

Wildcat Canter



**Matt Koch named
2016 Friend of UK
Ag Equine Programs**

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ESMA Program Reception help Sept. 6

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Other features:

Alumni Profile- Ann McCullough Wilkins

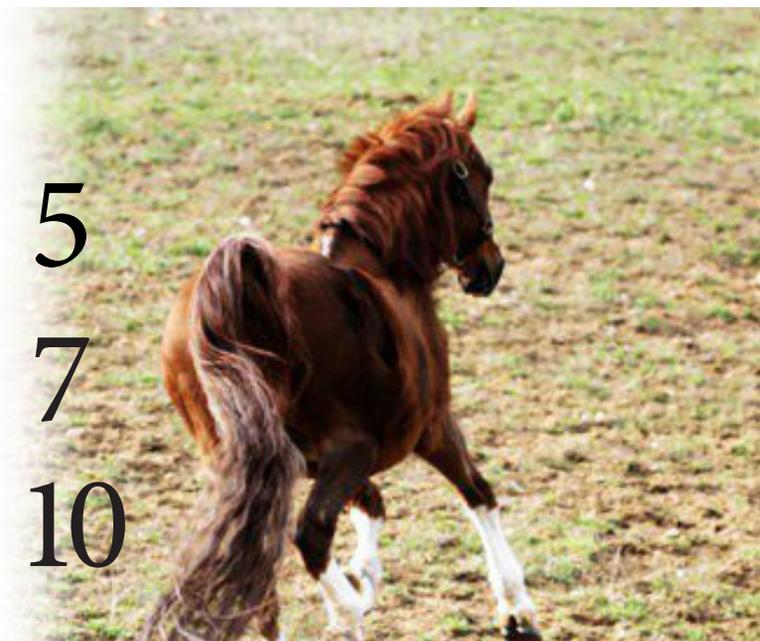
Program Spotlight-Richard Coffey

ESMA Program Hosts Annual Welcome Back BBQ

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Welcome



Networking and Experience: Two words that can strike fear and frustration in any recent grad. While in college it may seem like there are more fun ways to spend your time than doing an extra internship or holding a job.

But as more students graduate with an Equine Science and Management degree, it becomes essential to make yourself stand out. Internships and jobs during college are a perfect opportunity to learn as much about what you like to do as what you dislike. Every job has its own ups and downs and it's extremely important to know all sides of the career path you are hoping to take. Also use this opportunity to discover what type of personalities you work well with. Do you work better with a manager who can help set your schedule and tasks or do you fit better somewhere you can dictate your own action plan?

In addition to personal self-discovery benefits, employers love to see a large amount of internships and jobs listed on a resume when looking at a recent graduate. This shows that the candidate has a proven track record of multitasking while in school, achieving a good “work/life balance.” We are starting to hear more and more about the importance of this in the work place. Our generation is so open on social media with things that go on in our home life, that it is important that we are also able to prove that we can balance our home life with strong performances in the work place. Some employers can be wary of hiring new grads, especially those that have a hobby that can be as time-consuming as owning and competing a horse. This is where a proven track record of juggling multiple activities such as classes, jobs and riding can come in handy. It shows that you are able to prioritize your responsibilities and handle several things going on at once.

Networking is also very important while in college. You never know who you will meet that can change your life. This is where making an effort to attend any events that the UK Ag Equine Programs is holding is important. These life-changers can take many forms, a fellow student, alumni, local business owner or corporate leader visiting for the event. I landed my dream job before graduation by attending the UK Equine Career Fair. I had experience in many aspects of the equine industry, allowing me to have a clear picture of the direction I wanted to go in. I made an energetic, lasting first impression that resulted in an offer within weeks, working for a great company in my dream career field.

One of these networking opportunities is coming up in the form of the UK Ag Equine Program's Annual Fall Tailgate at Keeneland. It is planned for Oct. 9 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on the Hill. A small, very dedicated group of alumni have been working away to plan a great event. Please stop by for fun, food and drinks. Try your hand at the equicizers or the infamous bouncy horses and get tips from betologists. I hope to see you all there. And, don't forget to always be on the lookout for those hidden life changers!

