

The Clarke County Ruritan Fairgrounds Hopes to Become Home to More Horse Shows

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Nestled in the trees along West Main Street just outside the town of Berryville, Virginia sits the Clarke County Fairgrounds. Entering the fairground, it feels like you are going back in time, you find yourself immediately on a dirt road and surrounded by wooden barns and sheds that remind one of days gone by. The Ruritan Club has plans to improve the fairgrounds but strive to maintain the site as close to its current layout as possible.

The Clarke County Ruritan Fairgrounds are owned, operated and maintained by the Ruritan Club and over the last few years they have been making some improvements. Brad Broy, current President, is pleased with the current plans to repaint and repair the current structures. “The Clarke County Ruritan Club has been a fixture in Clarke County for the past half-century. The Ruritan’s purpose is to create a better understanding among people and through volunteer community service, make America’s communities better places in which to live and work”, according to the club website. Undoubtedly the largest contribution they make to the community is the Clarke County Fair. In addition to the fair, however, the Ruritan Club proudly supports many other educational and community support organizations such as 4H, FFA, WATTS, and Relay for Life.

The Ruritan Club recently took on the task of expanding and completely renovating its horse arena in the hope of attracting more shows and horse related events to the fairgrounds. After all, prior to the Ruritan Club purchasing the fairgrounds and renaming them they were “The Berryville Horse Show Grounds.” Barbara Byrd, Ruritan member since 1996, was instrumental in the expansion and renovation of the arena. A long-time equestrian herself, she knew the small grass over clay arena was in need of an upgrade. The arena has been expanded to 300x150 and the surface is all-weather and upgraded to stone dust with a covering of river sand. In addition to the arena the grounds offer Secretary and Judges stands as well as an 18-stall barn. There is plenty of water available and a warm up area as well as PA system rental if needed. There is also a 90 x 35 Show Barn with seating available.

The goal of the Club is to become the home of more shows and horse related events. Horses have always been and remain such an integral part of Clarke and the surrounding counties, it is important to the Ruritan Club to support those activities by offering an affordable convenient location to hold events. If you or your club are interested in hosting an event at the fairgrounds, please visit <https://clarkecountyfair.org/rentals/> for more information.

