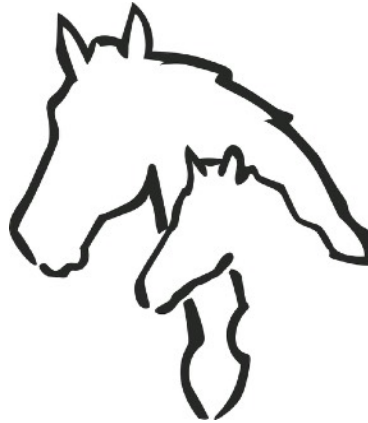


Bonnie Lea Farm

511 North Street, Williamstown MA 01267

BonnieLea.com

Welcome to Bonnie Lea Farm



At BLF, our barn culture is based on two simple principles, safety and respect. Safety is critical in a farm setting and when working with animals and other people. Respect for self, other people, animals, equipment and our environment makes BLF a fun and safe place to be with friends, both human and animal. BLF is known for teaching life skills and work ethic, in addition to quality riding and horsemanship. These skills are complementary. When at the farm, youth are expected to be active participants to learn.

In addition, BLF is committed to producing strong riders with proper equitation AND riders with concrete horsemanship skills. Head instructor, **Lisa DeMayo** has over 30 years of teaching and showing experience. She is a *United States Hunter Jumper Association Certified Instructor, Massachusetts Licensed Instructor and Williams College Coach*. Safety for horse and rider is our priority and we are committed to continuing education.

Please note: due to the cell coverage and volume of calls and texts, it is best to text Lisa when you need to reach her. She may not get back to you if you send a statement but will try to respond to questions in a timely manner.

413-441-6349 – Lisa DeMayo, Trainer, Owner, Manager

508-330-8198 – Carin DeMayo, Bookkeeper, Summer Program Manager

HOURS: Generally, Monday – Saturday 8:30 – 6:00, No lessons on Mondays.

Closed on Sunday at 5ish.

The red gate to the barns will be closed once staff leaves on Saturday and Sunday.

*We hope this booklet will help you understand our routine.
Please let us know if you have any questions in the meantime.*

“Warning: Under Massachusetts law, an equine professional is not liable for injury to, or the death of, a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities, pursuant to section 2D of chapter 128 of the General Laws.”

LESSONS:

2022

Here is some basic information you will want to know before you arrive.

- **ALL One-Hour Group Lessons:** \$100 per lesson at time of lesson or \$65 per group lesson **PRE-PAID** by the 5th of each month or \$60 per group lesson if riding in 8 or more lessons per month.
- Private and semi-private available by appointment. Pricing is available on our website.
- Missed lessons should be rescheduled. Unused weekly lessons in a prepaid monthly package may not be carried to the following month. Please give 24-hour notice and arrange a make-up time.
- Last minute cancelations and no-shows **will be charged**. Multiple occurrences may forfeit your lesson spot.
- By missing weekly lessons and not taking make-ups, riders do not progress and fall behind their peer riders so they no longer fit in the level of lesson. They are also missing general communication and horsemanship discussion that occurs during a lesson.
- The number of school horses kept at the farm are determined by the level of participation in lessons. Horses are fed daily and staff cares and cleans for them even if you cannot make your lesson.

Drop Off/Pick Up:

- Please arrive at least 20 minutes prior to your lesson. Use the barn driveway and parking area. Parking by the back barn white gate is for drop off and pick up.
- Please drive slowly, watching for kids and animals. **Park in the lot by the goat pen, near outdoor ring.**
- If you have not signed a release, one must be signed upon your arrival.
- For safety reasons, friends and family may **not** go into fields or paddocks. If you go in the barn, you must have proper footwear (no sandals, flip-flops or crocks).
- Pick up is at a minimum one half hour after the end of the lesson. Special circumstances need to be arranged prior to lesson start. Students must take care of the horses prior to departing. An hour is more appropriate. It is **common for a student to be at the barn for at least 3 hours on a lesson day.**

Prior to Lesson:

- You need to arrive with enough time to catch and fully groom your horse before tacking up. *The horse's condition should reflect your commitment to the horse and riding.* Be sure there is no visible mud (especially legs), hooves are picked, and you insured the areas under the girth and saddle are well groomed, so not to cause sores. Advanced riders are held to higher expectations of care.
- Be sure to **close all gates and doors** behind you. This is critical. In the winter, close the barn doors all the way to keep the heat in the barn.
- All horses should be tied in their stall or on crossties while you groom, tack and un-tack. No exceptions. This is for safety.
- Helmets must be put on your head prior to bridling the horse. But we encourage our riders to put their helmets on first should the weather allow it. Helmets should stay on until you are done caring for the horse unless the weather is hot. In hot weather, you may remove your helmet once dismounted.
- Please note: the horse knows when you take the time to take care of it. You will have a better ride when you create a better relationship.
- Clean up the aisle if your horse leaves manure or there is excessive hair from grooming and dirt from hooves.
- Be sure to contact Lisa should you need to reschedule your lesson. Cancelations must be made 24 hour prior or rider will be charged for the lesson.

