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UK Launches Thoroughbred Worker Safety Study

The University of Kentucky is launching a new study on the health and safety practices associated with one of the Commonwealth's prominent industries: the Thoroughbred industry.

The Thoroughbred Worker Health and Safety Study is a five-year study funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as part of the University of Kentucky (UK) Southeast Center for Agricultural Health and Injury Prevention. The study is led by Jennifer Swanberg, PhD, professor of social work and executive director of the Institute for Workplace Innovation (iwin) at UK.

The goal of the Thoroughbred Worker Health and Safety Study is to make jobs safe for workers on Thoroughbred farms. Over the next four years, Swanberg and her team will strive to better understand the circumstances associated with common and uncommon illness and injuries these workers experience through the project's three phases. Phase one will consist of in-depth interviews with farm owners, managers, and/or human resource personnel. Phase two calls for community-based interviews with Thoroughbred workers. Phase three will involve the development and evaluation of worker safety resources to be distributed to owners, managers, and workers on Kentucky Thoroughbred farms.

To ensure the study addresses the concerns and interests of both the workforce and the industry, it is guided by two advisory councils: a community advisory board comprised of community service and health leaders, and an industry advisory board comprised of leaders from Kentucky's Thoroughbred industry. A full list of board members is available at iwin.uky.edu/thoroughbred.

ANNE M. EBERHARDT

The goal of the study is to make jobs safe for Thoroughbred farm workers.

Articles of Interest

Both boards have been very supportive of the project, as has the Thoroughbred industry.

One such board member is David Switzer, executive director of the Kentucky Thoroughbred Association and Kentucky Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders, who praised the project's focus on the industry's worker safety and health challenges. "Our organization represents a community of employers in the state of Kentucky with workforce challenges like any other. We are excited about research that can help offer solutions to some of these challenges while improving safety conditions for our workforce," he said.

Health and Safety Study

Similarly, board member Scott Mallory, president of the Kentucky Thoroughbred Farm Managers' Club, said, "Working with Thoroughbreds is dangerous, but the industry is mostly comprised of small farms that have limited resources. Any help we can receive in looking at the patterns and making recommendations is welcome."

Interviews with farm owners, managers, or human resource personnel began in October and will extend through the summer of 2013. The research team will be reaching out to Thoroughbred farms of all sizes to invite participation.

To learn more about the study or to participate, visit iwin.uky.edu/thoroughbred, or contact the study's project manager Jess Miller Clouser at jess.clouser@uky.edu or at 859/323-0587. UK

>Jennifer E. Swanberg, PhD, is a professor in the College of Social Work/College of Public Health, and Jess Miller Clouser is a master's candidate in the College of Public Health and a research associate at the Institute for Workplace Innovation, College of Social Work.

Saddle Up Safely Celebrates Three Years in Horse Riding Safety Partnership

Saddle Up Safely, a unique collaboration of University of Kentucky (UK) entities as well as equine industry and Lexington community partners, celebrated its third year this past October with a day at the Keeneland races and a fundraising silent auction for the program.

UK HealthCare partnered with UK colleges of Agriculture and Public Health to launch the five-year educational campaign to raise awareness about horseback riding and horse handling safety. Nearly 50 community partners have joined in to help spread the word and collectively make a great sport safer.

The statistics underscore the need. According to the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System's 2007 estimates, millions of people ride horses each year, generating approximately 79,000 emergency room visits, with more than 13% of those admitted to the hospital. While motorcycle riders experience a serious injury every 7,000 hours of riding, horseback riders experience one every 350 hours, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It is estimated that one in five equestrians will be seriously injured during their riding careers. And novice riders, especially children and young adults, are eight times more likely to suffer a serious injury than professional equestrians.

Bill Gombeski, MBA, MPH, director of strategic marketing at UK HealthCare and Saddle Up Safely lead, said the campaign set out to counter these statistics through education and awareness.

"At UK HealthCare, we see hundreds of patients with injuries caused from riding or handling horses, and about 75 each year are so severe that they are admitted to our hospital trauma service," said Gombeski. "We also know from scientific studies and our own research that about two-thirds of all injuries are preventable."

The campaign features several tools to inform and educate. In its first three years Saddle Up Safely has produced six booklets with safety information on topics including horseback riding safety, diseases that can be spread from horses to humans, horse-related injuries, pasture safety, barn safety, and a children's-oriented book about potential dangers on horse farms that was developed in conjunction with Equine Guelph at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada.

An interactive website was developed at www.saddleupsafely.org, with updated information as the campaign progresses. Additionally, an online safety quiz was launched and a horse rider safety blog, written by Fernanda Camargo, PhD, extension horse specialist in the College of Agriculture, was created.

