

RIDER GEAR

OUTERWEAR

The transition from late winter to early spring requires versatile outerwear.

PRODUCED BY JENNIFER PAULSON

STREAMLINED STYLE

Model: Hexam Jacket (ladies').

Maker: Horseware®.

Why buy? This is the perfect everyday jacket that works in the barn and looks stylish on the street. Made from 100-percent cotton, the jacket is waterproof, yet breathable. The quilted padded lining adds warmth.

Cool features: The adjustable waist and body-conscious fit minimize bulk without sacrificing warmth or mobility.

More info: horseware.com; (800) 887-6688

Price: \$119



EASY-OPEN (AND CLOSE)

Model: Cargo Jacket (ladies').

Maker: Kerrits®.

Why buy? Waterproof and windproof fabric (that's washable) and sealed seams will keep out all the elements.

The removable belt and hood allow you to make the coat fit your needs.

Cool features: Magnetic closures are easy to attach, even with cold fingers; hip and wrist zippers increase mobility, and underarm zippers add breathability.

More info: kerrits.com;

(800) 274-7946

Price: \$199



SIZEABLE OPTIONS

Model: Style C72 Waterproof Breathable Coat (men's).

Maker: Carhartt®.

Why buy? Made from durable nylon, this jacket has a special water-repellant finish. The removable hood and adjustable-hem drawcord allow you to keep out wind and cold.

Cool features: Extended sizing makes this coat an option for horsemen of all sizes. The coat has a special membrane that allows body heat to leave the garment, even while keeping moisture out.

More info: carhartt.com; (800) 833-3118

Price: Regular sizes \$140; big/tall sizes \$150



PICK A POCKET

Model: Cattle Baron Drifter Jacket (men's).

Maker: Schaefer Ranchwear.

Why buy? A waterproof 24-ounce Legacy Melton Wool shell and Thinsulate® insulation will keep you warm on chilly late-winter and early-spring days.

Cool features: The number of pockets on this coat makes it a dream come true for those who have to carry phones and other small tools wherever they go. A two-way zipper and snap storm front, snap cuffs, and side riding vents add to its appeal.

More info: schaefer-ranchwear.com; (800) 426-2074

Price: Size S-XL \$220; 2XL \$230



BUYER SAVVY

Transitional outerwear is essential when the weather is still fairly cold but can warm up without notice. Here's what to consider when looking for a perfect coat for your situation.

- **Waterproof fabric:** Wet late-winter snow and early-spring rain can set in without notice. A waterproof fabric will keep you dry and warm.
- **Vent options:** Much like ski wear, outerwear suitable for barn chores needs vents. Underarm vents can help with air circulation and allow you to cool off when you work up a sweat, but it's still too cold to go without a coat.
- **Pockets:** They're essential for any coat, and their

placement can be just as important. If you have to keep a lot of accessories on you, look for pockets that won't bother you when you ride and that have closures to keep items from falling out.

- **Length:** Be sure that the coat you choose is long enough that your back won't be exposed to cold, wet weather when you ride or bend up and down to do chores.
- **Bulk:** Bulk doesn't always equal warmth, and it can really get in the way and inhibit mobility, especially horseback. Look for a coat with insulation, but without extra "puffery."