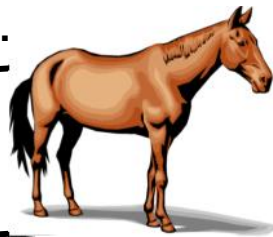


Notes from....



# Serrano Creek Ranch Equestrian Center

JUNE 2009

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Our staff of ace reporters, photographers and editors have compiled this special issue for your summer reading pleasure. Relax, put your feet up, and enjoy!

Stable management in it's infinite wisdom (wait. . . that's redundant!), has some alternatives that you may consider for your stall bedding.

**Compost:** This is the same material that has passed through the composting process. The material has been heated for 4-5 days above 150 degrees, and 7-8 days above 135 degrees. One cart of compost is equivalent to two bags of shavings. This is because the compost is twice as dense as shavings (which have a significant amount of air space in a bag). At \$1.83 per cart as compared to \$19.90 for 2 bags, compost is 1/10 the cost.

**Reclaimed Rock:** In the normal daily cleaning of the stalls; small amounts of stone is picked up. This material then must be screened out of the compost before it can be sold to the public. The result is a mixture of bird's eye gravel and the larger wood chips from the shavings. This make a great hole filler for stalls, and yet stays soft for the summer. The reclaimed rock sells for \$5.05 per cart. This is 1/3 the cost of new rock (bird's eye) that we put in for the winterization process. This is an excellent way to keep your stall level through the summer, and greatly reduces the amount of rock needed for winterization.

**Shavings Bags:** Effective June 1st, the stable as well as the tack store will sell shavings. The stable will bring the shavings to your stall and empty the

bags (if you wish). For the sake of efficiency, we'll be making a single daily delivery. The exact time will be determined after a few months of trial and error. If you need shavings this minute, remember that the tack store is there to meet your shavings needs as well.

Each of your devoted stable employees has an order form on their carts. If you fill it out and hand it to them, they'll bring your order to you on the daily shavings / compost/ gravel round. Of course you may also call, email, or visit the office, and we'll fill out the order form for you. Price per bag \$9.95 plus tax. As a gentle reminder, now that the stable is selling shavings, please don't let the gravitational forces of the black hole that is the shavings storage area draw you in. There have been a few who have ventured too close to the shavings event horizon, and have never been seen again! Please no helping yourself.

"The road to hell is paved with adverbs"

-Stephen King

Over the years, trucks and plumbing repairs have destroyed a large section of road that leads from the compost area, along the back arena, and then ending at the creek. In the last few years, we've filled the holes with gravel, but this last winter it was more holes than asphalt. The mess of mud and ruts that form with each rain has become intolerable.

To correct this problem we'll be installing a paving system that is made up of small concrete blocks. This will provide a hard surface to allow trucks to move in all weather conditions. Also because there are many joints, it provides a rougher surface than asphalt. The idea being that if a horse's slips, it's hoof will slide only until it hits a joint.

