

History & Nature

In the mid-1800s, the Dudley family, progressive farmers of their time, moved from Charleston, South Carolina to North Central Florida. Three generations of the family owned and worked the then 640-acre piece of land. By the 1880s, Dudley had become a significant crossroads community and attained prominence in Alachua County.

For over 150 years, the Dudley family successfully maintained livestock, crops and large vegetable gardens. Eighteen original buildings constructed between the 1880s and 1945 include the 1880s family farmhouse and separate kitchen; the old general store, a dairy shed and canning house, smokehouse, syrup house and mill, hay barn, tobacco barn, stables and the original drinking well and rainwater cistern. Also dating back to the 1800s are hand-stitched quilts, a large quilting frame, an 1835 Bible carried by P.B.H. Dudley through the Civil War, photographs and farm implements.

The Dudley landscape is typical of early Florida farms, with gardens, grape arbors, pecan and fruit trees, fields, pinewoods and croplands of field corn, peanuts, field peas, sweet potatoes and sugar cane. It is a native habitat for deer, wild turkeys, gopher tortoises, bats and bluebirds.

In the mid-1800s, Dudley Farm consisted of rolling land covered with longleaf pines and wiregrass. The longleaf pines provided material for all the Dudley buildings, fence posts and split rail fences.

Sinkholes and dry ponds bordered by hardwood trees provide interesting geological features. The rich organic soil with a clay and limestone substructure, coupled with the Florida climate, create an area suitable for agriculture.

Florida State Parks

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation and Parks

Dudley Farm Historic State Park

18730 W. Newberry Road
Newberry, FL 32669
(352) 472-1142

FloridaStateParks.org

Park Guidelines

- Hours are 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. The farmstead closes at 4 p.m. The park is closed Mondays and Tuesdays.
- An entrance fee is required.
- All plants, animals and park property are protected. Collection, destruction or disturbance is prohibited.
- Many of the buildings and fences are 100 years old. Please **do not** climb on them.
- Pets are not permitted in the historic farm area of this park. Guide dogs for those with disabilities are welcome in all areas of the park.
- Alcohol and smoking are prohibited.
- Become a volunteer. Ask any park ranger for details.
- Florida's state parks are committed to providing equal access to all facilities and programs. Should you need assistance to enable your participation, please contact the park rangers. Dudley Farm provides an accessibility tram, an elevator into the farmhouse, and a beach wheelchair for improved access.

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Created on 2/08



Dudley Farm
Northeast Historic State Park
Florida

An authentic 19th-century working farm



Photo:
John Moran



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National Gold Medal Winner

Florida State Parks - "America's First Two-Time Winner"

