



Sound Horsekeeping Sign Program

If you're managing manure, mud, and pastures in a way that protects horse health and the environment, you're probably eligible to earn our Sound Horsekeeping sign!* You do not need to be doing everything on this list to qualify, but the "High Priority Practices" are required.

*As noted below, BMPs = Best Management Practices
To apply for the sign, call for a site visit today!*



Reducing Mud

High Priority Practices	<input type="checkbox"/> Install gutters and downspouts. (Downspouts should direct roof runoff away from confinement areas.)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Create a confinement area (winter paddock).
	<input type="checkbox"/> Add footing (gravel, etc.) in paddocks.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Fence off any creeks, wetlands or water bodies.
Optional/ Additional BMPs	<input type="checkbox"/> 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.)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Create a mud-free exercise area (e.g., track paddock, trail course, dry-lot turnouts, outdoor arena or round pen).
	<input type="checkbox"/> Install a rain garden.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Create vegetative buffer strips on the downslope side of confinement areas, compost bins or other heavy use areas.

*Please note: You must live within Snohomish County or on Camano Island to qualify. You must also be compliant with local regulations.

Better Ground is brought to you by the Snohomish Conservation District.
528 91st Ave NE Lake Stevens, WA 98258 | 425-335-5634 | www.betterground.org



Managing Manure

High Priority Practices	<input type="checkbox"/> Cover manure pile with a tarp or roof.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Pick up manure in stalls and confinement areas daily or at least every 3 days on dry days, everyday on wet days.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Implement a manure disposal plan (advertise for pickup, take somewhere for disposal or have it picked up), or create a spreading calendar.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Build a manure composting bin(s)/storage area.
Optional/ Additional BMPs	<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce bedding to minimum required.

Improving Pastures

High Priority Practices	<input type="checkbox"/> Keep horses off pastures during the winter months.
	<input type="checkbox"/> 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.
Optional/ Additional BMPs	<input type="checkbox"/> Lime pastures.
	<input type="checkbox"/> 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.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Harrow and mow pastures.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Test your soil.
	<input type="checkbox"/> 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Keep horses off of septic system drain field.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Pump and inspect septic system regularly.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Keep horses, livestock and manure storage areas at least 100 feet from a wellhead.
Optional/ Additional BMPs	<input type="checkbox"/> Test your well water.

Enhancing Wildlife Habitat

Optional/ Additional BMPs	<input type="checkbox"/> Install bird and/or bat boxes to help control flies and mosquitoes.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Plant a hedgerow of native plants along driveway, paddocks, pastures or other areas.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Use other eco-friendly pest control methods such as mosquito dunks or goldfish in troughs for mosquito control, and fly predators for fly control.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Leave snags, dead or dying trees left in place to provide habitat for wildlife.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Create brush piles and rock piles for small wildlife.

Questions?

Snohomish Conservation District farm planners can be reached at 425-335-5634 option 5 or email soundhorse@snohomishcd.org.

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