

AUGUST 2021  
EDITION

# WILDCAT CANTER

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY AG EQUINE PROGRAMS NEWSLETTER

Approximately 150 students welcomed in a new semester, the first in-person one in more than a year, at the UK Ag Equine Programs' Welcome Back BBQ Aug. 26.

UK and the KHC, in conjunction with the KTA and other industry partners, will conduct a statewide equine survey in 2022.

UK Ag Equine Programs announces a new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Student and Alumni Committee to help provide fresh ideas and advocate for student needs.



# HIGHLIGHTS



## WELCOME BACK BBQ

PAGE 7

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## UK, KHC LAUNCH KY EQUINE SURVEY

PAGE 9

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## NEW STUDENT DEI SUBCOMMITTEE

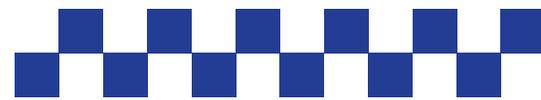
PAGE 13

UK Ag Equine Programs is excited to announce a new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Student and Alumni Committee has been formed to help provide fresh ideas and advocate for student needs. Camie Heleski, UK Ag Equine Programs' senior lecturer, will serve as the faculty liaison and Erin DesNoyers, operations coordinator and alum, will be the staff liaison.



## UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DEADLINES

- Sept. 2 - Get the Scoop, Garrigus Plaza, 4 p.m.
- Sept. 28 – UK Equine Farm & Facilities Expo, Spendthrift Farm, 3:30-8 p.m.
- Sept. 29 - Equine Career & Opportunities Fair, Gatton Student Center - register [here](#)
- Oct. 1- 3 – Equitana
- Oct. 2 – UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Round Up
- Oct. 4-10 - UK Equine Week of Service
- Oct. 11-17 – Retired Racehorse Project
- Oct. 15 - Experience Equine
- Oct. 25-26 - Fall break for students



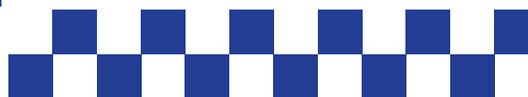
# WELCOME

Welcome back! I hope everyone is as excited as me for the start of the 2021-2022 academic year. For some of us, we have not had much in-person learning for nearly a year and a half.

Much has changed during this time, and we have had the opportunity to reflect on what is most important to us. I certainly have a much greater appreciation now for the role horses play in my life. While my day-to-day routine of teaching at UK took a 180-degree turn during the pandemic, life at the barn went on very much the same. This brought a much-needed sense of stability to a chaotic and uncertain time. Even if we couldn't participate in competitions as we normally would, many aspects of horse care, breeding and training continued mostly unchanged.

I am grateful I had the chance during the past year of online learning to spend more time with my horses. And I am also grateful now to return to my office and classroom to see all of you on campus once again.

Most of our competitions have returned to mostly normal.



I am writing this during the week of the World's Championship Horse Show at the Kentucky State Fair. During my time here in Louisville, I have visited with many past, present and future UK students. I can hardly walk from the barns to the arena without stopping to chat with at least one student, and it always makes my day! One of the most remarkable aspects of our Equine Science & Management student body is the diversity of interests they share. Some seek futures as farm managers, while others aspire to become veterinarians. A couple weeks ago I spoke to a potential student who has interest in studying law, and last night I spoke to one who wishes to become a trainer. I recommend our degree to all of them because it is flexible enough to make what you want of it. Factor in the unparalleled benefits of learning in the Horse Capital of the World, and I consider our students some of the luckiest in the country.

As we return to campus, do not take for granted all the opportunity that surrounds you. Make a point to learn about a corner of the horse industry with which you are not familiar. Introduce yourself to a classmate you have not yet met. Appreciate everything your unique college experience has to offer. Have a safe, blessed and exciting school year.



