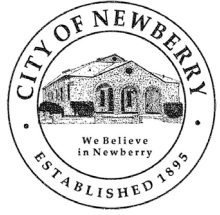


Fairgrounds/Extension History & Uses

- 1974 The historic Fairgrounds & Extension Office land was donated to Alachua County by the Henry Beck Family for use as an Agricultural Fairgrounds and Extension Office
- There have been about five Alachua County Fairgrounds Committees (2001-2020)
- Several new Fairgrounds sites were considered including:
 - Leveda Brown Environmental Park
 - Gainesville Raceway
 - UF Properties
 - Kabot Coppers Site
- 2013
 - Old Pole Barn fell down so the County purchased tents to hold the Youth Fair
- 2014
 - The County built a new barn for livestock activities
- 2016
 - The Alachua County Youth Fair & Livestock Show built their pole barn (with \$80,000+ in private donations)
- 2019
 - Alachua County purchased the Canterbury Equestrian Showplace for our Ag & Equestrian Center
 - The City of Newberry purchased five adjacent acres and leased the property to Alachua County for the UF/IFAS Extension Office



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Agriculture & Equestrian Center Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

March 6, 2021 at 5:45 p.m.



Agriculture & Equestrian Center

The Alachua County Board of County Commissioners purchased the Agriculture & Equestrian Center (f/k/a Canterbury Equestrian Showplace) in August 2019 for \$3.9 million. They invested an additional \$8.4 million for on-site capital improvements. Both the acquisition and renovations were fully funded by the Tourist Development Tax.

The existing arena at the Agricultural Center is a 150' x 250' open-air facility with seating for 2000+. In addition to accommodating the Youth Fair and equestrian events, the arena can host consumer/trade shows, rodeos, festivals, banquets, agricultural events, barrel racing, roping, livestock auctions, pet shows, tractor pulls, and concerts.

This project has garnered an enormous amount of support from citizens and local organizations including the City of Newberry, equestrian groups, the Youth Fair Board, hoteliers, the Rural Concerns Advisory Board, the Economic Development Advisory Council, the Recreation and Open Space Advisory Council, the Alachua County Farm Bureau, the Florida Farm Bureau, the Alachua County Cattlemen's Association, the Tourist Development Council, the Gainesville Sports Commission, the Hospitality Council, and local event planners and organizers.

Speakers

Ken Cornell
Alachua County Commissioner

Jordan Marlowe
City of Newberry Mayor

Gina Peebles
Assistant County Manager -Chief of Staff

Dr. Cynthia B. Sanders
UF/IFAS Extension Alachua County Director

Light refreshments will be provided immediately following the ribbon cutting ceremony, courtesy of Ajax, CHW, Kail Partners, KPI Engineering and Visit Gainesville, Alachua County, FL.

