

11 May 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

The CEP strongly supports our equine industry. We know this sector contributes \$2.6 billion a year to the local economy. This impact combined with our hundreds of farms, thousands of horses, dozens of events, and diversity of breeds truly makes us the Horse Capital of the World®.

However, none of these impacts would exist without our farmland. The CEP is on record to the Marion County Board of County Commissioners supporting a strong and robust Farmland Preservation Area. The CEP supports the mission of Horse Farms Forever and their current efforts in this regard.

Growing a diverse economic base is essential to the sustainability of the local economy. The equine industry is a vital part of this diverse base and supporting its short and long-term development is important to the growth of our community.

Best,



Kevin T. Sheilley
President/CEO



FLORIDA THOROUGHBRED
BREEDERS' AND OWNERS' ASSN.

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Douglas Oswald

May 8, 2020

To Whom It May Concern

Subject: FARMLAND PRESERVATION AREA (Marion Co.)

As a member of Ocala based HORSE FARMS FOREVER, the FLORIDA THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS & OWNERS ASSOCIATION (FTBOA) supports HFF's current and ongoing efforts to protect and preserve the area.

Protecting our globally recognized signature horse country, Thoroughbred industry, farms and agricultural way of life is vital to the economics, cultural foundation and quality of life in Marion County.

Thank you for doing your part to protect the FARMLAND PRESERVATION AREA.

Respectfully yours,

Lonny Powell
CEO



May 17, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

As an avid sport horse enthusiast, I am adding my support for the thoughtful consideration of the preservation of the Farmland Preservation Area as designated in Ocala and Marion County. The special component of Ocala is the artful melding of all horse sports within a community that respects all aspects of good horsemanship from breeding, raising, training, competing and retiring these special partners after years of service. From world class veterinary and farrier service to exceptional training and competing options, Ocala is second to none in the opportunities it provides for the sport horse participate.

After semi-retiring from a 25-year career in the financial services industry, my husband and I had a choice of many areas to relocate. We chose Ocala because of its special beauty and open spaces where horses could be horses for 23 hours per day. Because of the turn out, peace and quiet of their surroundings and the extraordinary equine support of the community, they can rise to their potential for that one hour per day that they work to excel at their designated sport. Their mental and physical achievements are quite unique in this special place.

The Farmland Preservation Area at the heart of Ocala creates the certainty that this environment will always remain at the core of the horse industry of Marion County. It is the reason that horse owners and equine business efforts are willing to invest in owning, developing and operating horse related activities in this very region. Without it, Ocala becomes one more stopping point in the never-ending journey of horse shows and horse activities. This is not the fabric that Ocala represented to us when we first moved and invested in our community.

For this reason, I was excited to become a founding member of Horse Farms Forever. The education of and efforts towards preserving our equine community for generations to follow allow me to know that this very special melting pot of equine activities will always be appreciated and preserved. Please do everything you can

to preserve our special Farmland Preservation area as it exists today and resist the temptation to allow an erosion of its core principle. Having lived in New York City for many years in my career, I always marveled at the foresight of the city planners that allocated and preserved Central Park in the middle of that sprawling metropolis. Please do whatever you can such that someday people will marvel at your foresight to have preserved such a special part of the equine fabric of Ocala and Marion County.

Very best regards,

Linda Bammann
Owner of Laughing Horse Farm, Inc.



LIVE OAK STUD

May 8, 2020

Board of Marion County Commissioners
601 SE 25th Avenue
Ocala, FL 34471

Re: Marion County Farmland Preservation Area

Dear Marion County Commissioners:

I want to thank the commission for their hard work and foresight in recognizing the need to protect Marion County's farmland. The creation of the Farmland Preservation Area was instrumental in preserving our equine industry. We are recognized as the Horse Capital of the World and need to continue to be diligent in our preservation efforts. Horse Farms Forever is instrumental in this endeavor and I greatly support their vision, community involvement, and goals. Thank you again for your advocacy of Marion County's Farmland Preservation Area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charlotte C. Weber". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "C" at the beginning.

Charlotte C. Weber

Owner

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11 May, 2020.

To Whom It May Concern:

Ocala has earned its moniker as the Horse Capital of the World through a strong and diverse equine industry firmly rooted in the rolling farmland of Marion County. It is well known that the area boasts the best back up services available anywhere, with feed companies, equine clinics, tack stores, blacksmiths, veterinarians, competition facilities and sale companies that are second to none. Most important of all, however, is the outstanding farmland that comprises a large percentage of the county, situated above mineral rich soil and the pristine Floridan Aquifer System. Blessed with a climate that is the envy of the continent, the combination for raising and training horses is unique and unbeatable.

