

2010 League Footing Academy

The 2010 League Footing Academy was hosted by the South Point Equestrian Center in Las Vegas, Nevada, January 15th and 16th. There were participants from Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, Mississippi, South Carolina, Kentucky, and Wyoming.

The Academy was taught by renowned footing specialist Bob Kiser. We had two great days of teaching, demonstrations and group discussions. Several people brought dirt from their facilities for Bob to analyze and give recommendations on how to make their arenas better. Bob brought samples of different types of soil that he would recommend as well as samples not recommended. Bob demonstrated the effects of adding the right amounts of sand or clay and water to sub-standard soil making it an acceptable footing.

We covered a lot of “ground” in a short time and didn’t even leave the facility. We learned how to create a good footing from the base to the finished product. We talked about arena conditioning, from depth control to proper moisture, dust control and drainage.

Synthetic footing was a topic of interest; we weighed the benefits against the cost and the lack of perfection and longevity. The general consensus was that it was too expensive for most applications, but thought it might be perfected and affordable in the near future.

It would be impossible for me to tell you all the benefits and the wealth of information received at this Academy. I have been working arenas for fifteen years and have attended three of these academies and still learn something new each time. The most important element of an equestrian facility is good footing, and I think we all agree that satisfied competitors with sound horses generate repeat business. These academies are designed to help us obtain the knowledge to create and maintain the footing to its fullest potential.

So if you haven’t attended a footing academy yet, I would highly recommend you and your staff take advantage of the network of knowledge created by the League Footing Academy and its participants. I believe these educational opportunities should not be passed up, as it is time and money well spent.

Respectfully,
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