JACKIE WAHRMUND, PHD, PAS  
LECTURER





*Wahrmund and her American Saddlebred horses, previous and this page. Selfies with students at the 2021 Kentucky State Fair Championship Horse Show, this page. Photos courtesy Jackie Wahrmund.*





## MASTHEAD

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President: Emily Brown, uksaddleseatteam@gmail.com  
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# WELCOME BACK BBQ MET WITH ENTHUSIASM

Photos by Sydney Carter

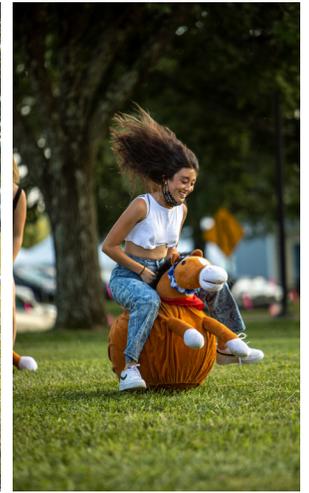


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# WELCOME BACK BBQ MET WITH ENTHUSIASM

Photos by Sydney Carter



# UK, KENTUCKY HORSE COUNCIL LAUNCH 2022 KENTUCKY EQUINE SURVEY

By Holly Wiemers

Photo by Hannah Waroway



The University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment and the Kentucky Horse Council (KHC), in conjunction with the Kentucky Thoroughbred Association and other industry partners, will conduct a statewide equine survey in 2022.

The Aug. 20 announcement by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board provided a key piece of needed funding to help make the survey's execution possible. The survey has also received support from the UK Gluck Equine Research Center and the Kentucky Farm Bureau. Additional industry support is needed for the work, which will be coordinated by Jill Stowe, a professor within UK's Department of Agricultural Economics and equine industry economist, and implemented by the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service.

It's been a decade since UK Ag Equine Programs and KHC successfully partnered on a statewide equine survey, a critically needed study that helped provide a more accurate assessment of the number of horses (242,400) in Kentucky and their economic impact (\$3 billion), two fundamental pieces of information that had been unavailable to those who needed it. Prior to the 2012 study, the last time a comprehensive look had been taken at Kentucky's equine industry was in 1977, and an industry-wide economic impact study had never been conducted.

Fast forward 10 years from the 2012 Kentucky Equine Survey, and a lot has changed in the state and within its signature industry. A follow-up study is needed to provide an accurate snapshot of the state's equine industry and to identify changes that are happening over time.

"Data obtained from this study are important for the sustained strength and continued growth of Kentucky's equine industry," Stowe said. "Decision-makers such as entrepreneurs and business owners, equine health providers and policy makers can utilize this data to make sound, well-informed decisions on important issues facing the industry."

"Sincerest thanks go out to the KHC, KADB, KTA/KTOB, Kentucky Farm Bureau and others for their support," said Nancy Cox, vice president for land-grant engagement and dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. "Without this support, there can be no accurate count of the animals that underpin a huge part of Kentucky's agricultural economy."

In addition to providing information about the number of horses in each county in Kentucky, their uses and the economic activity they generate, the study will also help provide critical data for disease surveillance, inform workforce development efforts and help identify emerging markets on which businesses can capitalize.

"As the KHC is a non-breed, non-discipline specific organization focused on the protection and development of the Kentucky equine community, the information gleaned from this survey will be invaluable," said Sarah Coleman, KHC executive director. "We're excited to learn more about the horses residing in the commonwealth and how we can better assist them and their owners."

"Accurate and current data is the essential foundation that enables informed decisions and policies," said James MacLeod, professor of veterinary science and director of UK Ag Equine Programs. "Accurate medical surveillance, agricultural policies, economic planning and governmental programs will all be empowered by this very important study."

