

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FDOT Secretary Jared Perdue, Keynote Speaker at Horse Farms Forever's Conservation Summit

Ocala, FL - September 23, 2022 - Horse Farms Forever, Inc.® is pleased to announce that Jared Perdue, PE, Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), will be the Keynote Speaker at the Third Annual Conservation Summit to be held on Monday, November 14 at the Ocala Breeders' Sales Company.

Secretary Perdue will present an update on the improvements to I-75, including the new I-75 interchange at Northwest 49th Street, as well as the proposed Northern Turnpike Extension project. FDOT is currently working with Marion County on approximately 42 road improvement projects.

Marion County Administrator Tracy Straub, PE, will present a summary of the top road improvement projects including the area known as the Ocala Triangle, which includes State Road 200 and Southwest 60th and Southwest 80th Avenues, and also address the area around CR 318 in Irvine.

The transportation systems in Marion County are being expanded to accommodate for the population growth, which is predicted to increase by 150,000 new residents to reach approximately 500,000 people in the next 20 years.

The challenge is how to expand the transportation systems to provide safe and efficient roads, while at the same time, protecting the quality of life and character of Marion County.

The purpose of the Conservation Summit is to facilitate this conversation about how to maintain a balance between growth and the conservation of what makes Marion County so special – it's open spaces and beautiful places – maintaining this balance will take a cooperative effort from both sides of the table.

We invite the community to join us for this important *Conversation about Conservation and Transportation* and how it will impact our horse farms and equine industry.

Horse Farms Forever will also present the Acorn Conservation Award to John and Leslie Malone, Owners of Bridlewood Farm.

Event Information:

Monday, November 14 at the Ocala Breeder's Sales Company

11am to 1:30pm

Free and open to the public. (No registration required.)

Seating is limited, first come, first served.

Buffet lunch is available for purchase from 10:30am to 2:00pm.

Link to Media Page:

<https://www.horsefarmsforever.com/conservation-summit-2022-media/>

Link for Event Information:

<https://www.horsefarmsforever.com/event/conservation-summit-2022/>

About Horse Farms Forever, Inc.® (HFF): The non-profit organization was founded in 2018 and the mission is to inspire the conservation of horse farms through education, awareness and idea exchange. Horses, horse farms and the horse industry create the character and culture that define Marion County.

The goal of Horse Farms Forever® is to raise awareness and education to ensure that this sense of place is protected for future generations. Without horse farms, there are no horses.

HFF is dedicated to preserving the open spaces and beautiful places that make Ocala/Marion County the Horse Capital of the World®.