



District Guidance and Assistance for Indoor and Outdoor Riding Arenas

Anne Arundel Soil Conservation District's (the District) primary goals are to reduce sediment loss and improve water quality. To receive assistance with planning for indoor and outdoor riding arenas, the District requires all landowners to sign a Soil Conservation and Water Quality Agreement before we begin working with the an individual or entity on each piece of property involved. Before any ground disturbance or construction on an indoor or outdoor riding facility can take place, the cooperators must have a current, complete, approved, and signed Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plan, here by known as a Farm Plan.

The property must be zoned RA or RLD. If zoned RLD, it must be assessed as agriculture by the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation.

The following guidance is the result of cooperation between the District, Anne Arundel County Inspections and Permits and Maryland Department of the Environment. Anne Arundel County code 105.2.1.14 defines agricultural structures and within that definition it states, "riding arenas not open to the public" but does not specify whether it is an indoor or outdoor riding arena. It is the understanding of all three agencies that the definition of riding arena applies to both indoor and outdoor facilities.

The following guidelines are to help agricultural landowners navigate the permit process:

- Once a cooperator has in hand a completed Farm Plan with the location of the proposed indoor or outdoor riding facility shown on the aerial view of the property, they may apply for the building permit exemption through the District.
- The Agricultural Structures Checklist and Information Sheet must be reviewed by the landowner.
- The Worksheet for Agricultural Buildings form must be completed for indoor facilities.
- If within the critical area, the Critical Area Report Worksheet must be completed for both indoor and outdoor facilities.
- An Agricultural Standard Grading Plan must be completed for both indoor and outdoor facilities.
- If over 5,000 square feet of disturbance occurs, stormwater management must be addressed.
- Fill material, if needed, must be excavated from the property on which the indoor or outdoor riding arena is to be placed. No off-site fill material can be brought onto the property unless a grading plan, approved by Anne Arundel County Inspections and Permits, is obtained.
- Once the Worksheet for Agricultural Buildings and the Agricultural Standard Grading Plan are completed, a District representative will submit them to Inspections and Permits for approval. Exemption from the building permit does not exempt the contractor or landowner from obtaining electrical, plumbing, and or mechanical permits from the county. The landowner will provide District representatives the ability to follow the progress of the indoor or outdoor riding facility construction by allowing them to enter the property. The landowner is obligated to ensure sediment does not leave the site. District representatives can provide guidance regarding sediment control and stormwater management.