Click [here](#) to participate in the 2022 Kentucky Equine Survey. Questions can be directed to [equine@uky.edu](mailto:equine@uky.edu). Information about the 2012 Kentucky Equine Survey can be found [here](#). The 2022 Kentucky Equine Survey is supported by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the Office of the Kentucky State Veterinarian and Rep. Matt Koch. Interested in financially supporting this effort? Email Danielle Jostes, equine philanthropy director, at [danielle.jostes@uky.edu](mailto:danielle.jostes@uky.edu) or call 859-218-1176.

## Internship Spotlight

### ELIZABETH VEJR

*Intern, The American Morgan Horse Association*

Elizabeth Vejr spent her summer internship at the American Morgan Horse Association office experiencing a variety of roles. She focused her time on working in the mailing, accounting, registry and programs departments.

"My biggest accomplishment was being able to learn about what goes on with a breed organization on a day-to-day basis. I have been a member of AMHA for 8 years and also own a Morgan horse, so it was really special to be able to intern with a place that I have been a part of for so long. I learned so much about what goes on behind the scenes that most people don't know or don't get to see. AMHA gave me a lot of learning opportunities while I was there and helped me grow both as a professional and a person," she said.

Vejr says that the agriculture business classes that she has taken as an equine science and management student have helped her prepare for this internship. She was able to take the information that she learned in those classes and apply it to her real-world experience with the American Morgan Horse Association.

"This internship taught me a lot about myself not only as a person but also as a professional. I learned that I really like an office environment and that I want to look for a career that is in that setting. I also learned that I would be open to expanding my options into other areas of the agricultural industry," she said.

The advice that she has for future students pursuing an internship: "Do not be afraid to go outside the box when it comes to internship opportunities. If you do not find something that interests you, make an internship happen for yourself. You never know what opportunities and experiences are available to you."





Take a tour of our

# Publication Stable



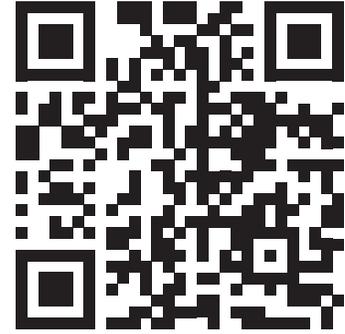
**EQUINE  
SCIENCE  
REVIEW**

Welcome to the Equine Science Review: highlighting research and outreach efforts at the University of Kentucky! The Review is a monthly newsletter from the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment that highlights the important equine work happening at the university. UK is home to world-class research and service excellence in equine health, safety, nutrition, pasture and forages, economics, engineering, environmental compliance and many others. Programs at UK offer the depth and breadth of scope fitting its location in the heart of horse country.



**THE GRADUATE**  
*gallop* 

UK Ag Equine Programs is excited to announce our newest publication, The Graduate Gallop, curated for our equine alumni to stay connected and informed. This monthly e-newsletter will include event and program information, a career connections category including job postings, networking and volunteer opportunities, a highlighted professional tips topic each month, dates and deadlines and alumni features. It will also include a section for UK's Equine Alumni Affiliate Network (EQAAN).



**Wildcat Canter**  
University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs Newsletter

Each month UK Ag Equine Programs distributes a student newsletter called the Wildcat Canter. The Wildcat Canter features equine club and organization news and updates, UK Ag Equine Programs news and features and a wide range of spotlights, from students to classes, advisors, scholarships and job and internship opportunities. Its purpose is to keep students, alums and those interested in UK's equine programs updated.

Use the QR codes above to subscribe or find out more about each publication!

# THE JOCKEY CLUB MEDALS AWARDED TO UK DEAN, FORMER NATIONAL BASEBALL PRESIDENT

Source: edited news release

Nancy Cox and Stuart S. Janney, III, Chairman of the Jockey Club, Aug. 14, at The Jockey Club Chairman's Dinner, National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame. Photo credit: The Jockey Club/Gregory Fisher.



Nancy Cox, University of Kentucky vice president for land-grant engagement and dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, and Len Coleman, former president of the National League of Professional Baseball Clubs are recipients of The Jockey Club Medal.

