

Unique uses for wood: NH riding facility

LET'S TAKE A short break from our traditional wood information and take a peek at a unique end use of eastern white pine: a therapeutic horse riding program.

In New Hampshire's Connecticut River Valley, close to the Vermont border, Full Circle Farm has been in business since December 2013. While firmly established as a successful horse riding facility, a new owner had a larger vision: expand

existing services to include a therapeutic riding program.

The farm is something to behold: the 160-acre property offers anything and everything riders of all levels could want: a variety of riding trails criss-cross the property and are groomed regularly. Dotting the landscape are 15 large paddocks, three barns, wash stalls, a tack room, water complex, cross country field, galloping track, outdoor rings,

and indoor riding arena. Services at the farm include riding lessons for all skill levels, full-service horse boarding, and specialized clinics.

The three barns hold upwards of 20 stalls combined, many with drop-down grills to allow the horses to socialize with visitors in the aisles. A heated tack room takes a little of the edge off winter riding, while large lockers, kitchenettes and accessible bathrooms are present throughout the property.



OUT OF THE GAIT: Eastern white pine was used generously in new horse riding facility.

A Necessary Expansion

Launched in April 2014, Full Circle Farm's year-round therapeutic riding program is designed for both children and adults, and offers mounted and unmounted activities.

To accomplish the growth of the program, the indoor riding arena was chosen for expansion. Originally constructed in 2001, the metal building measured 180x80.

The vision was to build in lifts, waiting areas, and additional elements to allow the expansion of the program, with an eye to basic provisions like a space for guests to tack their horse in the same barn in which they would ride, while protecting them from the elements.

Helping bring the vision to life: local partners LaValley Building Supply and Jim Martin of James Martin Builders. Together, the team conceived, designed, and constructed an addition to the indoor arena.

Completed in the spring of 2015, the new spaces are useful and beautiful. A much-needed kitchenette and accessible bathroom were added