

## Pasture/Stall Safety Checklist

### Horse/Livestock Barns and Stalls

- There should be no unnecessary trash or debris lying around inside or outside of buildings. It is unsightly, an attractant to rodents, can start or aid in the spread of a fire, and could cause an injury or fall to a person or animal.
- Any ornamental shrubbery around the exterior of the barn should not be poisonous to livestock. Check with your county agricultural agent for assistance in identifying plants poisonous to horses/livestock.
- No Smoking signs should be posted.
- Correct size and type of fire extinguisher should be located in each barn. Fire exits should be clearly marked.
- Every farm/stable should have an emergency first aid kit for both humans and horses/livestock.
- A phone with posted emergency numbers should be easily accessible.
- Ample lighting should be available for maximum visibility around the exterior of the building and throughout the interior. Wiring and switches should be encased in metal, weather proof boxes, and out of reach of stock.
- The building should have lightening rods and be properly grounded.
- Doorways and aisles should be free of obstructions and sharp projections, e.g., hardware.
- Ceilings need to have a height of 8-12 feet.. Door frames should be a minimum of 8 ft. high with a minimum width of 4 feet.
- Windows need to be inaccessible to horses and livestock, covered with bars or screening and made of safety glass.
- Stall and pen walls should be smooth, free of all projections, and of adequate size for the number of animals to be housed and to prevent casting.
- Stall doors should have secure latches.
- Water sources should be easily accessible and clean. If an automatic watering unit is used it should be grounded to prevent accidental electrical shock.
- Feed tubs and water buckets should be smooth, clean and placed securely at the proper height so that the animals cannot become entangled.
- Flooring should be easy to keep clean and provide traction for animals, especially those with shoes. (Note: excessively rough flooring can cause abnormal wear, soreness and bruised feet especially in cattle). Any rotten floor boards should be replaced immediately.
- Crossties and other tying areas with safety release snaps should be provided to secure horses.
- Grooming and wash stalls should be in open areas; clean and well-drained to prevent wet and/or icy barn floors.
- Hay storage needs to be away from heat and electrical sources, and if at all possible in a separate building from where livestock and horses are housed.
- Stairs to haylofts should have hand rails and kept free of slippery substances and clutter. Railings should be installed around loft and ladder openings, and ladders should be firmly attached to the wall.

- ❑ Hay and bedding should be stacked so as not to fall on top of anyone.
- ❑ Low beams and pipes (under 7 ft. clearance), steps or uneven floors should be marked.
- ❑ Tack rooms need adequate racks and storage areas to keep equipment off the floor and out of the path of traffic.
- ❑ Storage areas should be large enough to keep shovels, pitchforks, wheel barrows, etc. safely away from animals. Items should be hung so that people cannot strike their heads on them. Hoses should be neatly hung in wash rack areas so that people and animals cannot become entangled in them.
- ❑ Grain storage systems should be ratproof, weather proof and not accessible to horses and livestock.
- ❑ Areas around vents and fans should be kept clear. Fans should be properly maintained and cleaned frequently.
- ❑ Garbage receptacles should be available for the deposit of refuse, bailing twine and wire.

### **Turnouts and Pastures**

- ❑ Turnout paddocks and pasture fencing should be sturdy, 4-6 feet in height, and able to keep livestock in and unwanted "visitors" out.
- ❑ Water sources should be easily accessible and clean. If an automatic watering unit is used it should be grounded to prevent accidental electrical shock.
- ❑ Any protrusion on which stock may become caught or injured should be removed.
- ❑ Fencing material should be suitable for the type of livestock being housed and correctly secured to posts.
  - ❑ Wood fencing and if used wire netting or polyurethane/plastic fencing
    - ❑ No splinters on boards to hurt horses or humans.
    - ❑ No warped, cracked, or unstable boards.
    - ❑ No nails, screws, or fencing clips protruding or located on the ground at base of the fence.
    - ❑ Wire netting needs to be suitable and safe for the type of livestock. No sharp edges, loose wires, or broken sections and should be completely secured to each fence post.
    - ❑ Check to make sure polyurethane/plastic fencing has not become fatigued and brittle and for any loose or broken sections.
  - ❑ Electric fencing
    - ❑ No broken or damaged connectors/insulators. Wire or tape will ground system if it touches any non-insulated object.
    - ❑ Check to make sure fence tape or wire has not become frayed, brittle/metal fatigued and easily broken, or stretched and sagging.
    - ❑ No weeds should be allowed to grow within minimum of 2 feet of electric fencing. Plant material that makes contact with electric fencing is a potential fire hazard.
    - ❑ Fence charger is working properly, with a good ground and energizing all sections of the fence. Use an electric fence charger to check at the end of each loop of system and randomly check intermediate sections.
- ❑ Gates should be a minimum of 4 feet wide, swing freely and have no sharp edges or corners with gate latches intact and working.

- Fence lines are free of weeds/debris and fence post are solid with their bases intact.
- Footing should be free of ruts and stones and well-drained.
- Pastures/turnouts should be free of debris, foreign objects, and potentially harmful animals cohabiting such as snakes or ground rodents.
- Periodic pasture checks should be made to ascertain that no poisonous plants are growing in or around the pasture area.
- Machinery and equipment should not be left in pastures and turnouts.
- Ponds, irrigation and open drainage ditches should be fenced.
- Fallen branches and tree stumps should be removed.
- Washouts or erosion should be fixed promptly to minimize damage to the footing and to the watershed.
- Any bridges should be in good repair and strong enough to support horses and machinery.