

Evangeline Training Center

Thoroughbred Horse Training Center, Lafayette, Louisiana



<p>SITUATION <i>Project description, problem to be solved</i></p>	<p>Evangeline Training Center, a racehorse training facility in Lafayette, LA, boards and trains some of Louisiana's top championship racehorses.</p> <p>Notable owners including NFL quarterback Jake Delhomme have chosen to board horses at Evangeline, noting the exceptional facilities at the track, a former race course once called Evangeline Downs before converting to a training facility.</p> <p>Evangeline Training Center boards horses in 23 separate metal horse barns, with 150,000 square feet of uncoated metal roofing covering the horse barns.</p> <p>Located in hot, humid southern Louisiana, temperatures can reach 95° F and heat indexes top 105° F. Evangeline's staff and the horses have struggled with the solar heat gain inside the barns. Installing fans just blew hot air, and failed to address the core problem. "Even with two fans in the stalls, the horses were typically sweating all day long, with minimal relief at night," said facility maintenance manager A. J. Credeur.</p>
<p>PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED <i>Identify all issues</i></p>	<p>Evangeline contacted Mann's Construction, Inc., a general contractor based in Columbia, LA. Mann's Construction identified that the uncoated metal roof absorbed significant solar heat, and then transmitted the heat into the barns. This resulted in elevated interior temperatures throughout the day and even after sunset. Further, the metal roofs were exposed to the elements and were beginning to rust, thereby creating additional heat gain, potential structural issues and eventual roof leaks.</p>
<p>SOLUTION <i>Gardner-Gibson products used to solve the problem</i></p>	<p>Mann's recommendation was to use a protective white elastomeric "cool roof" coating, which would protect and prolong the roof's service life, reflect the hot sun's rays (thereby significantly reducing heat gain inside the building), and provide a weatherproofing seal to protect from the elements.</p>

	<p>Mann's chose Gardner-Gibson's Sta-Kool 770 White Elastomeric Coating, a highly reflective white roof coating that seals the roof and remains flexible to resist cracking and peeling. 1,453 five-gallon pails (7,265 gallons) were sprayed in 2 coats with airless sprayer.</p>
<p>RESULTS <i>Improvements noticed by facility owner/manager</i></p>	<p>The property managers and particularly the horse training staff were excited about the dramatic change in interior temperatures, according to contractor and project manager Kyle Lowery of Mann's Construction. "It used to get so hot, the trainer's didn't even want to go into the barns," said Lowery. "If it's that hot for the trainers, imagine what it was like for the horses."</p> <p>Before coating the roofs, the extreme temperatures inside the barns limited the amount of time trainers could spend inside. However, during the application of the roof coating, the difference was immediately noticeable. "Our employees on the job would now take their lunch breaks inside the buildings that had just been coated, as it was cooler," said Lowery. "We were amazed at the noticeable difference in temperature immediately after applying this product," he added.</p> <p>Charles Ashy, Jr., General Manager of Evangeline Training Center, noted "a big difference" in the temperature and comfort inside the barns.</p> <p>A. J. Credeur, facility maintenance manager for Evangeline, remarked that "it's made an 11-14 degree temperature difference inside the barns." Credeur said trainers and other facilities "all want to know what that paint is on our roofs. It's gotten a lot of attention." He noted that the horses have stopped sweating. "It's done a fantastic job."</p>
<p>PROJECT PHOTOS</p>	 <p>The job in progress. <i>At left, "Before" showing uncoated, rusting areas; at right, "After" showing coated areas of completed job. Two coats were applied for a uniform seal and greater lasting protection.</i></p>
<p>CUSTOMER SERVICE</p>	<p>Lowery was very complimentary about the support of Gardner sales rep Eddie Hess and the reseller. "We experienced very good customer service, and would recommend this product to anyone with similar needs. We plan to use Sta-Kool products for all our future projects."</p>
<p>RESELLER AND DISTRIBUTOR</p>	<p>Product was distributed by HDW Inc to Ranch Outlet, 3324 NE Evangeline, Lafayette, LA, and sold to Mann's Construction. "I told Ranch Outlet they ought to keep it out in the front of the store, it's such a great product," said Credeur.</p>