

IN YOUR DREAMS FARM EQUESTRIAN

Show Clothes Buying Guide

COMPLETE AND DETAILED PRACTICE / SHOW OUTFITTING REQUIREMENTS

Keep in mind that your clothes REALLY DO make a big difference in the judge's mind. You wouldn't wear an ugly dress to a beauty contest or a job interview – a horse show is both.

Walk trot riders can easily get away with the economy models; novice level or above must have the good stuff

The MOST IMPORTANT THING about clothes is the FIT! You can easily get away with less expensive stuff if it fits you well, but some people have to get the top of the line just to find the proper fit.

- Boots – Must be black leather “field” boots (with laces on the front and a cap toe), not “dress” or dressage boots. The biggest difference between the different price ranges is the quality of the leather and comfort – cheaper is stiffer leather, and generally not made as well in the actual shoe part. If you're not picky about comfortable shoes, you can downgrade as long as it fits well.
 - Should fit very snug around the tops – they shouldn't hurt your leg, but if you can fit your hand inside the tops they're too big in the calf.
 - Should be VERY tall – they'll hurt the back of your knee to walk when they fit correctly, because they'll break down and sag over time and its very bad if they're too short.
 - Should be close around your ankle – if you don't have to untie to get on and off, they're too baggy around your ankles.
 - In terms of off-the-shelf brand names...
 - “Ariat” or “Dover Professional” are excellent, in the \$350-\$450 range
 - Effingham or Beaumont, etc are good, in the \$250-\$300 range
 - Devon Aire L'Cord or On Course are good in the \$125-ish range
- Helmet – Must be black, preferably velvet. Velvet helmet covers over an eventing shell is not acceptable. Helmet should be comfortable – you'll spend a lot of time in it - but should be well fitting. The owner of Charles Owen helmet company, recently said that 80% of riders wear their helmets too loose to be effective. Here's his guidelines for fitting...
 - Should fit snugly from just above your brow to just below the little ridge on the back of your skull. Try it on and wear it a few seconds, then take it off for a few seconds; then repeat the process several times before you decide it is too tight. The little styrofoam bubbles burst to make a custom fit to your head shape, a little bit each time you put it on.
- Must be “ASTM” and/or “SEI” approved and have the mark somewhere to prove it.
- Get whichever is most attractive on your head and face, and whatever fits comfortably to your head shape - not everyone is the same. Choose from the list below..
- Recommended brands:
 - Charles Owen “Wellington Pro” is the most attractive on the widest variety of faces, the highest protection and durability, and medium priced at about \$300
 - Charles Owen “GR8” is a great value - highest level of safety, durability, and style - and still priced at about \$200
 - GPA – Top of the line at about \$340 – two kinds: velvet or flat; either is fine
 - International IRH is a GPA imitator, and is about \$110.

- Breeches – Fit is important – they should NOT be super' tight. They should be loose enough that you can have the cleaner put a heavy starch crease down the front (if you choose), but not so loose that the crotch hangs down.
 - Waist is not a problem – you'll wear a belt and the waist is under your coat, or they can easily be altered in the waist and seat.
 - They should fit TIGHT in your calf, or you'll have trouble pulling your boots on.
 - Color is greenish khaki (Although Tailored Sportsman 4-way stretch is a little tanner, and it is okay.)
 - They should be the polyester – NOT COTTON!
 - Whatever brand you get, they should look like the Tailored Sportsman stretch, with zipper on the side, not the front (unless you are male). That's the standard. Ariat is a great brand, but more expensive than TS.
 - NO full leather seat! Just plain hunter breeches with leather knee patches.
 - Recommended brands are:
 - Tailored Sportsman 2-way stretch, at about \$90-\$175 is what 90% of the people have. They are expensive, but comfortable and durable.
 - Ariat makes a great product, but more expensive..
 - lots of companies makes a good Tailored Sportsman look-alike
 - Jodphers and jod straps- Should be greenish khaki/ tan and the straps should match the color of your paddock boots. This style is only appropriate for middle-school aged children who can not yet fit into tall boots.
- Shirts – Colors or stripes are good within reason. Don't get too crazy! Classic look is white or white with a stripe that matches your coat.
 - MUST have long sleeves – no option.
 - MUST have monogrammed collar – NOT a collar pin, and not plain.
 - For white or striped shirts, monogram in a color to match your stripes or coat. For colored shirts, monogram in a lighter shade of the same color.
 - Your choice in monograms – most people do a classic three-letter diamond shape or something like that. Some people do their names, particularly if you have an unusual name. Some people can have crazy monograms like lizards and cherries! Your team might want everyone to get there mascot or school name on the collar it is a very popular style in interscholastic/intercollegiate riding.
 - There are a million different brands and any are fine if they fit you well.
 - It should fit fairly snugly because your coat needs to fit snugly over the top.
 - Your cuff should show out the bottom of your coat sleeve, so you don't want your sleeves to be too short.
 - Brands range in price from \$35 to \$150
- Coats – Navy Blue is the best bet, with or without a pinstripe or whatever. Blue never goes out of style and is more dressy and formal – at Championships nearly EVERYONE wears blue. Hunter green (dark) is also good. Black is never acceptable. You'll see greys and tans of various shades, and I love some of those colors.
 - Coat should fit much tighter and closer than you would ever wear any other coat! Body should be fitted closely around your waist and torso, and sleeves should not be baggy.
 - Short is good! It should be just long enough to barely touch the saddle as you sit, or the hem should just reach the middle of your seat. Sleeves should be at your wrist when your arm is down, and show a little cuff of your shirt as you bend your arm to ride.
 - DON'T GET YOUR COAT TOO BIG! Too small is better than too big, because big makes you look frumpy, boxy, slumpy. Your clothes should make you look streamlined, athletic, elegant. Everything should be very fitted.

