



## About the Lesson Program:

Riders must wear boots or paddock boots (or shoes with a heel for first lessons). We provide helmets, but it is recommended that you purchase your own if you will be riding on a regular basis. Half chaps are recommended to wear with breeches or jeans.

Lessons are 45 minutes long. Private lessons are the same cost as semi-private lessons. Please be on time! Lessons are scheduled in 45 minute blocks-if you are late, your lesson will still end at the scheduled time.

If the rider is still learning to groom and tack up a horse, the time set aside for your lesson will include this instruction. On the average, you will ride for 25 minutes and spend 15 minutes tacking up with 5 minutes at the end for assistance in untacking. As you grow comfortable tacking up, your riding time becomes longer.

Riders who can tack and untack on their own should allow at least 20 minutes before the start time of their lesson to groom and tack up, and will spend 45 minutes riding. Please allow at least 20 minutes after to cool out your horse, groom and clean tack. Please do not put a horse away hot or sweaty. All tack and supplies must be neatly put away. Please sweep out the cross tie area and barn aisle. Horse poop must be cleaned up immediately. If you are the last one to ride your horse at the end of the day, please make sure you put on it's sheet or blanket.

The age your child is ready to start lessons depends on your child. We have started children as young as 4 years old. Age 6 is generally a good age to start lessons for many children.

Learning the various aspects of horsemanship is equally important as learning to ride! Safety and quality horsemanship is a big part of the Ridgemark program. Horsemanship includes groundwork, roundpen work, grooming, tack cleaning, and learning about horse health.

As riding skills progress, riders who are ready to start jumping should work up to 2 lessons per week. Riders must be able to sit trot without stirrups, hold the 2 pt easily in the trot and canter, canter confidently in a circle and state what lead they are on, before they are able to start jumping.

## Leasing:

Occasionally, lease situations become available for suitable horse and rider pairs. This enables a rider exclusive use of the leased horse on their lesson days. With our limited amount of lesson horses, leasing is a great way to become part of our program. This is highly recommended for riders wanting to bond with a horse, or move towards showing and eventually ownership of a horse.

Please ask us for details and rates about our leasing program. Most leases entail one or two lessons per week, plus a hack day. Rates vary by horse, but an average cost is:

Horses boarded in the mare motel:

\$250/month to horse's owner for a 2 day/week lease(varies per horse), \$260 to Ridgemark Farm for 1 lesson/week training  
\$350/month to horse's owner for a 3 day/week lease(varies per horse), \$440 to Ridgemark Farm for 2 lesson/week training.

Horses boarded in the main barn:

\$300-400/month to horse's owner for a 2 day/week lease (varies per horse), \$260 to Ridgemark Farm for 1 lesson/week training  
\$440-550/month to horse's owner for a 3 day/week lease (varies per horse), \$440 to Ridgemark Farm for 2 lesson/week training

All body clipping in the winter is split between the leaser and the owner.