

## Double D Equestrian in Louisburg, NC

I have found a few good places to trail drive around the Triangle – Double D in Louisburg, Howell Woods in Johnston County and Moss Foundation in Pinehurst. Double D is close to North Raleigh and relatively inexpensive (\$10 per horse). The parking is good, there are bathrooms and water available. There are 14 miles of trails that wander through fields and forest. One of the trails takes you by the Tar River and another by some farm ponds. The footing is good (although there are a few post holes on the trails), and varies from mown grass, to light farm roads, to hard-pack forest floor. Double D does a very nice job of maintaining the trails, and there is a reasonable map showing the trails available in the office. We visited Double D 10-12 times last year, and rarely saw more than a few other horses out on the trails. They do ask that the carts and hitching be done away from the arena if lessons



Jim and Mollie on a pasture trail at Double D.



The Bell kids and Mollie on a farm road at Double D.

are going on. The trails are laid out in loops, so you are not stuck with an out and back, and you have quite a few options if you want to cut it short. I have a four wheel endurance cart (rubber off road tires) that my small draft pulls, and there is only one hill that Mollie has to work hard on. About ½ the trails would be navigable on a smaller road cart if you were to stay on the farm roads and the hard-pack forest trails, the others have creek crossing and potentially some mud. The trails do have horse flies in the summer, and the mosquitoes can be bad if it is moist out, so keep that in mind. Louisburg is only a short (trailer) drive away if you want to catch lunch or dinner on your way home. Check out <http://www.doubleddequestrian.com/> for more information. Overall, I would recommend Double D for easy trail drives.

*Submitted by: Jim Bell, NCHC Eastern Trails Committee Chair*