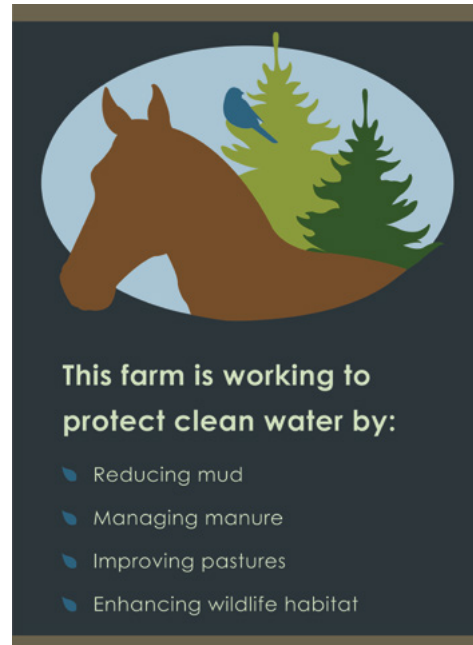


Sound Horsekeeping Program: List of Practices for Horse & Livestock Owners

The following is a list of eligible practices to receive our Sound Horsekeeping Program sign. Implement at least **three of these practices** and we'll deliver a sign to proudly display on your property! Complete all "High Priority Practices" and become a Farm of Merit.



Reducing Mud

High Priority Practices	Install gutters and downspouts. (Downspouts should direct roof runoff away from confinement areas.)
	Create a confinement area (winter paddock).
	Add footing (gravel, hogfuel, etc.) in paddocks.
	Fence off any creeks, wetlands or water bodies.
	Reroute water from roofs, driveways, parking areas and hillsides away from confinement areas. (Install French drains, grassy swales, dry wells, water diversion bars or culverts.)
	Create a mud-free exercise area (e.g., track paddock, trail course, dry-lot turnouts, outdoor arena or round pen).
	Install a rain garden.
Create vegetative buffer strips on the downslope side of confinement areas, compost bins or other heavy use areas.	



Managing Manure

High Priority Practices	Cover manure pile with a tarp or roof.
	Pick up manure in stalls and confinement areas daily or at least every 3 days.
	Build a manure composting bin(s)/storage area.
	Implement a manure disposal plan (advertise for pickup, take somewhere for disposal or have it picked up).
	Reduce bedding use by installing rubber stall mats, change to pelleted bedding or just reduce amount used.
	Use a slow feeder to reduce the amount of manure produced (this also reduces boredom in paddocks and can help horses keep a healthy weight).

Improving Pastures

High Priority Practices	Keep horses off pastures during the winter months.
	Remove horses from pastures when grass has been grazed down to three inches. Allow grass to re-grow to six to eight inches before grazing again.
	Lime pastures.
	Spread manure or compost on pastures during the growing season (April through October) no more than ½" layer at a time and 3-4" per season.
	Harrow and mow pastures.
	Take a soil test.
	Check pastures for weeds and either hand pull, use a weed burner or apply the recommended herbicide in amounts at the recommended time of the year and plant's lifecycle.

Protecting Wells & Septic Systems

High Priority Practices	Keep horses off of septic system drain field.
	Pump and inspect septic system regularly.
	Keep horses, livestock and manure storage areas at least 100 feet from a wellhead.
	Get a well test.

Enhancing Wildlife Habitat

High Priority Practices	Install bird and/or bat boxes.
	Plant a hedgerow of native plants along driveway, paddocks, pastures or other areas.
	Use mosquito dunks or gold fish in troughs for mosquito control.
	Use fly predators for fly control.
	Leave snags for wildlife.
	Create brush piles, rock piles for small wildlife.

Questions?

Contact a Farm Planner at Whidbey Island Conservation District, 888-678-4922, or visit the [Farm Planning page at www.whidbeycd.org](http://www.whidbeycd.org)

Depending on where your property is located, WICD may be able to help you cover the cost for compost bins, graveled confinement areas, gutters, downspouts, and underground outlets.