

General Location & Transportation

Our farm, The Equi-Center is out in the country, between the cities of Ocala and Gainesville. You can stay in either Ocala or Gainesville; the driving time from either city to our farm takes about 30 minutes.

By Car

Ocala is served by Interstate 75, which runs from Atlanta, Georgia to Tampa and Miami, Florida. Driving within the state: **Orlando** is 1 1/2 hours South, **Tampa** is 1 1/2 hours Southwest, **Gainesville** is 45 minutes North, **Jacksonville** is 2 hours Northeast, **Miami** is 5 hours South.

Airplane

Here is a list of international airports, served by the major carriers, which are within driving distance of our site. You will get the best rates using these airports:

Orlando International	1½ hours South of Ocala
Tampa International	1½ hours Southwest of Ocala
Jacksonville International	2½ hours Northeast of Ocala

The closest regional airport is in Gainesville, FL, which is approximately a 45-minute drive north of Ocala. The airport is small and convenient, but all flights into and out of Gainesville, must come through Atlanta GA. It is served by commuter airlines. This trip can be expensive and time consuming.

Rental cars are available at all airports.

If you want to attend class, but want to avoid renting a car, there are ways that we can help you with local transportation. Please give us a call or email to discuss these options.

Weather & Clothing

We have a casual, comfortable learning environment. Our lectures are held in an air conditioned/heated classroom. The hands on work with horses will be held outdoors at various farms.

Clothing to bring for working with the horses would include long pants and protective footwear (leather boots are preferable). Shorts are OK in the summer time as summer weather in North Central Florida is hot and humid. We experience temperatures in the 90's.

Fall, Winter and Spring weather in North Central Florida is usually mild. However, mornings can be cool (40's). Warming up to the 60's or 70's by late morning. During the winter and spring, the wind can be chilly if you are working outside. If you attend our program during the fall, winter or spring, bring some warm clothes for mornings, late afternoons and evenings. Don't forget your raincoat!

PLACES TO STAY

Option 1: Stay in a Hotel

Students have a variety of options to consider when planning their stay. There are many hotels with different features and price ranges. The easiest thing to do is an internet search for places to stay in either Ocala, FL or Gainesville, FL. Shop around and look for hotels that offer weekly rates.

If you are going to stay in Ocala, FL, College Road (also called SR200) is exit 350 off of I-75. This exit has the largest selection of restaurants and shopping.

If you are going to stay in Gainesville, FL, Archer Road is exit 384 off of I-75 has the largest selection of restaurants and shopping.

Option 2: Stay in a safe, comfortable home situation

We highly recommend "J's Place". Janette Engleman is a local horsewoman, ESM graduate and a friend of Don & Lisa. She rents out rooms in her home to ESM students. Her home is not far from our farm. Cell phone 352.208.2020. email: saddlebumje@gmail.com

Option 3: Stay in a Campground or Cabin

Ocala North RV Park Campground
(352) 591-1723 ♦ 16905 NW Hwy 225, Reddick ♦ I-75 Exit 368
RV Hookups
This place is within 5 minutes of our farm

Grand Lake RV Resort
(352) 591-3474 ♦ 4555 W Highway 318, Orange Lake ♦ I-75 Exit 368
RV Hookups ♦ One bedroom cabins
This place is about 20 minutes from our farm.