Through the years, the stewards of The Jockey Club have bestowed the medal upon a select group of individuals in recognition of exceptional contributions to the Thoroughbred breeding and racing industry. The medal is not given every year. The club only bestows it when they think there are people who have done an extraordinary service to the industry.

Cox and Coleman received the medals for their exceptional work in co-chairing the nominating committee of the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority.

"The Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority was a road none of us had traveled before. For our industry, this was an important moment. As the co-chairs of the committee, Nancy and Len performed an incredible service for our industry," said Stuart S. Janney III, The Jockey Club chairman. "They got through the whole process, dodging any number of sharks swimming in the water waiting to pounce, depending on the nominations. The outcome and reception has been great."

Congress established the Authority in 2020 as an independent, non-governmental regulatory body, run by an independent board, responsible for standardizing regulations and safety rules nationwide. The nominating committee led by Cox and Coleman completed their work in May with the selection of the Authority's board of directors.

"It is distinct honor to receive this award," Cox said. "The whole process of working on the nominating committee with Len and the other members was a pleasure. It was a lot of hard work. We reviewed over 160 nominations and came out with a very diverse

and effective group. That group of individuals on the board and subcommittee have a passion and will carry through with great success, I'm sure. I would also say that The Jockey Club deserves a huge thanks for the years of striving for what led to the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act."



Coleman, who is now a member of the Authority's board, said he appreciates the award.

"Horse racing has been a passion of mine since I was 18," he said. "The public perception of the integrity of the sport is crucial to the sport's well-being. HISA is a huge step forward in instilling public confidence."

The Jockey Club awarded the medals earlier this month during its 69th annual Round Table Conference on Matters Pertaining to Racing.

Through the years, the Stewards of The Jockey Club have bestowed The Jockey Club Medal upon a select group of individuals in recognition of exceptional contributions to the Thoroughbred breeding and racing industry. The medal was presented annually from 1984 through 1994 and periodically since then. The list of honorees includes the following individuals.

- 1984 Daniel G. Van Clief Jr.
- 1985 Jean Romanet
- 1986 Richard L. Duchossois
- 1987 Jack Van Berg
- 1988 Dennis Swanson
- 1989 Joe Hirsch
- 1990 Dr. Charles Randall
- 1991 Dr. Manuel A. Gilman
- 1992 R. Richards Rolapp
- 1993 Kenneth Noe Jr.
- 1994 Dr. Larry Bramlage
- 1998 Alan Marzelli & Nick Nicholson
- 2003 Hans J. Stahl
- 2007 Louis Romanet
- 2014 Tom Durkin
- 2015 Ogden Mills Phipps
- 2016 Pierre "PEB" Bellocq

# AG EQUINE PROGRAMS HAS A NEW STUDENT DEI SUBCOMMITTEE

By: Camie Heleski and Erin DesNoyers

Photos courtesy committee members

Earlier this year, UK Ag Equine Programs' faculty and staff put their heads together to ask important questions such as what is being done for our diverse Equine Science and Management students? Since then, several initiatives have been discussed, and we will be working as a program to implement these goals as we move forward. One thing is clear, we need to empower students and alumni to have a voice in how UK Ag Equine Programs can integrate diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives within the Equine Science and Management degree program.

UK Ag Equine Programs is excited to announce a new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Student and Alumni Committee has been formed to help provide fresh ideas and advocate for student needs. Camie Heleski, UK Ag Equine Programs' senior lecturer, will serve as the faculty liaison and Erin DesNoyers, operations coordinator and alum, will be the staff liaison.

These current students and recent graduates are excited to serve in this capacity as a resource for Equine Science and Management students, as well as to help in propelling ideas and initiatives forward. As the fall semester kicks off and students are reconnecting, the committee is planning a social event in October for diverse Equine Science and Management students to network and hear from a guest speaker. More details for this event will be communicated in the coming weeks so keep an eye on the UK Ag Equine Programs' events page [here](#).