Manuden Farm, Eclipse Training Center and de Meric Stables and Sales strongly support Horse Farms Forever in its quest to preserve our precious farmland for generations to come. There is little doubt that unchecked development has been a hall mark in much of the state. Protecting the Farm Preservation Area from urban growth has become a line in the sand that should not be crossed, a sentiment that has garnered strong support from all factions of the local community. The future strength of our equine industries and the magnetic appeal of our beautiful farmland are dependent on the vision of our elected officials, and we applaud their efforts to defend one of north Florida's greatest assets.

Kind regards,



Nick de Meric, Owner



Glen Hill Farm

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May 11, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

Our organization strongly supports the equine industry. We support Horse Farms Forever in their current and ongoing efforts to protect and preserve Marion County's Farmland Preservation Area.

Growth must be well planned and well thought out. Protecting our Thoroughbred industry, farms and agriculture is vital to Marion County's economics. It is our sincerest hope that our elected officials uphold their duty to protect and preserve our farmland to ensure this way of life remain for future generations.

Thank you,

Craig Bernick
President



HUKA SOUTH
1111 NW 42ND STREET · OCALA, FL 34482

May 13, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

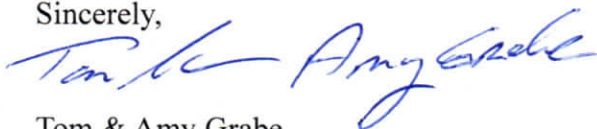
My wife and I moved to Marion County in 1997. It was the realization of a dream we had to live in some of the most beautiful horse country on the planet. We kept horses here for many years and our visits to see them always gave us a sense of relaxation and serenity the moment we hopped of I-75 and headed west into horse country.

We have owned a few farms in Northwest Marion County over years. We founded The Sanctuary Equine Rehabilitation and Sports Therapy Center here, as well. We currently own 70 acres off NW 110th Ave. All of these properties have one thing in common; they were located within the boundary of the Farmland Preservation Area.

Over the past 20+ years, we have seen Ocala and Marion County change significantly. The city has grown and development in the county has grown along with it. During this time, the Farm Preservation Area has served as a magnet that drew many of our new residents to Marion County. It's hard to find someone who has not enjoyed an afternoon driving around 'horse country'. We must protect this unique blend of open spaces and beautiful places for generations to come. It defines Marion County as the Horse Capital of the World.

We support the mission of Horse Farms Forever to protect and preserve this pristine area where so much equine history has been made. We urge the commissioners to dutifully protect the Farmland Preservation Area and recognize the importance of the equine industry to the quality of life for the residents of Marion County.

Sincerely,



Tom & Amy Grabe

Owners



3727 S.W. 95th Avenue Road
Ocala, Florida 34481

May 14, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

Our family has been coming to Ocala for the past 50 years to enjoy the beautiful pristine farmland that the county has wisely spent years protecting with the creation of the Farmland Preservation Area. The farms, both big and small, are the backbone of the equine industry and it is why Ocala has been given the distinction as the "Horse Capital of the World".

While we understand that there is a need for capital investments and improved infrastructure for the equine industry to grow, we must simultaneously work together to protect the Farmland Preservation Area. Horse Farms Forever was created for just that purpose which is why we wholeheartedly support Horse Farms Forever in their continued efforts to protect the Farmland Preservation Area.

Sincerely,

Jessica Steinbrenner
President
Kinsman Farm



May 12, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter in support of HorseFarmsForever and their mission which is the the conservation of Marion County's beautiful horse farms and agricultural land , and the rich culture and heritage this has created. Ocala/Marion County is arguably the Horse Capital of the world and this an identity we should all be so proud of and continue to promote it.

The Farmland Preservation area was established as part of the comprehensive plan for future development, to protect this invaluable and irreplaceable land, the most fertile in the state, from uncontrolled commercial development. These boundaries must be respected and protected at all cost.

I would strongly oppose any amendments to request changing the Farmland Preservation area to allow future commercial development. The vast majority of Marion County residents don't want more concrete, hotels, malls and gas stations. They want to drive through or live in these areas of pristine beauty and serenity that are unique and priceless.

I am originally from Ireland, and I have travelled the world in the horse business. I made Ocala my home 30 years ago and I would not change a thing!

Respectfully,

Niall Brennan
President, Niall Brennan Stables

Niall Brennan Stables, 9119 NW HWY 225a, Ocala, FL 34482