

Horse Farm BEST Management Practices

How does your farm measure up?

- Maintain recommended stocking rates; one horse per 2-5 acres. Utilize rotational grazing for maximizing forage health and yield.
- Soil test every 2-3 years to survey nutrients that are available in the soil and those that should be supplemented.
- Follow UF/IFAS guidelines for fertilizer applications.
- Maintain pastures with 80% vegetative cover and keep a minimum of 3 inches of forage present at all times.
- Develop a manure management plan: Compost, off-site removal, or store temporarily on an impervious surface.
- Avoid long-term stockpiling of manure or the placement of manure in sensitive areas such as surrounding water bodies or in and around sinkholes.
- Use erosion control methods progressively; beginning with re-vegetation or prescribed grazing, and employ more aggressive measures if necessary.
- Utilize proper integrated pest management practices on your farm; a combination of species selection, correct cultural practices, and the use of biological controls and pesticides to manage pests.
- Have an environmentally sound animal mortality plan in place; incineration or rendering by licensed facility, burial at proper depths, or composting.



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