Courtney Calnan, '12



Upcoming Events/Deadlines:

October 5-8
UK Ag Roundup

October 17
Midterm

October 22
CKRH Halloween Trail Ride & Used Tack Sale
Kentucky Horse Park

October 28-30
Thoroughbred Makeover
Kentucky Horse Park

November 8
2016 Presidential Election-No Classes

**MASTHEAD**

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Equine Science and Management Alumni Profile

Ann McCullough Wilkins, '15
Sales Representative at Neogen Co.

By Maddie Regis



Ann with a 2014 September Yearling Sale Filly
Photo credit Ann McCullough Wilkins

Where is home for you?

I was born and raised in Bowling Green, Kentucky, prior to moving to Lexington to attend the best College of Agriculture, Food and Environment in the country!

How did you first become involved in the horse industry?

Initially, my passion for horses began with riding lessons for my birthday as a child and it never went away. On a more serious note, it began when I got on board with Taylor Made Sales through an internship for the September Yearling Sales in 2012.

What were your career goals before graduation?

My career goals prior to graduation were to find a career path where I was utilizing my college degree in something that I have a strong passion for. I had several ideas for myself of things I wanted to do, which included something in the animal health sales field. Where I could blend my passion for animals with my people skills to be successful in a career.

What advice do you have for current equine students?

If there is any advice that I could provide to current students, it is to be as involved as possible and take advantage of any internship opportunities you can. Throughout my four years, I had internships and part-time jobs that included Thoroughbred sales, yearling prep, equine nutrition/feed sales, Breeders' Cup ticketing/customer service and a draft horse and mule carriage company in South Carolina. The possibilities are endless thanks to the great partnerships that our equine program has! Having a variety of internships allowed me to figure out what I did (and did not) enjoy and made entering the real world a little less intimidating when it came to finding a career path of preference. Join multiple clubs, do challenging internships, set goals for yourself...and GO CATS!

Where are you currently employed?

I am currently an inside sales representative for Neogen Corporation in Lexington, Kentucky.

What are your current job responsibilities?

My responsibilities include making sales for over-the-counter animal health products for multiple species, including dairy cattle and equine.

What led you to this position?

Prior to graduating from the equine program, I made it a point to visit animal health companies at career fairs to begin making contacts and to ask questions about what the jobs entailed. Post-graduation I saw a customer service job posting at Neogen for the animal safety division; this is the position that I started in February 2016. A few months later, I was promoted as a sales representative. Throughout college I took advantage of the great staff and sought advice where I could. I was once told that I would be good in sales so I went with it. After several internships I was also able to determine that I loved animals, specifically horses, and I wanted to work with them. However, I did not want to work in a barn forever. Therefore, I decided animal health sales would be the perfect path to take-I am able to contribute to the health and wellbeing of animals from a professional standpoint.

How are you currently involved in the horse industry?

Since my internship at Taylor Made, I have worked numerous Thoroughbred sales for multiple consignors and continue to do so on weekends, when I can. Today, I still ride and show horses as a hobby.



Ag Equine Programs
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

ESMA Program Reception held Sept. 6

By Holly Wiemers

UK Ag Equine Programs hosted its annual Equine Science and Management Program Reception Sept. 6 at Spindletop Hall in Lexington.

The annual event was established to provide an opportunity for students, equine industry members and program faculty, staff and administration to celebrate outstanding internship sites, industry guest lecturers, interns and program alumni. The event showcases previous interns and alumni, many who talk about how their internships impacted their careers. Outstanding internship hosts and interns are also recognized.

“This is always one of my favorite events,” said Elizabeth James, lecturer and internship coordinator within the Equine Science and Management undergraduate degree program. “It is so rewarding to get to celebrate standout students, interns, alumni and industry leaders who make our program so special. This year was particularly special for me, seeing all of the alumni who are starting to move up in their careers and even take interns of their own still come back and support the program. We’ve come a long way!”

The Intern of the Year was awarded to Jamie Norris, who was nominated by Martin Nielsen, faculty member and parasitology researcher at the Gluck Equine Research Center.

In his nomination letter, Nielsen wrote, “Part of my assessment is based on Jamie’s ability to handle the scientific process of organizing a project, formulating hypotheses and generating the data needed to test these hypotheses. But it is very important for me to emphasize that Jamie’s personal skills are the reason I write this nomination. Jamie is extremely hard-working and he is always willing to help his fellow lab mates. You can always count on him and he never lets you down.”

