# **T. ED GARRISON ARENA**

The T. Ed Garrison Arena at Clemson University is recognized as one of the premier multi-purpose livestock facilities in the Southeast. The Garrison Arena is South Carolina's only full-service, public facility designed to promote the state's billion-dollar livestock industry.

Senator T. Ed Garrison was instrumental in bringing the arena to Clemson when the State of South Carolina expressed the need for a facility to promote the livestock industry. In 1991, Clemson used a bond referendum to build the main arena, cattle housing complex and two barns.

Operated by the Cooperative Extension Service in the division of Public Service and Agriculture, the Garrison Arena provides opportunities for shows, sales, exhibits and educational programs. This benefits those in agriculture and agribusiness and provides educational opportunities to the youth in our state.

**Agriculture programs** provide educational information and resources on production practices that enable producers to improve their economic productivity, environmental sustainability and social well- being. These agriculture programs:

- Showcase the livestock industry in a variety of ways to exhibitors as well as the general public.
- Provide opportunities for producers to meet with county agents, commercial producers and members of the commercial agricultural industry.
- Provide training and educational opportunities through expos and agricultural association meetings and conventions.

**Agribusiness programs** provide educational information and technical assistance to communities and businesses to build a prosperous and sustainable future by leveraging the capacity of existing, physical and natural resources. These agribusiness programs:

- Promote new and improved agricultural practices through hosting trainings and conventions.
- Allow teachers to showcase the Garrison Arena to students so that they can see various aspects of an agribusiness facility first hand.
- Allow local and national businesses to promote their company through sponsorships of Garrison Arena.

### **CORPORATE PARTNERS OF THE ARENA**

With an estimated 200,000 visitors annually, the T. Ed Garrison Arena has a significant economic impact on regional businesses. The Corporate Partners of the Arena program is a unique initiative that provides opportunities to engage with Garrison Arena to enhance brand recognition, play a significant role in industry advancement and increase the regional economic impact. Participation in the program will increase event attendee and vendor awareness of participating organizations



and provide multiple opportunities for participating in Garrison Arena events. The Corporate Partners of the Arena program also promotes engagement with Clemson University students, faculty and leadership.

Garrison Arena events draw thousands of visitors to Clemson and South Carolina, boost tourism and contribute to economic development. This positively impacts the Upstate's economy as well as the entire state's economy.

#### **YOUTH PROGRAMS**

The Garrison Arena takes great pride in its positive influence upon the youth of our state. 4H, FFA and other youth development programs provide educational information and resources that empower youth to become healthy, productive and contributing members of society. Garrison Arena:

- Provides youth level camps and shows that allow competitors to compete and learn in a youth friendly environment.
- Provides a facility that can be used to show the variety of aspects of how an agribusiness facility operates and changes with the agricultural market to students.
- Provides free opportunities for the youth in our local communities to experience different aspects of the livestock industry, allowing them to pursue a hobby or career in the agricultural sector.





# **FACILITIES**

The main arena, covering two acres under roof, has a dirt floor that measures 140 feet by 260 feet with an offset arena fence. There is available seating for 3,000.

The two vending areas are 50 feet by 200 feet with easy accessibility to allow vendors or displays to be featured during arena events.

Connected to the rear of the main arena is an additional 45,000 square foot covered open-air arena suited for a second show ring or warm-up area.

Expanded cattle facilities include an enclosed show and sale arena, milking parlor and spacious housing areas that enable all aspects of the livestock industry to be served.

The T. Ed Garrison Arena has four barns with a total of 440 permanent 10-by-10 horse stalls. These barns feature sliding doors, wash racks and manure pits. The fourth barn was added in 2006 and has extensive paving and access to 30 amp hookups. Additionally, approximately 150 portable stalls can be set up in the cattle barn when available.

The Cattle Complex is a 42,000 square foot multi-purpose facility located at the southwest corner of the Garrison Arena complex. Recent changes to the sale arena at the Cattle Complex have provided concrete flooring throughout the arena, easily accommodating livestock auctions and shows and making it a popular site for parties and meetings. The complex boasts a modern nine stall milking parlor with a combination of side-open and herringbone stalls and 1200 gallon milk holding tank.

### THE NEED

The T. Ed Garrison Arena is a first-class facility with great potential to grow. If the Garrison Arena builds appropriate outdoor show rings and facilities in addition to its current infrastructure, the T. Ed Garrison Arena could greatly expand the number of hosted state, regional and high impact shows. This would result in a significant increase in the economic impact on the Upstate's economy. The addition of a conference center would allow the Garrison Arena to host events throughout the year in a climatecontrolled facility. The need for a large convention space is a growing market demand in the industry. Regional competitors have recognized this need and have added this type of space at their facilities. These additions are key components to the continued success of the T. Ed Garrison Arena.

## THE IMPACT

The main goals of the T. Ed Garrison Arena are to support the agricultural industry of South Carolina, provide educational opportunities and support to the agricultural sector and to boost area tourism. Your gift will directly benefit all three of these objectives as the Garrison Arena provides new opportunities to our youth, the agricultural sector and the local and state economies. The impact of your gift will be felt in the livestock industry – across the Upstate and throughout the state of South Carolina. With your help, the T. Ed Garrison Arena can continue to benefit our local economy and provide outstanding educational opportunities for our youth.



ClemsonForward will position Clemson for the next 50 years and make an impact on real issues facing the people of our state and nation. Clemson Forever supports the goals of ClemsonForward through its unrelenting mission to strengthen the University by building a solid financial base of private giving, providing exemplary stewardship of those gifts and clearly communicating to donors the impact of their gift and the gratitude of the Clemson Family.

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