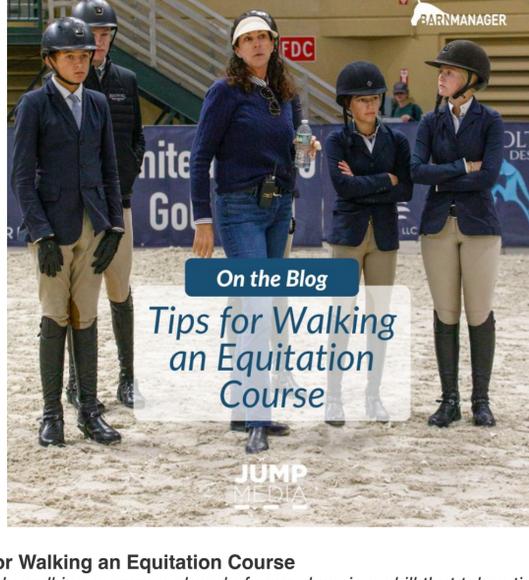


Bringing you news, advice, and tools to improve your barn management experience



### Tips for Walking an Equitation Course

*Properly walking a course ahead of your class is a skill that takes time and practice. It is more than just counting strides between fences, especially in the equitation divisions. BarnManager talked with accomplished hunter, jumper, and equitation trainer Stacia Madden of Beacon Hill Show Stables to learn about her recommendations for walking an equitation course.*

#### Walk the Course and Then Walk It Again

The first time I walk a course, I try to walk it separately from my students, and then I walk it again with them. I like to walk separately from my riders first to allow them to come up with their own plan rather than relying on me to tell them what I think of the course. When we walk together I never single anyone out, but I quiz the riders on what they walked and why. I also go over what I walked and why so we can have a discussion. I like to rewalk courses or certain parts of the course multiple times because I find my step at the beginning of the walk is not quite as open as the end. So, if I'm questioning a first line I find it especially important to rewalk it before I make my decision.

#### Come Up With Contingency Plans

When I develop a plan with my students while walking a course I often explain how I would send a rider into the ring if they were to go first, and I explain my reasoning. Then I point out the parts of the course I think could potentially change if the rider is later in the order and can watch other riders go. I ask my students to walk the course both ways so they are prepared for both situations.

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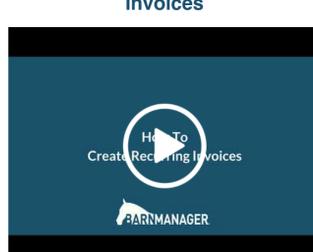
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### TIP OF THE MONTH



It is important to make sure you have at least one extra blade when clipping your horse in case the pair you are using becomes too dull.

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Join BarnManager's Nicole Lakin and Dr. Tim Worden as they chat with leading equestrians and researchers to explore the fascinating science behind cutting-edge training and management techniques for sport horses. On this podcast, guests discuss recent research on topics relevant to ensuring sport horses achieve their best while staying healthy.

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