Allison Rogers, marketing coordinator at Hagyard Equine Medical Institute, won the Internship Host of the Year award. She was nominated by Tiffany Molina, who served as sport horse marketing intern under Rogers.

“Aside from learning more about marketing in the equine industry, and specifically the sport horse area, I have also been able to see some amazing things in the equine medicine field all because Allison invests time in me and wants me to get the most out of my internship,” Molina wrote in her nomination.

The evening came to a close with the recognition of Matt Koch of Shawhan Place as 2016 Friend of UK Ag Equine Programs. Read more about this award on page 9 of this issue.



Intern of the year Jamie Norries with Kristine Urschel and dean Nancy Cox



Alumna Courtney Schneider spoke during the reception



Matt Koch, with mentor and faculty member, Lori Garkovich and Nancy Cox



Alumni enjoying catching up during the reception



David Switzer, Stuart Brown and Gary Bush enjoyed the reception

Program Spotlight-Richard Coffey

By Alexandra Harper

Richard Coffey, faculty member and chair of the Department of Animal and Food Sciences, grew up in Jones, a small rural town in central Oklahoma. The one-stop-sign town boasted a graduating class of only 54 students.

Coffey attended Oklahoma State University for his Bachelor of Science in animal science (production option) and his Master of Science in swine nutrition. He then attended the University of Kentucky for his doctorate in swine nutrition with a minor in biochemistry.

As chair of the Department of Animal and Food Sciences, Coffey is responsible for providing leadership for instructional efforts related to the department's undergraduate animal science major, which is made up of approximately 370 students; food science major, with 45 students; as well as the department's animal science graduate degree program and its approximately 55 students. Due to the close interaction of Animal and Food Science faculty and staff with the Equine Science and Management (ESMA) undergraduate degree program, which has approximately 325 students, Coffey also interacts heavily with UK Ag Equine Programs and College of Agriculture, Food and Environment leadership on ESMA academic matters.



Coffey also has oversight and leadership responsibilities for Animal and Food Sciences' research activities and extension and outreach programs. He also serves as an advocate for the department with the college and university administration, and provides oversight and management of the department's budget, resources and faculty and staff. In addition, Coffey is responsible for supervision and evaluation of faculty and staff, mentoring and development of faculty, management of department resources, including all animal and support units (two separate beef units, dairy unit, equine unit, meats laboratory, poultry unit, sheep unit and a swine unit) and serving as a channel for interaction with external constituencies and stakeholders.

When asked what his favorite part about his job is, Coffey said, "Being able to move rocks out of the paths of faculty, staff and students so they can spend more time focusing on their research, outreach or educational pursuits and be more successful."

"My department - and the college - is blessed with many talented faculty and staff that are committed to doing meaningful research, impactful outreach programs and providing cutting edge knowledge to our students in a way that helps develop critical thinking skills."

When Coffey is not busy at work and on the weekends, he enjoys spending time following his three grandsons' activities and also enjoys most any outdoor activity, especially playing golf and reading.



Unique Specialty Practice Helps Future Vet Broaden Horizons

By Maddie Regis

Eva Mangan, a senior at University of Kentucky and Lexington native, summed up the caliber of UK's Equine Science and Management Program when describing why she chose the university.

"UK is so big and culturally diverse, and where to find a better equine program than the horse capital of the world? The equine program has given me many opportunities to pursue my interest in the industry through my variety of classes, research and internships," she said.

Mangan selected a distinctive place for her internship. Fraley Equine Podiatry specializes in horses with hoof issues. Mangan wants to be an equine surgeon, and decided that shadowing Bryan Fraley, a veterinarian in the practice, would provide a unique perspective on the equine veterinarian world.

"Eva is one of those students who knows exactly what they want to do," said Elizabeth James, Internship Coordinator. "Students like that usually get the most out of their internships and are rewarding to work with."

"Hooves are very important. I had an opportunity one summer to work with a farrier and I learned so much, but I also realized that there was much more that I did not know. Fraley Equine Podiatry fills a unique niche in central Kentucky and it was insightful to see [its] creative applications in real life," Mangan said.

Mangan mainly assisted Fraley with shoeing and maintaining a sterile environment during surgeries.