During Lesson:

- Please come with your best listening skills. This is imperative for safety.
- Arrive at the ring prior to your lesson start and wait to be asked into the ring if a lesson is being taught. Enter the ring if empty. More advanced riders should be mounted with stirrups adjusted prior to the lesson start. Have your crop with you.
- Take advantage of all that is being said during your lesson. We learn from watching and supporting each other.
- Be sure to ask (and listen) to the instructor regarding turnout, blanketing or other directions for your horse at the end of the lesson.

After Lesson:

- Please exit at the end of your lesson and once the horse is cooled out so the next lesson can get started.
- Be sure to put tack back where you found it. Saddle fronts go toward the walls. Bridles are hung by the crown piece with brow band facing out. Wipe off bits and wipe down tack with leather cleaner after each lesson.

- In hot weather, saddle pads and girths should be hung on the stall door to air out. Be sure to keep any lifts or special pads with the saddle or the next rider could cause the horse discomfort.
- Make sure your horse has a **full bucket of water** after your lesson and before you leave. (Dump and refill if necessary.) If your horse is staying in, be sure to give your horse ONE flake of hay.
- Once your horse has been un-tacked and groomed, you can take off the halter. Be sure to put the halter (with lead rope attached) back on the hook outside the stall. Halters left on the ties in the stall can cause serious injury to a horse. Reattaching the lead rope to the halter is also for safety in case of an emergency.
- Follow the directions of the instructor as to turnout, leaving in, blankets, etc.
- Pick up and put away all grooming tools, tack, halters, etc.
- Pick up any manure your horse left in the ring or aisles.

PLEASE NOTE: Your care and attention to tack, grooming tools and horses are imperative to keeping costs down and riding accessible. Not following these instructions can mean that a lesson ends up costing BLF. For example, broken reins cost over \$75 to replace.

Clothing and Gear:

- **All riders MUST wear helmets when mounted at BLF.**
- **After 5 lessons**, we ask every rider to **purchase her/his own proper fitting helmet**. Be sure to write your name inside your riding helmet and on all of your own brushes, blankets, etc.
- We have a swap shed for temporarily borrowing helmets, boots and breeches. Please be respectful and put things away and make sure to only borrow what is needed. Be sure to bring back what is no longer used and share things you have outgrown. Access will be limited.
- Please wear boots or shoes with a heel when you are riding. **ABSOLUTELY NO FLIP FLOPS OR CROCKS** in the barns or barnyard, as serious injuries can result if you were to get stepped on.
- Riders that do not own or lease should use the middle barn for storing backpacks, etc. It is a good place to change footwear prior to entering the barns.
- Long hair must be pulled back in a ponytail at a minimum. More advanced riders should be using hairnets as appropriate and putting hair in helmet as if at a show or clinic or helmets will not fit properly.
- Please wear pants or riding breeches for riding. No shorts. Jeans damage the English saddles.
- Riding gloves are encouraged, especially for more advanced riders and during the colder months and shows.
- No loose fitting clothing such as scarves, bell-bottom jeans, pajama bottoms or spaghetti strapped tops. All of these items can get caught when you are riding or working on a farm.
- Large earrings, or facial piercing can even get caught in horses' tails as they "swish." Please leave these at home.
- If you have a trunk, please limit the size. **Trunks must be removed** if you no longer take lessons, lease or board. We have very limited space in our tack rooms. If they are not picked up in 2 months, the items will be discarded.
- If you own your own horse or lease, **some of the things you will need include:**
 - Grooming tools and care products such as fly spray, *Show Sheen*, *Cowboy Magic*, *Vetrolin* and tack cleaning supplies,
 - Tack - saddle, saddle pads, girth, bridle, bits, halter, lead rope, draw reins, lunge line, lunge whip, etc.,
 - First aid kit with vet wrap, wound creams/sprays, thermometer, etc.,
 - Leg wraps, polo wraps, bell boots, boots as needed,
 - Bute and any other supplements you choose (look for soy free options),
 - Sheets and blankets.

Those taking regular lessons are encouraged to get their own supplies. Whether you own, lease or take lessons, those showing **should purchase their own fluffy white show pad**. Your laundry should be done at home or sent to Colleen Dence at *Four Ponies* or another commercial facility.

Snacks, Lunches & Drinks:

- Please bring your own snacks and lunches but be sure to use the appropriate recycling and trash cans.
- Please bring water bottles that are refillable. If you bring other drinks please help recycle and do not put them into the trash.
- **Please do not litter.** Not only is this bad for the environment, but it is dangerous to animals. Candy wrappers can kill a horse or other animals at BLF.

