

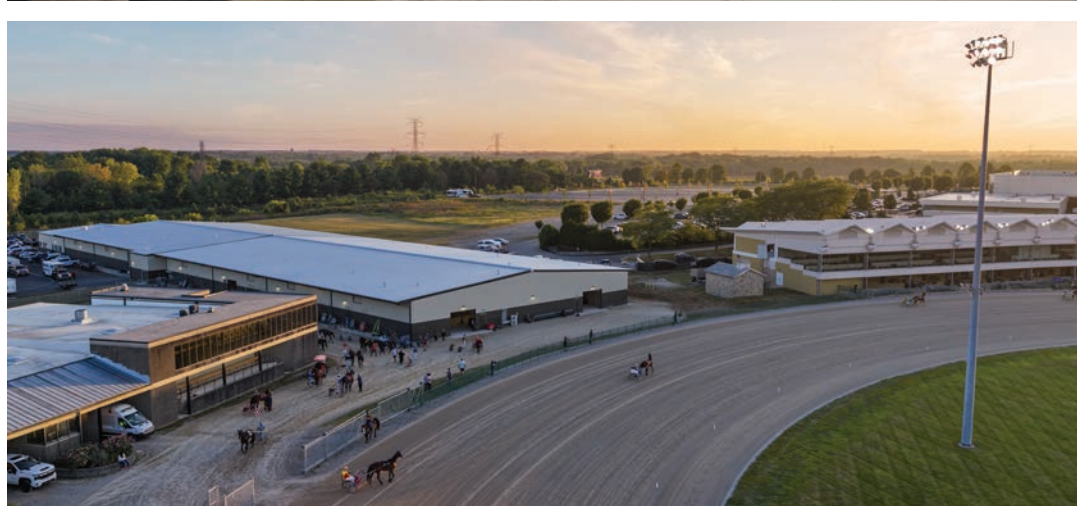


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CASE STUDY

HORSE RACING PADDOCK

Eldorado Scioto Downs





Equine care and safety. Mental and physical readiness. Race integrity and fairness. All essential elements to successful horse racing — and all begin before the starting gate releases. An efficient and organized paddock, a designated enclosure where preparations are made prior to a race, can improve the experience for both the humans and animals involved, and ultimately lead to the crown.

Built by Nucor Authorized Builder, Renier Construction, this state-of-the-art harness racing paddock is located at Eldorado Scioto Downs, in Columbus, Ohio. It is a purpose-built horse racing facility designed to streamline race-day operations while providing a durable, efficient environment for horses, handlers, and staff.

Within the paddock, horses arrive several hours before their race, using the space as a controlled staging and preparation area. Trainers and handlers check the horses' health and readiness, groom them, and make any necessary adjustments to tack and equipment. Veterinary services are available on-site to address any medical needs, and horses can be bathed in dedicated stalls to ensure they are clean and comfortable.

"This building was designed for horses and people," explained Phil Rice, Project Executive at Renier Construction. "The concrete floor was finished with the horse's traction in mind, carefully selecting a broom finish designed to reduce slipping. The framing system offers a 137' clear

span with no interior columns, creating an unobstructed open space. The inclusion of administrative offices, lounge, kitchen, locker rooms with showers, a veterinarian clinic, and horse bathing stalls all have the occupants in mind."

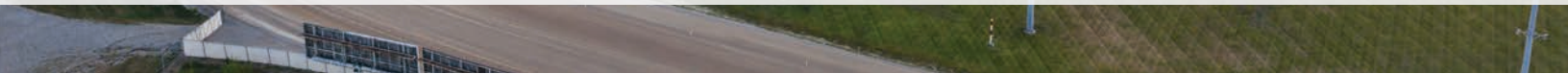
The structure is 63,648 sf and features a 16-race paddock setup for 160 horses. Its central layout streamlines operations by aligning all groups together. The facility includes 163 primary horse stalls, 13 bath stalls, and four dedicated latrine stalls.

Three symmetrical gable metal buildings paired with a lean-to structure create a cohesive system that supports large, open interior spaces. This design allows for clear spans across the paddock area, accommodating horse movement, staging, and circulation without interior obstructions. A durable block masonry wall base reinforces the structure at ground level, providing long-term protection in high-traffic stall and equipment areas.

"A key objective was to increase the height of the building so it could fit large ceiling fans, which circulate air and help manage the temperature and odors related to horses," said



“Nucor delivered on all its promises which made construction smooth. Despite some challenges during construction, the team delivered the project on time and on budget.”



Rice. “Cross ventilation was also designed into the building to mediate a comfortable environment. The Nucor structure was designed to accept these roof loads, while framed openings were created to accept the large exhaust fans.”

The exterior envelope features Nucor’s A Panel wall system in Sandstone, offering a clean, neutral aesthetic that complements the site. Also delivering durability and weather resistance, Nucor CFR roof panels in Galvalume Plus were utilized. Eave extensions, overhead doors, and strategically placed windows enhance functionality, ventilation, and natural light throughout the facility.

The primary challenge for this project was completing construction during the racing off season. Thanks to Renier’s design-build approach, the team was able to effectively plan and design in advance, meeting the demands of a tight schedule. Metal was chosen for the structure to speed up the erection process. Work began the day after the last race and was finished just in time for the first qualifier of the new season.

“This lead came from our Nucor District Sales Manager, and Nucor delivered on all its promises which made construction smooth,” said Rice. “Despite some challenges during construction, the team delivered the project on time and on budget.”

The Eldorado Scioto Downs Paddock stands as a testament to strategic design and a deep understanding of horse racing requirements. By prioritizing safety, operational efficiency, and comfort for both horses and staff, the facility has set a new standard for race-day preparation and staging. Its thoughtful features, from the spacious, unobstructed interior and durable materials to the advanced ventilation and convenient amenities, demonstrate a commitment to excellence that elevates the entire racing experience. As a result, the facility is recognized as one of the premier harness racing paddocks in the country.



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