"Watching and assisting with the surgeries was by far the most interesting part for me. I loved learning about the procedures and being able to apply much of the knowledge I've learned in class to a real-life application," she said. "Another part that was so interesting was Dr. Fraley's creative solution to improving conformation of young horses. This is very important for many owners in the Thoroughbred industry, which constitutes a large portion of his clientele."

Mangan said she learned many things from her internship, but one thing especially stood out to her.

"I never knew just how much I did not know about horses' hooves until this internship. There is such a variety of work to be done with hooves and shoes, and being able to see common and unique problems has taught me so much," she said.

Mangan plans to attend veterinary school, and said that her internship allowed her to see the daily life of a veterinarian and learn about an interesting specialty at the same time. She appreciated that the internship helped supplement the continual learning that goes along with becoming a veterinarian.



Matt Koch named 2016 Friend of UK Ag Equine Programs

By Holly Wiemers

Some of the most valuable educational experiences occur outside the traditional campus classrooms for University of Kentucky equine science and management undergraduate students. They happen in the barns and businesses that make up the equine industry and are taught by industry stalwarts like Matt Koch, co-owner of Shawhan Place in Paris.

Koch is an alumnus of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, advisory committee member for the college's equine programs and longtime supporter of the program's educational mission. UK Ag Equine Programs named him as the 2016 Friend of UK Ag Equine Programs Sept. 6 at Spindletop Hall in Lexington, honoring him for his years of multifaceted support of UK Ag Equine Programs, even before its debut in 2005, with a special emphasis on the impact he has had in multiple students' lives and careers. Many recognize him as a catalyst for and a part of many important milestones of the program.

When former student interns describe the impact he has had in their lives, the same themes surface. Mentorship. Guidance. Generosity in sharing his time and knowledge. Koch was recognized as Intern Supervisor of the Year at the same reception in 2015, nominated by alumna Courtney Schneider, who, after two internships and years of being mentored as an undergraduate student, is now a full-time employee with Shawhan Place.

"Matt took me under his wing the summer after my freshman year. At the time, I knew I had a passion for horses and the Thoroughbred industry, but I had never had the opportunity to act on that passion," Schneider said. "Throughout my college career, Matt continued to be a great role model for me. I stayed in touch with him and worked for him on and off and throughout all of the sales. He always made a genuine, conscious effort to make sure his interns had every opportunity to learn and do things they've never done before."

In addition to his role in undergraduate mentorship, Koch was recognized by the program for his leadership and advice.

"Matt's phone call is always one you want to take. He will have an idea for something new or a way to improve something we are already doing. We are glad to have the advice and counsel of this great leader in the Thoroughbred industry," said Dean Nancy Cox. "This award is for friend, but Matt has become a key adviser to our program and has helped us find ways to prepare students for careers. He has also championed the need for a business approach to the equine industry in Kentucky and was one of the first to approach the university in support of the Kentucky Equine Survey of 2012."

Koch was nominated for the award by Jill Stowe, past director of UK Ag Equine Programs and faculty member within the college's agricultural economics department.

"What makes UK Ag Equine Programs unique is that it is as broad as it is deep, as it encompasses teaching, research and extension. What makes Matt so unique is that he has provided significant support in each one of the areas with the intent of making the program better. He works hard, is true to his word and epitomizes what it means to be the backbone of the industry," she said.

The Friend of UK Ag Equine Programs was created in 2005, when the program was called the Equine Initiative, to recognize a member of the public who had provided advocacy, funding or other extraordinary support for the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment's equine programs or a college or university employee who had generated an exceptional relationship with stakeholders that manifested into a new program, new advocacy success or new resources for the program.

Past Friends of UK Ag Equine Programs include Bennie and Cheryllee Sargent, of Sargent Quarter Horses and coach of the UK Equestrian Team, western division; Stuart Brown, a Lexington-based veterinarian specializing in equine reproduction with Hagyard Equine Medical Institute; Norm Luba, executive director of the North American Equine Ranching Information Council and current chair of the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment's Equine Advisory Committee; Dan Rosenberg of Rosenberg Thoroughbred Consulting; Northern Kentucky county extension agent trio Don Sorrell of Campbell County, Dan Allen of Kenton County and Jerry Brown of Boone County; and David Switzer, former executive director of Kentucky Thoroughbred Association/Kentucky Owners and Breeders Association.