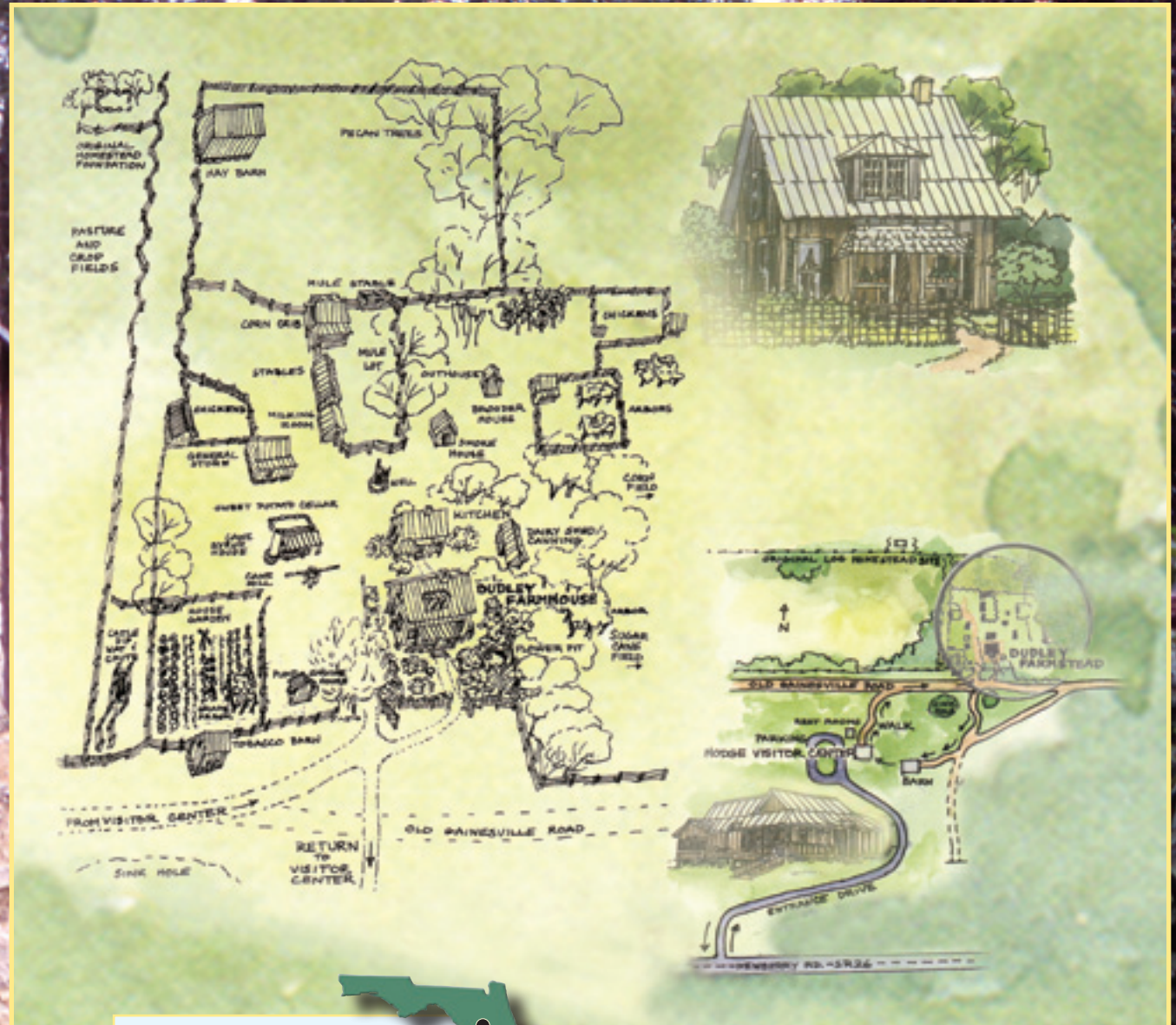
Real Fun in ...the Real FloridaSM

This 325-acre historic state park offers an opportunity to see how Florida family farms evolved from the 1850s until the mid-1940s. Dudley Farm is an authentic working farm. Its buildings have been restored or are currently being restored to their original condition.

Visitors can experience **farm life** as it was a century ago—harvesting and grinding sugar cane and boiling the juice into syrup, feeding chickens and tending the vegetable gardens and much more. Park staff in authentic farm clothing perform the daily chores and activities. A volunteer **traditional crafts group** meets to create quilts, rugs, baskets and more. Farm livestock include mules, cracker cows and horses, and heirloom breeds of chickens and turkeys.

Walk on the **Pause and Ponder Nature Trail** or enjoy sitting in the rocking chairs on the spacious visitor center porches. View a 12-minute program about Dudley Farm at the visitor center, a 1918 cracker house. A rotating exhibit displays original Dudley items that chronicle the family's history. **Seasonal activities** are posted in the visitor center. Self-guided **tours** are available 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday. A self-guided brochure is available at the visitor center.

Picnic tables and grills are available near the Dudley Farm Visitor Center.



Directions

Seven miles west of I-75 (at Gainesville) on State Road 26, 4 miles east of Newberry.

