



Position Statement
Brook Ledge Horse Transportation
Special Use Permit

Horse Farms Forever strongly supports the request from Brook Ledge Horse Transportation for renewal of a Special Use Permit without an expiration date.

Brook Ledge is a significant contributor to the Marion County equine community. Placing an expiration date on their special use permit would be a disincentive to a company like Brook Ledge to invest in their facility to better serve the equine community. In this case, Brook Ledge has already spent in excess of \$350 thousand on improvements per its original special use permit. Brook Ledge anticipates spending another \$1 million on improvements and requirements under this renewed permit.

The County should join us in supporting companies like Brook Ledge that help add to the character and culture that horses, horse farms and the equestrian community bring to Marion County. We also thank Brook Ledge for continuing as Founding Members of Horse Farms Forever.

Horses, horse farms and the horse industry create the character and culture that define Ocala/Marion County. The vision and mission of Horse Farms Forever is to ensure this 'sense of place' is protected for future generations, especially the Farmland Preservation Area located in northwest Marion County.

The mission of Horse Farms Forever is to inspire conservation of horse farms through education, awareness and idea exchange so as to preserve the character and culture that horses and the Farmland Preservation Area make unique to Marion County. We are watchful of government and others to preserve horse farms and farmland for future generations, especially in the Farmland Preservation Area. We are neither anti-growth nor anti-development, rather encouraging urban growth to remain inside the Urban Growth Boundary.

Horse Farms Forever is registered with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services as a charitable organization and approved as a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) corporation by the Internal Revenue Service. Horse Farms Forever does not have a political mission. Our status as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization does not allow us to participate or intervene in political activities. The organization will neither advocate on behalf of political candidates nor advocate for the passage of legislation.