If you have thoughts or ideas you would like to share with the committee or UK Ag Equine Programs on how we can be an ally and support students, email us at [equine@uky.edu](mailto:equine@uky.edu).

The committee members are as follows:



**Victor Cruz** - a '21 graduate, employed at Siena Farm



**Alex Davis** - a senior in Animal Science, with strong equine interests



**Alyssa Evans** - a '21 graduate, manages a sport horse breeding farm



**Micah Hurt** - a '20 graduate, now pursuing her master's at UK in Diplomacy & International Commerce



**Harrison Goode** - a sophomore who stays extra busy with his hobby of showing American Saddlebreds



**Szu Yuan Ke** - a '20 graduate, employed at Brookdale Farm



**Deja Robinson** - a senior in Equine Science with a minor in Animal Science



# UK AT HATS OFF DAY

Photos by Sydney Carter

Hats Off Day, an annual family friendly event celebrating Kentucky's horse industry created and held by Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital, was July 31 at the Kentucky Horse Park. UK's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory was represented by Uneeda Bryant, assistant professor and pathologist. She was joined by Haley Boggs, LMU student coordinator, from Lincoln Memorial University.



**FREE  
ICE  
CREAM**

# **GET THE Scoop**

 University of  
Kentucky  
Ag Equine Programs  
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

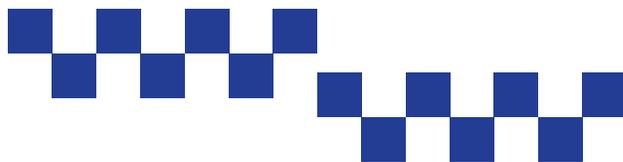
**SEPT. 2 AT 4 P.M.**

.....

**MEET WITH OUR  
EQUINE CLUBS AND  
TEAMS TO LEARN MORE  
AND GET INVOLVED!**

.....

**LOCATION CHANGE:  
GARRIGUS ALUMNI PLAZA**



## UK IN THE NEWS

Source: BloodHorse, Aug. 30

### **AVERLY JANE SHINES SPOTLIGHT ON UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY**

Undefeated in three starts as a 2-year-old, Hat Creek Racing's Averly Jane is putting the University of Kentucky's Maine Chance Farm in the spotlight. The Midshipman filly, who was bred and raised at the university's Lexington farm and nicknamed "Bacon" there, most recently won the Aug. 20 off-the-turf Skidmore Stakes at Saratoga Race Course for trainer Wesley Ward. Out of the Richter Scale mare Sh Sh Shakin', Averly Jane sold for \$35,000 at the 2020 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October Yearlings Sale and has gone on to make Maine Chance Farm and its connections proud. Laurie Lawrence, the head of the University of Kentucky's breeding program at Maine Chance Farm, spoke with BloodHorse MarketWatch about Averly Jane. Read the entire story [here](#).

# 2021 UK Equine Farm & Facilities Expo

Tuesday, Sept. 28 3:30 – 8:00 p.m.



## Schedule:

**3:30:** Registration and trade fair

**4:00:** Farm tours begin, every 15 minutes until 5:30

**5:30:** Dinner

**5:45:** Welcome and highlight from Spendthrift Farm, "Engaging non-horsemen in the racing industry"

**6:15 - 7:45:** Educational stations

- Farm layout & planning, Dr. Bob Coleman & Dr. Morgan Hayes
- Establishing new pasture, Dr. Jimmy Henning & Krista Lea
- Spray options for farms of all sizes, Dr. Bill Witt

## Location:

**Spendthrift Farm**, 247 Swigert Ave., Lexington. Please do not use the main farm or breeding shed entrances. These will be closed. All current COVID protocols will be followed.

**RSVP to [equine@uky.edu](mailto:equine@uky.edu)**



**SPENDTHRIFT**



**Cooperative  
Extension Service**



**University of  
Kentucky**

**Ag Equine Programs**  
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment



## Ag Equine Programs

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