Where do the horses go in the winter?

A photo essay depicting the JLD Equine Farm

by Brian Dettman
I live in the Rochester NY area and I know people who own horses. I was always curious as to what they did with their horses in the winter.

My friend Kate McLean (traffic reporter by day) is one of those horse owners. She boards her horse “Blue” at the JDL Equine Farm. Kate works part-time at the farm to offset the boarding costs.

I was fortunate enough for her to be working at the farm on Saturday. She allowed me to take photographs of her activities so that I could find the answer to my question.

“Where do the horses go in the winter?”
Several barns make up the facility. They are used for housing equipment and boarding horses. The barn shown in the left hand photo contains the equine practice ring.
Feeding is done in the morning. The photo on the left shows a hungry horse who's patience was finally rewarded as you can see by the photo below.
Kate prepares her own horse, Blue, for a walk to the upper pasture to graze with other horses that are already there enjoying the hay.
It’s not all fun and games. Kate also does her fair share of cleaning the stalls and removing the waste when it’s required. Although I think she gets a kick out of driving the tractor.
When it is fun and games, it’s about the horse and the rider. The practice facility attached to the main barn serves as a state-of-the-art practice ring for equestrian events.
Qualified instructors assist students with their form.
JDL equine farms is a beautiful and comfortable facility for boarding horses all year 'round.
The students learn not only how to ride their horse, but also how to take care of them by cooling them down and walking them to the pasture.
At the end of the day, it’s all about whether the horses are happy.

I talked to this guy when I was leaving the farm.

He seemed very happy and even managed a smile.

My special thanks to Kate McLean for sharing this experience with me.