

Welcome new Students and Parents of new students.

We are grateful for the opportunity to teach you and/or your child. We are looking forward to many happy hours of riding fun. The barn rules are in effect to insure safety first. This is a list of rules that we require our students to follow.

The speed limit is 5 MPH this is for everyone's safety!

- 1) Riders and anyone entering the barn must sign a liability release
Forms must be sign by both parents if a minor is at the barn.
- 2) Riders will wear a helmet during lessons. Big Bay Farm provides helmets if the student does not own one. I strongly suggest that student purchase her own **ASTM approved helmet**. No bike helmets.
- 3) Proper riding attire must be worn. Long pants/jeans are acceptable. Footwear must be a smooth soled boot with a small heel (1").
- 4) Please remember to walk not run. This will prevent a fall. More importantly, horses are flight animals that frequently interpret running as a cause for concern. They may start to run in response.
- 5) **No Smoking in the barns**
- 6) Horses will be treated with the respect due them. They work very hard and are responsible for many different types of people.
- 7) Anyone entering the barn most wear closed in shoes.
- 8) ***Children not taking lessons should be watched at all times.***

Big Bay Farm Lesson Cancellation Policy

All cancellations must be made 24 hours or longer in advance to allow time for us to re-schedule another person into that lesson. If 24 hour notice is not given (we must have been notified and confirmed your notification) you will be held responsible for the full amount of the lesson. If you or your child misses 3 lessons in a row, the time slot will be given away, and we will find another day for your child to ride in.

Rain / inclement weather policy

We teach when the weather is bad. When the weather is raining or we otherwise cannot ride in the ring we strongly encourage you to keep your child's time slot and take the horsemanship lesson offered. Horsemanship lessons are valuable lessons for the child who rides. It is during this time that we can teach your child to groom, tack up, body parts, tack parts, leg wrapping, clipping, breeds, colors etc.

Holiday/Vacation

-We are open on holidays and classes are offered unless you have been notified by us. If a holiday and/or vacation falls on a day that lessons are running, please give us proper notice.

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Learning Levels & Instructors:

The Instructors decide when a student should move on, show or is ready to lease a horse if interested.

At the beginner level you start out learning:

1. Learning to go get your horse, putting their halter on and bringing them to the barn safely.
2. How to cross - tie them properly.
3. How to walk around the horse touching his rear end and letting him always know your back there, brushing them properly, & cleaning their feet properly. (**Sweeping up afterwards**)
4. Then saddling the horse and putting on the bridle. **Remember your helmet!**
5. Then you are ready to go and learn how you get on a horse. (From this point everyone is different with learning to ride, some have natural seats, some love riding more than others so at this point you will advance at different levels)..
6. Occasionally young riders will be taught in the round pen, this is a safety precaution. Which is our number one concern; horses are big animals with a lot of power. Our lesson horses are good horses but you never know when one might spook or at what.

Oh yes and if the horse poops that you are riding you have to clean it up!

Intermediate Level

1. By this point you should be able to go get your horse, halter it, make sure chains or back on the gates & cross- tie horse, clean out their feet.(Sweep up)
2. You will learn to canter off the lead line, you will also learn the different leads
3. The canter is a very quick gait and the rider must be balanced in the saddle. Canter will be taught once a rider is able to trot without stirrup and the instructor feels they are balanced.
4. You will learn to cool down your horse, unsaddle, and give them a bath if they need it and put them away.

Advanced Level

That is when you're ready for the fine tuning and decide what kind of riding you might want to do. Competing, Jumping or just to enjoy horses for pleasure riding.

Saturday Fun Day at the Farm

We offer Farm Days for kids 8 & up! Saturdays are Fun Days at the farm. This is when the lesson kids learn more responsibility of caring for horses. We like to reinforce that the horses are more than just a tool for riding. They need daily care and maintenance (ie stalls cleaned, paddocks cleaned, water buckets cleaned etc).

If any kid in our lesson program 8 & up would like to gain horse / farm experience we welcome them to participate in Saturday Fun Day. The kids love it. Young kids will be teamed up with an older "Barn Rats" to teach them the ropes.

We like to sometimes put pictures on the web site so please sign a web releases form. We love testimonials, if you would like to write something about an instructor for the website you can send it to me and I will get it on there. Valerie@bigbayfarm.com

You must give 24 hours notice to cancel a lesson, the horses are kept for lessons and this is the way the instructors make their living. Payment is due if 24 hours notice is not given

