

BETTER BARNNS

Thinking of building your dream barn? Here's a peek at how some horse folk realized such dreams.

Let's face it: We'd all love a custom-built barn or stable, complete with automatic waterers, fresh, clean stalls and pristine fencing. Given the current economy, however, that might seem like a pipe dream—unless one enlists the help of a company that specializes in making “barn dreams” come true. Join

us as we talk to horse owners who did just this, and were thrilled with the results.

When you're ready to purchase a new barn or upgrade an existing one, visit the EquiSearch.com Dream Barn website at <http://dreambarn.equisearch.equine.com>. Here, you can browse through dozens of barn

models, as well as detailed specifications, floor plans and photos of each model. Then locate dealers near you, request more information or see related articles on www.EquiSearch.com. This website also provides information on barn supplies and equipment—everything you need to make your barn a “dream barn.”

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With the right resources, “dream” barns like the one at South Carolina’s Bickford Farm can become reality.

MILLER BARN

Lexington, Kentucky

Lucas Equine Equipment, Inc., (888) 577-6920;
www.LucasEquine.com



COURTESY LUCAS EQUINE EQUIPMENT

Q What is your name, the name and location of your stable/farm, and the name of the company that built your stalls?

Judy and John Paul Miller. Our barn is located in Lexington, Kentucky, and was built by Larry Downey/Downey Construction. Our stalls are by Lucas Equine Equipment.

Q How many horses do you own, what type/breed are they and what do you do with them?

We currently have a mixture of five Thoroughbreds, two Quarter Horses and a Missouri Foxtrotter. We do quite a bit of trail riding, both on the property and off site.

Q What is your idea of the ideal barn or stable?

Ideally, for us, the barn and paddocks [had] to suit a variety of needs ... we wanted to have them flexible enough to function for keeping the riding horses, raising weanlings, turning out a racehorse from off the track or foaling a mare. The two main stalls have a swinging partition so that they can become ... 12' x 24' foaling stalls in the event that is needed, and have doors and screens that open to the outside as well as inside the barn.

Q What size/features did you require, was architectural style important, and did you have any special requests?

At the time we built the barn we were limited on space, and we were constructing it in the same location as an old two-stall shed barn, but it had a small room attached that we wanted to save. We also required stall fronts that could span the 24' space without a center support, so Larry and Nick Thornton of Lucas Equine Equipment designed a support system that angles from the top of the stall fronts to the large beam supporting the roof [the stalls feature sliding doors, fold-down yokes, integrated feed doors and steel-and-reclaimed wood construction].

Q Why did you choose the company you did to build your stalls? How did they meet your expectations?

Larry Downey has a great crew and he is a master craftsman who can solve any problem no matter how impossible it may seem. He recommended Lucas Equipment, having worked with them on other projects, and they were able to provide the stall fronts and walls that make the barn look and function like we planned.



Q What recommendations would you have for someone looking to build his or her own barn or stable?

We read and did a lot of research in the months leading up to the actual construction.

In constructing the barn we tried to foresee future needs and provide the preliminary plumbing, electric or construction rough-in work so that in the future it will simplify the process of adding on.

Also, using a builder we knew and whose work we could count on, as well as a company like Lucas Equine Equipment— [which] has years of experience, does quality work that they stand behind and can meet such a wide variation of needs and styles—was invaluable.

For more information, visit: <http://dreambarn.equisearch.equine.com/>.



seam•less

–adjective

1. Smoothly continuous or uniform in quality: *a seamless blend of craftsmanship and distinction.*

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