- Coats range in price from \$75 polyester models to \$400 wool coats. It's entirely up to you. Fit is much more important than fabric because the judge doesn't get that close a look at you!
- Gloves – Black leather is the only acceptable. You MUST have gloves! Any plain black glove is acceptable.
- Belt – You must have a belt, but it doesn't really matter what it is. There are horsey belts at the tack stores, but any conservative brown leather belt is fine. (For some reason, it is traditional to wear brown belt with black boots!)
- Hair net – Even if you have short hair, you need a hair net. Get the good thick one from the tack store – the WalMart kind tear up and they're too flimsy to hold heavy hair so you have to wear two nets. Make sure you get a net to match your hair color. **DON'T get the net with the bun bow or anything like that** – all your hair will be up under your helmet – no buns! An upper classman will show you how to do your hair if you don't know.
- Bows- Matching bows for middle-school aged children in jods and straps is adorable but braids are not appropriate once you have tall boots

IN YOUR DREAMS FARM EQUESTRIAN Practice Clothes Buying Guide

Plastic Helmet are cooler but, many people only have one velvet helmet and ride in it all the time and make sure that they always take good care of it to keep it looking nice

Jeans or Britches are appropriate for lessons

Paddock boots and half Chaps and appropriate in lessons but so our tall boots

Belts/ Gloves are highly recommended for lessons

Shirts needed to be tucked in!

Halter tops and low-cut shirts are not appropriate

Advance riders should wear hairnets during lessons, its good practice for all level of riders, and truthfully makes your head feel cooler in warm weather.

Please remember to buy your own practice saddle pad they are not provided.

Small Spurs and Half pads/ Bounce pads are always recommended as a wise investment.

We provide saddles but feel free to ride in your own if you like.

Best places to buy:

- Atlanta Saddlery— they'll have everything you need and give you a 10% discount if you let them know you ride with 'Keely' and they will give you 20% off if you buy 3 items at one time on there list. . 770.475.1967- Address: 1670-C Highway 9 South, Alpharetta Georgia 30004 USA Website: <http://www.atlantasaddlery.com/>
- Snooty fox Tack Exchange is a riding consignment store, they have MOST of what you need for a great deal, bring in your old clothes and tack and consign them at the same

time. 770-664-6736 Address: 11940 Alpharetta Highway, Suite 129. Alpharetta, GA 30009 Website: <http://snootyfox.net/index.php>

Catalog:

- Dover Saddlery is the BEST and most complete line of everything you need, and at reasonable prices. 800/989-1500 or www.doversaddlery.com
- State Line Tack is the discount place – the best prices, but limited selection of NICER Show clothes. They do have Tailored Sportsman and some of the helmets, and various Shirts and coats and boots. 800/228-9208 or www.statelinetack.com

If you need any assistance or recommendations on any of the above purchases please feel free to call Keely on her cell anytime.