

# Resource Stewardship Plan Guide

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Equestrian operations are defined as facilities that offer horse boarding or other horse related activities such as riding lessons, training or events for a fee. All equestrian operations are required to complete a Resource Stewardship Plan.

An important goal of regulating these activities is to ensure enduring land use compatibility. Examples of issues that need to be managed include manure, flies and odors, pasture vegetation, weeds, dust and water quality. The Resource Stewardship Plan guide is intended to allow a facility operator to evaluate and select the most appropriate management practices for their facility.

## **Best Management Practices (BMP's).**

A basic premise of the Resource Stewardship Plan guide is that each facility is different, and that a one-size-fits-all management plan is not practical. The guide includes a series of best management practices that are available for addressing important issues. Each facility operator can use the guide to review, understand and select those practices that are most appropriate for their particular situation. The result is intended to be a customized plan that incorporates recognized best management practices selected by each facility operator with knowledge of their particular management needs.

## **Completing a Resource Stewardship Plan:**

The completed plan will be used in the process of evaluating and approving a permit to operate under the County's Land Use Code. By increasing the quality of information submitted as part of the review process, the resource stewardship plans prepared with this guide will help applicants to:

- communicate their intent regarding management,
- provide adequate information for informed land use decisions based on clear management plans,
- facilitate neighbors' understanding of how a facility will be operated,
- limit neighbor complaints or compatibility concerns, and
- maintain the value and quality of the equestrian business.

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**Step 1 Assess your site.** It asks for general information about your facility, including a sketch of the layout. The information from the assessment is important for considering which management practices would be most appropriate for the size and intensity of your equestrian operation.

**Step 2 Consider management options.** The discussion of management options is organized into sections related to the potential impacts of equestrian facilities. Examples include manure, dust and pasture vegetation. Each section includes a brief description of why that issue is important, along with practical ways to determine if a situation is being managed properly. A list of best management practices (BMP's) is presented for each of these issues. Some management practices are considered as basic practices for all facilities, while others need be selected to fit the needs of an individual operation.

**Step 3 Organize the plan.** A worksheet is provided that identifies basic practices for all facilities, and available best management practices that can be selected as needed for each operation.