Looking to buy your own things? Visit:

Dover Saddlery, Latham NY AND Whitman's Feed Store in North Bennington

Both locations have someone that can help properly fit a helmet. Ask if they have any current specials clothing/gear.

SHOWING WITH BLF:

At BLF, we will not require anyone to show, nor will we pressure riders by asking. ALL riders are always welcome to show, so please let us know if you are interested. We have included a list of shows to let you know what is available, but we feel strongly that riders and parents need to speak to us so that we do not push a big financial decision on you. Again, **all BLF riders are always welcome to show** and we welcome your questions and discussion of what works for you or your child.

If you or your rider is interested in showing, there are a lot of little things to learn so the experience is more fun and meaningful. A rider can choose to show or not to show, go to one show a year, or sign up for every show that BLF is attending. Everyone has different budgets and time available. This information is intended to help you understand a little more about showing so you can decide what is right for you or your family. Often students who are curious about showing start with our annual show, which is historically the last Sunday in June or first Sunday in July.

Every horse show has entry fees for each class (usually \$25-\$65 per class), office fees (\$15-\$25 average) and sometimes warm up fees (\$15-50). WNE-PHA and MHC affiliated shows each have a \$2 fee mandated by the organizations. These organizations have annual dues (\$30ish) and year-end awards based on accumulated points throughout the show season. Western New England Professional Horsemen's Association (WNE-PHA) is the most local and typically the first affiliation that those showing choose. Others include MHC, NEHC, and USEF. In order to go into a Medal Class, you must be affiliated with the stated organization in the prize list (class listings).

On each show's entry blank, students (youth and adults) are asked to have their coach/trainer sign, in addition to the parent (if under 18) and horse owner. For safety and growth as an equestrian, it is important to have your coach with you.

A newer rider usually rides in one division consisting of 3 or 4 classes. An intermediate rider will often show in one or two divisions: an equitation division and a hunter or pleasure division. An advanced rider may enter more classes or ride more than one horse.

Available shows will be listed ahead of time in the barn and sign-up with your instructor is required. We ask that parents sign the entry forms a week ahead so we can plan trucking and staff accordingly. Starting in 2018, the larger shows are requiring chipping in order to insure that horses have been vaccinated and are healthy.

2022 BLF Fees Associated with Showing:

- Small, day show **Coaching Fee - \$75** for all horse/rider combinations. Large shows are \$125 per day.
- Use of BLF Horse Fee - **\$100** (WT to 2'3" classes), **\$150** per day for (2'6" and up). Horse use fee is not applicable for those that own or fully lease the horse. Horse use fee may not be split.
- Trailering Fees – varies according to location. (May be split if horse is shared.)

2022 Trailering Fees (sample locations):

1. \$75 – Williamstown location
2. \$100 – SHJ, Bellwether, White Horse Hill, etc.
3. \$125 – Saratoga/White Hollow Farm, Dorset, Harmony Hill, Muddy Brook, Grindstone
4. \$150 – Mount Holyoke, Northampton Hunter Jumper
5. \$250 – GMHA, Saratoga

Riders should help to pack, unpack, load, unload and clean the trailer after the show. If this is not possible, a fee of \$25 per rider will be charged.

*** At BLF, we focus on good sportsmanship and horsemanship at shows. Horse shows are a learning opportunity. They should be fun and help us improve as riders and athletes. We show in the best interest of our horses.**

LEASING:

Leasing needs to be prearranged and horses will be matched to rider's ability.

A lease is perfect for a young rider ready to take the next step from just one or two lessons per week or for an adult that is ready to get back into riding but isn't ready to buy a horse. Bonnie Lea has lease packages and horses available for all ages, skill levels and sizes. All lease pricing includes one mandated lesson per week. Additional lessons are available and encouraged.

Leasing is also a useful way to "test-drive" owning a horse. If you'd like to buy, but not sure if you could handle the responsibility, lease for a month or more to be sure! Or, if you'd like the *experience* of owning a horse without the initial startup, then a lease is for you!

2022 Summer/Short Term Lease Options

MUST BE PRE-ARRANGED with a deposit. Short term leasing is subject to availability. Please keep in mind that we have to keep the horses for the entire year for them to be available and fit for the summer months. Short term leases may only jump in lessons unless approved by Lisa. (Rider is responsible for additional lessons, show coaching, trailering, entry fees, housing and meals at horse shows, etc.) Summer leases adhere to a schedule.

- \$2225 per month with minimum of one lesson a week and up to 5 additional rides per week.
- \$1725 per month with one lessons a week and 3 additional rides per week.
- 1075 per month with one lesson a week plus 2 additional rides per week.
- \$695 per week with minimum of one lesson per week and up to 5 additional rides per week.