Koch Family and Team Shawhan Place attend the ESMA Program Reception

For more information about UK's Ag Equine Programs, visit www.ca.uky.edu/equine.

ESMA Program Hosts Annual Welcome Back BBQ

By Maddie Regis

On Thursday, Sept. 8, the Equine Science and Management Program hosted its fourth Welcome Back BBQ and Equestrian Olympics. Staff, faculty and students gathered to enjoy burgers and watch the Equestrian Olympics' teams vie for the winner's trophies. There were several events, including a bit sorting game and a bouncy horse race through a trail pattern. Everyone had a great time, and students also had the opportunity to learn about the many equine clubs and teams UK offers, and even join one if interested. At the end of the evening, although the competition was tight, the "Bourbon Babes" alumni team took home the gold for the Equestrian Olympics. As usual, the barbecue was a fun event enjoyed by all who attended!



The Bourbon Babes Alumni Team



The graduate students came in second place for Equestrian Olympics



Students enjoyed themselves during the Equestrian Olympics





Bluegrass Equine Digest

Check out the September issue of the Bluegrass Equine Digest, a free, monthly electronic newsletter dedicated to providing up-to-date information on equine research from the University of Kentucky's College of Agriculture, Food and Environment in collaboration with TheHorse.com and sponsored by Zoetis. This month's stories can be found at http://www.thehorse.com/enews/bluegrass-equine-digest/PDF/BED-Sep2016.pdf?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=bluegrass-equine-digest&utm_campaign=09-25-2016.

- **UK Gluck Center Develops Novel EAV Test**
- **Kentucky Faces Challenges with Alfalfa**
- **Healthy Horse App Features More Horse Types and Uses**
- **The Grass Guide: Orchardgrass**
- **Matt Koch Named 2016 Friend of UK Ag Equine Programs**

Stay Socially Connected to UK Ag Equine Programs

The University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment has several equine-related social media pages featuring the latest news and events information.

Follow us on Twitter:

- UK Ag Equine Programs: **@UKAgEquine**
- UK Maxwell H. Gluck Equine Research Center: **@UKGluckCenter**

Prefer Facebook? Like these pages administered by us:

- **University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs:** An overarching framework for all things equine at the University of Kentucky, including the undergraduate degree program, equine-related students organizations, equine research and outreach activities.
- **University of Kentucky Equine Alumni:** A community established for the alumni of the University of Kentucky's equine programs, including ESMA, graduate students and clubs and teams' members.
- **University of Kentucky Maxwell H. Gluck Equine Research Center:** The mission of the Gluck Center is scientific discovery, education and dissemination of knowledge for the benefit of the health and well-being of horses.
- **University of Kentucky Horse Pasture Evaluation Program:** A service program offered to horse farms in Kentucky with the goal of overall improved pasture management.
- **Saddle Up SAFELY:** A rider safety awareness programs sponsored by UKHealthCare, UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment and many community organizations. It aims to make a great sport safer through education about safe riding and horse handling practices.

Lape new manager riding stable

Source: *Dayton Daily News*

Therapeutic Riding Institute Inc., (TRI) recently named Samantha “Sam” Lape as its new Volunteer and Equine Manager. Lape will oversee TRI’s 350 volunteers and manage the health and training of the organization’s therapy horses.

Lape has an extensive background in the horse industry, most recently as a barn manager, volunteer coordinator and certified instructor for Cincinnati Therapeutic Riding and Horsemanship. She is a graduate of the University of Kentucky with a bachelor’s of science degree in Equine Science and Management and participated on UK’s Hunt Seat Equestrian Team. Lape currently is working towards completing her Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Certification offered through the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship (PATH) International. With this accreditation, TRI will be able to add mental health programming to its outstanding list of services.

For more information about TRI and its services, visit www.TRIOhio.org.

