

## St. Johns County Equestrian Center

### *2017 Pasture Management Modification*

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The St. Johns County Parks and Recreation Department and the UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County have teamed-up to assist the equestrian community by developing a pasture management plan for the St. Johns County Equestrian Center. All management strategies described in this plan will be provided to the St. Johns Horse Council for approval before implementation.

Due to the number of clientele that utilize this facility on a weekly basis, adjusting the current management of this facility from purely a park setting to one that incorporates both turf and pasture management would be beneficial. Equestrian clientele that park in the second half of this facility, during events, secure their horses and grazing occurs in the area surrounding their vehicle. Efforts that manage pastures to suppress, or potentially eliminate, weed populations while providing a better nutritional environment for their horses would be desirable.

After a site-visit, it was determined that the front half of the facility could continue under normal management as a park while the second half should be re-designated as a pasture.

Changes to the “pasture” section would include:

- 1) Annual soil testing, liming and fertilizing as needed.
- 2) Weed identification and herbicide application applied per label requirements.
- 3) Stubble height adjustment to a minimum of 4 inches.
- 4) Mowing every other week to allow for additional growth.

The equestrian community in St. Johns County is thriving and usage of this facility is in constant demand. By developing this partnership and providing minimal changes, these efforts can assist in making this facility more aesthetic, sustainable and functional for this very popular facility.