

EQUESTRIAN THERAPY CENTER

POWER SOLUTIONS
CASE STUDY of
PEGASUS FARM



UNINTERRUPTED FUN

UNITS

45 kW Generac Quietsource®
Series natural gas genset

LOCATION

Hartville, Ohio

Pegasus Farm is a horse-based healing and learning center dedicated to helping children and adults with disabilities achieve more productive and enjoyable lives. From its modest beginnings in 1986, Pegasus Farm has grown to become one of the largest therapeutic equestrian centers in America, serving clients from eight counties in northeast Ohio at its 120 acre site. A staff of seven certified instructors and a core of 150 volunteers serve approximately 250 program participants each week with an array of therapeutic programs using more than three dozen specially trained horses. In addition to outdoor riding, a heated indoor arena allows activities to occur year-round and after dark, six days a week.

Pegasus welcomes clients of all ages with a broad range of physical, emotional, behavioral and mental disabilities — autism, mental retardation, Down

syndrome, traumatic brain injury, cerebral palsy, attention deficit disorder and multiple sclerosis. Participants are typically involved in one-hour group sessions every week that focus on therapeutic horseback riding and basic horsemanship. Pegasus Farm also conducts a variety of programs for specific kinds of clients, including senior citizens, disabled veterans,

at-risk high school students and women recovering from substance abuse or domestic violence. For those who come to Pegasus Farm, interacting with the horses provides a special kind of fun — and so much more.

“In a typical class we may have six therapy horses, six participants and between 12 and 18 staff and volunteers inside the arena,” says Jim Strang, Pegasus Farm’s executive director. “Given the nature of the emotional and physical disabilities of many of our participants, it’s essential that we minimize disruptions that might induce panic or result in injury, such as the loss of electrical power.”

Over the years, Pegasus Farm has experienced numerous blackouts that left the facility without light, heat or water. “The frequency of power outages in our rural area has been a concern, especially since they seemed to be occurring more often,” Strang says. “Fortunately, most happened when there was sufficient daylight and in all cases we were able to safely evacuate our riders and horses from the arena

“In the first six months after the generator was installed, we had four power outages,” says Jim Strang, Pegasus Farm’s executive director. “In each case it worked flawlessly, allowing us to continue our activities and serve our participants.”



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without any injuries. However, losing electrical power forced us to cancel classes, which resulted in a loss of revenue. To solve this problem, we obtained capital funding grants that allowed us to implement a comprehensive safety program that included emergency lighting and an automatic standby generator.”

After consulting with the state fire marshal, the local fire department and three electrical contractors, Pegasus Farm selected a Generac 45 kilowatt QuietSource Series generator that operates on natural gas. When an outage occurs, the battery-powered emergency lighting system responds instantaneously, maintaining sufficient light in all key areas until the generator starts up and takes over, powering all of the facility’s critical circuits.

“Our primary goal was to avoid any disruption and allow our staff and clients to continue their therapy programs,” Strang says. “A key consideration was having a dependable generator that would start up and operate as quietly as possible, so as not to startle our horses or program participants.”

Generac’s QuietSource Series generator was the perfect choice for Pegasus Farm. It’s designed to be a quiet, affordable and environmentally friendly solution that is suitable for a wide variety of applications. Not only are its sound emissions low during normal operation, but its Whisper-Test™ feature operates the generator at a slower speed during its weekly self-test, making it as quiet as a car running at idle. Models of this type are available with outputs ranging from 18 to 150 kilowatts and even greater power requirements can be satisfied by combining multiple units in a modular paralleling arrangement.

Investing in backup power has already proven to be wise. “In the first six months after the generator was installed, we had four power outages,” Strang says. “In each case it worked flawlessly, allowing us to continue our activities and serve our participants. It’s given us great peace of mind.”

For additional information on Pegasus Farm and its therapeutic programs, go online to www.pegasusfarm.org.

GENERAC®

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