USPA I/I Program Announces 2016 Intercollegiate Polo Scholarship Award Winners

Source: *USpolo.org*

Seven Intercollegiate/Interscholastic (I/I) players have been selected to receive the USPA Intercollegiate Polo Scholarship for the 2016-2017 school year. These student athletes have demonstrated success on the playing field as well as in the classroom and we are delighted to announce the seven recipients: Tommy Huber (West Shore Polo Club), Olivia Graham (University of Kentucky), Franz Felhaber (Rancho Naranjo Polo Team), Julianna Gallo (Gardnertown Polo Club), Megan Rahlfs (Houston Polo Club), Ruth Witmer (Cornell Polo Club) and Ally Vaughn (Culver Academies). Requirements for the award include active participation in the I/I program, a GPA of 3.0, two letters of recommendation and a short essay about polo. Awards are auto-renewable up to four years provided that the students meet playing and eligibility requirements. Join us as we congratulate these outstanding student-athletes and wish them good luck in their collegiate careers!

The USPA Intercollegiate Polo Scholarship was launched in 2015 and awards six \$4000 scholarships a year. By 2018, \$100,000 In scholarship funds will be awarded to I/I players.

Congrats to the following University of Kentucky students:

- Tommy Huber
- Olivia Graham

"Beyond the Barn" Tour Displays Equine Industry Career Options

By Maddie Regis

Krista Lea, coordinator of the UK Horse Pasture Evaluation Program within the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences and an equestrian herself, has hired many equine science and management students as interns over the years.

In doing so, she said, she noticed a pattern in what careers those students were considering, along with a need for more information about opportunities available in the equine industry.

"We hire undergraduate students regularly each summer," Lea said. "Many are equine students that want to become veterinarians or trainers, yet none of them have ended up there. Those are both hard ways to make a living, and many students realize that they want more from life than 18 hours a day in a barn."



Photo by Maddie Regis

Lea said she was disappointed to learn that most students were not well informed about the many other careers available within the equine industry, and wanted to help.

"I've seen so many struggle to find where they can have an impact on the industry they love so much," she said.

When Lea discussed this with Bob Coleman, director of undergraduate studies for the equine program and equine extension specialist, he agreed.

"Krista Lea had, like many of us, received numerous comments from students that indicated they did not understand the scope of possible career paths available," Coleman said.

Together, the pair decided to create an opportunity for equine students to become more educated about the broad variety of careers available to them. They drafted an idea for a careers tour, where students could be taken around the Lexington area to observe the workplaces and people that represent some of the many equine jobs that exist. To make the event happen, however, they needed to apply for a grant. They found the perfect fit in the Barnhardt Fund for Excellence Grant.

"Each year, the Barnhardt Fund for Excellence puts out an application," Lea said. "I got together with Dr. Coleman, and we brainstormed the idea, checked on a couple of prices and speakers, and wrote the grant up."

They received the grant money, and Lea began finalizing preparations for the event. She chose speakers from a broad spectrum of careers to showcase on the tour, from an event planner to a feed mill nutritionist to several graduate students.



Photo by Maddie Regis

"These speakers earned some kind of equine science or management degree and have gone into successful careers within the industry," she said. "They represented many career paths that some of our students may not have considered before."

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Students from Georgetown College and Midway University, as well as UK, took part in the tour.

The day started off at Keeneland Race Course, where attendees watched yearlings being prepared for the sales and horses breezing on the track while listening to advice from Keeneland employees Amy Owens, who works in communications, and Morgan Whitney, a recent UK graduate who now works in event planning.

The tour continued at McCauley's Feed Mill, where David Longmire, a sales professional, and Amy Parker, an equine nutritionist and UK alum, both spoke. Students took a tour of the mill, as well.

Then it was on to UK's Maine Chance Farm, where students heard from Rachel Nelson, a UK equine alum and current employee of the farm clinic. Following Nelson's talk, equine graduate students Ashley Fowler and Morgan Pyles spoke to participants. AnnMarie Kadnar, a recent UK equine alum and current graduate student in plant and soil sciences, also recounted her path to graduate school.

Finally, the tour traveled to the Kentucky Horse Park, where students heard from Erin Woodall, a U.S. Pony Club employee, and Davin Smith, who works for Neogen.

Throughout the day, students asked questions and engaged with each speaker. Everyone who toured said they were excited to learn about the different career options they could pursue.

Of what she hoped students took away from the tour, Lea said, "I hope that these students will begin to identify what is really important to them in a career and will work toward finding a situation that fits them. Some may still choose to become vets or trainers, and we need those, but we also need feed mill managers, event planners, accountants, communications professionals, sales reps, and graduate students."



Photo by Maddie Regis

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