



Newby, seen here with trusted steed Texas Tea and student Kathy Kinnecom, retired from the Key West Police Department in 2009. However, he continues to work for the department part-time.

neighbors and others from across central Florida, as well as sworn and volunteer law officers from several area jurisdictions.

In addition to keeping riders and horses safer, Newby believes he's helping keep mounted units viable. Budget constraints have cut public funding for many horse patrols, often leaving only private funds to keep them operating. Newby says that by working on his own, doing much of the work on his land himself, he's able to charge departments a lower cost than many larger, university-affiliated schools.

Newby says, however, he's doing what he enjoys with creatures he truly cares for. "I respect the fact that [horses] can be dangerous to people and property if not handled and trained properly, and without appropriate precautions taken," he says. There are also those external dangers for which he helps prepare horse and rider.

Yet, he continues, "working with horses over the years, I have acquired a tremendous respect for them: their abilities, the psychology of horses, the way they learn, their behaviors, their vulnerabilities, and the pleasure they can bring to humans in so many ways."

When asked if he has a passion for what he's doing, Newby simply replies: "Without a doubt." **FL**

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For video demonstrations of Newby's safety and self-defense teaching techniques and more on how he uses his tractor on his farm, visit go.myFarmLife.com/saddleup.



The Right Equipment

"I ACTUALLY COULDN'T OPERATE THE PLACE WITHOUT IT,"

Mark Newby says of his Massey Ferguson GC2410.

"It's small enough to get into the stalls and maneuver around a lot of the obstacles that I have out in the obstacle training area," says the owner of Suncoast Equine, a horse-training facility. "Just by looking at its size, you might think it was not very powerful, but it certainly has enough power to do everything that I need, and it's four-wheel drive. It's just perfect for me."

In addition to cleaning the stables and mowing in tight spaces, "everything" includes mowing larger pastures, using his rotary mower to clear riding trails in fast-growing wooded areas, digging post holes for a sizable fence, and raking and leveling his riding arena. He's also used his Massey Ferguson backhoe and front loader for such tasks as digging a hole and moving the dirt for a septic tank and a trench for electrical conduit.

Newby, a retired policeman, had not operated a tractor before the MFGC2410. "The only type of machinery I'd ever used was a riding lawnmower, but my tractor is just very easy to use. To engage the pto, there are two levers," he says. "It has a hydrostatic transmission. It couldn't be any simpler."

There are no gears, as with some of the other tractors he considered. Instead, it just has two pedals. "That's probably one of the greatest advantages."

The MFGC2410, says Newby, has also been trouble-free, requiring just routine maintenance. For that he uses John Mason Tractor in Brooksville, Fla.