

Proposals for Alternate Agricultural Development and Sustainability

Equestrian

Each year equestrian sports increase in popularity. The Winter Equestrian Festival has become a major international venue in southeastern Palm Beach County and polo matches featuring clubs from all over the globe come to the area to compete and enjoy our accommodations. There are 3 racehorse training facilities in the Ag Reserve, approximately forty privately owned stables, and 4 large acreage equine sport facilities servicing participants. Ownership of horses in the Ag Reserve year round supports numerous providers of goods and services, and equine businesses provide jobs. Equine sport related activities bring hundreds of millions of dollars into the county yearly, and statistics indicate an increase in revenue annually. Beyond the success of equestrian sport, agriculture is prospering in the southeastern section of Palm Beach County.

Take a poll of residents, property owners, and those in surrounding communities addressing ongoing and further development in the Ag Reserve

Review by the Commissioners of Palm Beach County's own *2011 Equestrian Season Economic Impact Report*, and request a current *Impact Report* ordered and reviewed before allowing any further Development

Study by Land Use Planning and Management Development Departments from U of Florida, FAMU, or FSU, to determine the inherent value of the land in the Ag Reserve. Investigate of how homes currently under construction and approved thousands of new homes will impact the traffic infrastructure, public utilities, and how much necessary modifications will cost the county. Evaluate real estate listings that provide the number of comparable homes for sale in neighboring communities before scores of empty mc”mansions clutter the Ag Reserve

Continue the public discussion meetings for residents in and around the Ag Reserve, farmers, developers, use of land planning and management professionals, and equestrians to address all proposed zoning changes as they are presented to the planing and zoning board and before approval is granted. Contact Agriculture Realtors, analyze means to attract outside sources and find viable advertising sources available to those seeking to lease or sell their property.

Provide a natural broad easement to border Developments and farms for designated use as walking trails and equine paths like Davie and Wellington have done.

Schedule a plan that includes a Reasonable Tax Relief Policy, one like the Federal Tax Plan that allows appropriate tax write offs that will encourage smaller hobby farm communities such as Horse Shoe Acres on single and combined tracts that are not used for large tract farming

Uncover reasonable options to increase the County War Chest using discretionary sales surtaxes. Borrowing from Peter to pay Paul by relying on funds generated from Development in the Ag Reserve is not a healthy resolve to increase funding for county funded projects in process

Prepare for the future. Protect Conserve Encourage the preservation of farms, large and small in the Ag Reserve and it will continue to ensure a prominent source of economic and social value