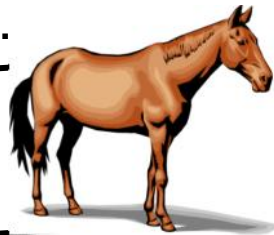


Notes from....



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Winterization 2018

Surprisingly (huh?), another winter is nearly upon us. That means it's time for the Winterization Jubilee! We will begin November 5th in the front breezeway. At the end of the newsletter, you'll find your *stall-a-gram* that will allow you to provide us some guidance so that your dreams may come true.

Here are a few notes for your consideration before filling it out. This year we have about 50 yards of sand available on a first come, first served basis. Unfortunately, we do not have the reclaimed birds' eye. We will begin on the eastern side of the stable with the front breezeway, and work our way toward the back. The expected time for this quite arduous task is about 5 weeks. After completing the first pass, we will then do another round. Because this effort is quite expensive, we need to operate as efficiently as possible. That means no going back for late *stall-a-gram* submittals. Doing isolated winterization adds dramatically to the labor costs (like twice!).

The stable is graded to a master drainage plan. This means that every stall will receive some rain from its neighbors, so any *stall-a-gram* directions asking us to build berms sending all the rain to other stalls will go unheeded. For a refresher, check out last year's tome on stall / stable rain preparation using this link:

http://serranocreekranch.com/past_news/2017-11%20SCR%20Newsletter.pdf

Now, here is a rough guide to stall base formulas: I want the. . .

Hardest base possible: Use 100% decomposed granite (DG). Please note that it will be potentially muddy the first rain or two, and the material will dry out hard and compacted. During the first rain or two, one should rake it smooth so that as it dries and hardens until it is in the shape and condition that is the desired final grade. Not raking it smooth after rain will cause it to harden into a grade that actually retains water rather than sheds it off.

Harder base: Use 2/3 DG and 1/3 birds' eye gravel. It will be pretty tough but will provide some give.

Medium base: Use 1/2 DG and 1/2 birds' eye.

Soft base: Use 2/3 birds' eye gravel and 1/3 decomposed granite. There will be some structure to the footing, but it will easily give way to avoid hock sores.

Softer base: Use 100% birds' eye gravel. Because the material is a uniform particle size, it will not compact and will remain loose throughout the winter. The downside is that by remaining loose, it is easily pushed around by your horse's pacing, and is more easily picked up in the daily stall cleaning (think almond roca).

Softest base: Use 100% sand. I'd be careful doing this, as sand can lead to sand colic, and it is quickly picked up in the daily stall cleaning. One should expect one, two, or even three refills during the rainy season.

