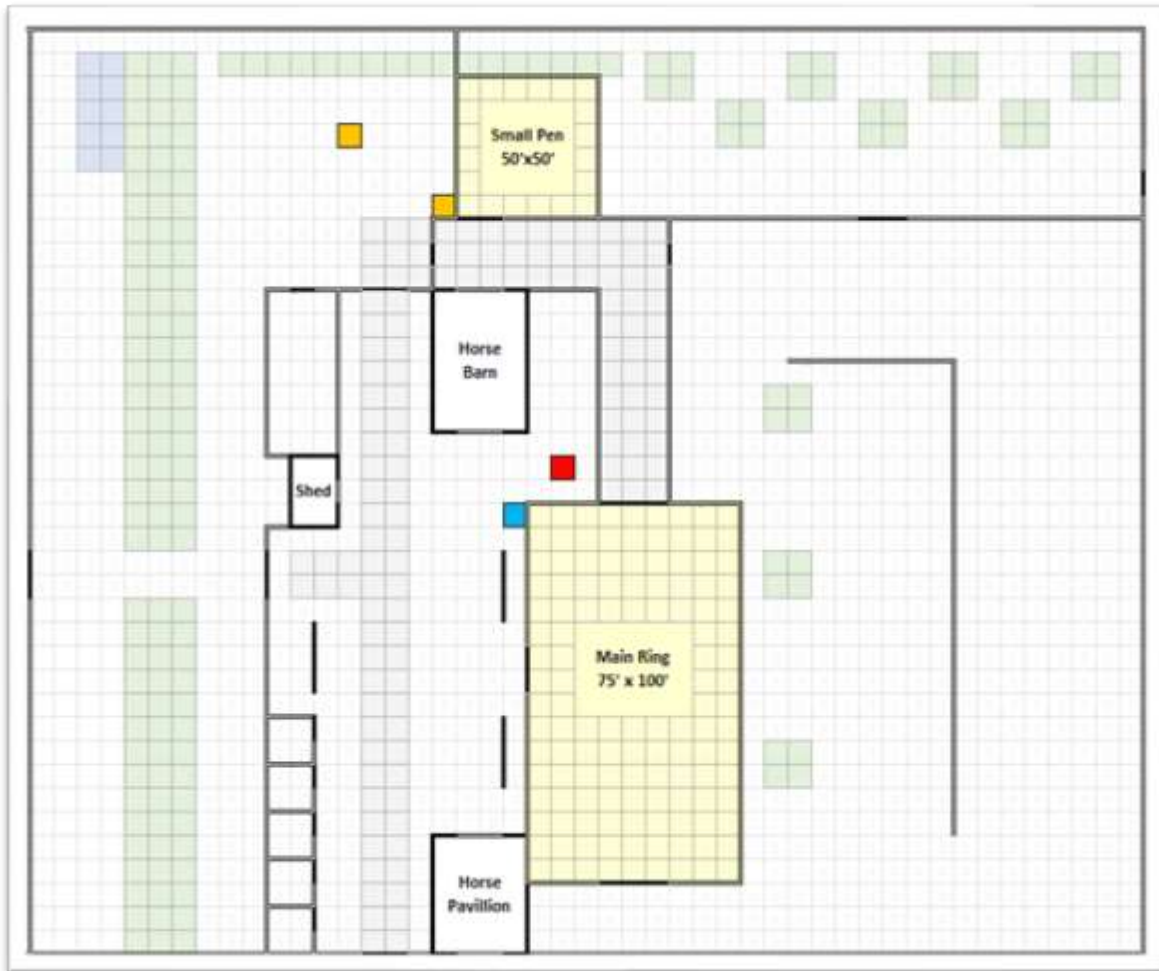
Most of the current fencing is in need of replacement as it currently sits. For example, we have ratchet straps holding some split rail fencing together, and metal stakes reinforcing others. It is time to pull out the existing posts and replace them with new ones.

In addition, the overall design isn't ideal for how we now use the space. It would be beneficial for the program and the ministry if we dedicated the resources to building a better riding ring: a level, dry ring that could be used year-round.



The New Design

Our goal is to level a section of the pasture and create a dry lot for the new riding ring, as pictured below. The area surrounding the dry lot could be used for riding or groundwork at the same time as the riding ring, and both areas could be used for pasture space at different times of the year. For horses who can't be on grass due to metabolic or hoof issues, the dry lot would be beneficial, and the outer ring would function as a track system to keep horses more active when pastured.



Steps to accomplish

- Excavation (leveling the ring and spreading the base/footing) **(September 2024)**
- Installation of fencing **(October 2024)**
- Final grading and seeding **(November 2024)**

What we will need help with...

- **Acquiring Supplies:** We will need the footing material, fence posts and boards, gates or the finances to purchase. At this point, we have the excavation and footing materials lined up for the fall.
- **Excavation:** The current pasture that we ride in slopes from one end to the other. I believe there is roughly a 10-12' drop from one side of the field to the other. We would like to level a 100'x75' ring in this field. It would run perpendicular to the slope of the field. The base will consist of 4" of 2A stone, 4" of stone dust, and 4" of washed sand to give us a dry, solid footing for the horses to be on.
- **Fencing:** It is said that many hands make light work. This is especially true when it comes to fencing. If you have attended a camp workday before, you probably have some experience setting some fenceposts for us. We will need to install around 200 posts and over 300 wooden rails.

Will you be part of the team that helps get this done? Would you invest your time or resources in this project to help enhance our ability to minister to young people? If so, please contact Jon at 717-445-4828,