2022 Year Round Lease Options

– With Annual Contract and must take weekly lesson

Partial Lease – \$725 per month

- 3 days a week including one lesson per week
- Must declare days and times when you will be riding.

Half Lease – \$960 per month

- 4 days a week including one lesson per week.
- Must declare in which half of the days you will be riding.

Full Lease – \$1125-1650 per month

- Full care and full use of the horse. Choose one or two lessons per week. Price depends on horse.

Whatever your decision, Lisa can match you with a horse that's perfect for you. Stop by or call for more information about leasing one of our amazing horses!

Some horses may be available for off farm lease. An insurance policy is required with contract. Contact Lisa for information.

*PLEASE NOTE:

1. Prices & days may vary with horse and with short-term leasing during the summer months*
2. We may not always have a horse to lease, but we are likely able to help you find one.

BUYING YOUR OWN HORSE

BLF does have some horses for sale. We are happy to speak to you about them. While we might not have the perfect horse for you, we may know someone that does. Let us be a part of your search so that you find the right fit and an honest seller. We can help walk you through the process and explain the benefits of vetting and trials, and more.

Taking your trainer with you to look at horses is common practice. Take advantage of your trainer's knowledge.

BOARDING & TRAINING

At Bonnie Lea Farm, our philosophy is based on allowing horses to be horses. Horses are grazing animals and need to nibble.

Weather permitting; horses are turned out on a daily basis. Paddocks and pastures, when not growing grass, are hayed to keep the horses happy and healthy. Stalls are cleaned daily and bedded with shavings, sawdust and/or pellet bedding as needed. The stalls have rubber mats to provide more cushion and a cleaner environment. Horses have ample access to hay and water when they are in, and are fed diet-specific grain in the morning and early evening. Supplements are fed in the morning and prescribed medications as directed by the veterinarian.

We have worked with our grain suppliers, Poulin and R&R Wirtes to obtain soy free grains for improved health. We are confident that you will find this soy free diet a great way to heal horses with ulcers and address metabolic horses' symptoms.

The farm has 90 acres with trail access, an outdoor ring (about 70'x 200') with rubber footing, indoor ring (66'x 140'), over 50 stalls, turnout in paddocks and pastures. The veterinarian and farrier are scheduled to come on a regular basis. The equine dentist, equine massage therapist, chiropractor, saddle fitter, rolfer and acupuncturist are also regular visitors. Bonnie Lea Farm is a licensed stable through the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and a member of Farm Bureau.

2022 Monthly Board Costs:

Regular Board: \$895

Special Turnout Board: \$950 (Special Turnout is for those horses that have specific paddock requirements, and/or those limited to turnout with one or two others.)

Winter Only Board: \$950

Training Board: \$1625 (Training and board)

Training:

We encourage owners to consider training to help their horses continue to grow.

Lisa has prepared horses for owners looking for equitation, hunters, jumpers, trail horses and simple, well-mannered companion horses. She has a calm, consistent approach, which provides a comfortable learning environment for your horse. She has raised numerous foals with excellent reputations and has a gift with rehabilitating unhappy or unhealthy horses. Lisa has mastered loading horses onto a trailer with ease.

Training is most easily offered through training board or through a lesson program with horse and rider. We accept horses of all ages, from teaching yearlings to tuning up seniors. Short-term training board is available when scheduled in advance. We offer daily and weekly boarding to help you fix any problems that you may be having. Current boarders may arrange short-term training options.

Boarders should plan on:

- A boarding agreement.
- A minimum of an annual rabies vaccine, preference of full annual spring vaccinations with optional fall shots. Regular barn-wide worming will be done and billed accordingly.
- Farrier care every 5-8 weeks. We have two regularly scheduled farriers. You are welcome to have your own come. If unable to cross-tie, you need to hold your horse for the farrier. Please **leave a note on the door** when the farrier is expected. If you are unable to tie or hold your horse, staff can hold your horse for \$25.
- Blankets – with rapid weather changes, we will change blankets, however we greatly appreciate your help in putting the appropriate blankets on your horse(s). Our boarders have a wonderful history of helping one another so that weather changes and blanket changes go smoothly. **Please bring off-season blankets home.**
- We hold about 2 PHA shows, one IHSA show and 1 or 2 AEL competitions each year. You are welcome to participate, join in as a volunteer or come as a spectator. We greatly appreciate those of you who share your horse for the college IHSA show or AEL competitions.
- Picking up horse's manure in the indoor and aisles as needed.
- Speak to Lisa if you want someone to help groom or ride for your horse while you are away. Caregivers/riders should be over 16 years old. Some of our staff may be available to be hired.