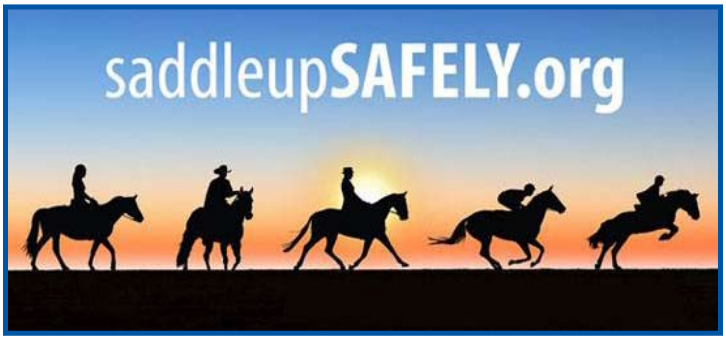
"To date there have been more than 85 blog posts written, many with the help of other experts in the equine industry," Camargo said. "The blog has been accessed over 73,000 times, which tells me that riders and people with horses want to be informed about safe horse handling practices."

In Case of Emergency cards were developed to enable riders to have pertinent personal and health information available in a pocket-sized format in case of an accident. Cards applicable to both rider and horse were created and are available to riders.

Saddle Up Safely also took part in an educational exhibit for children that opened at the Kentucky Horse Park in February. Occupying a stall in a former draft horse barn, the Saddle Up Safely exhibit educates visitors about horse safety, correct riding apparel, and proper tack. It also provides access to its stable of educational materials.

Collaboration has been a big part of the program, and in the past three years Saddle Up Safely participated as part of the UK and UK HealthCare display at the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games, formed an auxiliary of passionate volunteers who help spread the message of safety, set up a national e-advisory group, began a research study on riding injuries, and enlisted the help of equine and community partners as part of its campaign. A list of key partners involved in this effort can be found at http://ukhealthcare.uky.edu/sponsors.aspx.

During the past three years more than 100,000 safety booklets have been distributed, the website sees more than 22,000 visitors per month, and more than 350 people have posted their safety tips. UK



In three years, more than 100,000 safety booklets have been distributed.

>Holly Wiemers, MA, is communications director for UK Ag Equine Programs.

Composting as Horse Carcass Disposal Option

If you're into horse ownership for the long haul, chances are you will someday have to deal with the death of a horse. But disposing of a large animal's carcass can be challenging. Composting allows owners to dispose of their animals and at the same time naturally improve the soil conditions on their properties, said Stephen Higgins, PhD, director of Environmental Compliance for the Agricultural Experiment Station at the University of Kentucky's (UK) College of Agriculture. The Agricultural Experiment Station serves as the research arm of UK's College of Agriculture.

Composting involves locating an appropriate site on a property, then leveling that site to accommodate the burial. Once an owner had determined and prepared this site, he or she should put down a three-foot-thick bed of wood shavings as a base for the equine remains. Situate the carcass on the wood shavings base, then cover it with an additional three to four feet of wood shavings to create a pile that is approximately six to eight feet tall.

"A pile of this size should provide about two feet along the sides of the carcass," Higgins said.

Done properly, the burial will not attract vermin to the composting site because they will be unable to smell the carcass inside the pile, Higgins said.

"It has to do with beneficial bacteria scrubbing the putrid gases," he said.

MASTHEAD

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Higgins said it should take between six and eight weeks to compost a 1,000-pound horse with some large bones remaining. In addition to horse carcass disposal, composting is also an option for disposing animal manure and bedding, afterbirth, and other animal mortalities, he said.

Owners can use materials derived from composting as a low-grade fertilizer source to enhance soil's friability (ability to be reduced to smaller pieces with little effort) and water retention capabilities. Higgins recommends using the material in a variety of ways.

"The composting material can and should be reused to compost additional carcasses, but it can also be land applied as a soil amendment," he said. "Reuse it a number of times to compost additional carcasses, and then land apply the material to a row crop or fallow field."

In some states environmental regulations recognize composting as a legal way for owners to dispose of their horse's carcass. Other states might require owners to obtain a specific permit before composting a horse. Higgins recommends that owners consult local authorities before composting a horse carcass on their property.

"The state veterinarian should be able to advise owners about permitting requirements," he said. UK

COURTESY DR. STEPHEN HIGGINS

Cover carcasses with three to four feet of shavings to create a six- to eight-foot tall pile.

>Pat Raia is a professional journalist who writes for several equine publications.

International Conference on Equine Infectious Diseases a Success

More than 300 attendees from 29 countries convened in Lexington recently for the 9th International Conference on Equine Infectious Diseases (EID IX). The University of Kentucky (UK) Maxwell H. Gluck Equine Research Center, a UK Ag Equine program, hosted the event.

The five-day conference featured plenary sessions covering infectious and parasitic diseases in the areas of respiratory, gastrointestinal, neurologic, reproduction, and diseases of the working horse. Abstract presentations focused on specific disease agents, immunology, and diagnostics. Special sessions focused on emerging and re-emerging diseases, gastrointestinal parasites, and impediments to international horse movement. The conference also featured a practitioner's day to highlight some of the more significant findings.

> **"The abstracts and plenary sessions … identified gaps in our knowledge that will require additional research."**
>
> Dr. David Horohov

"It was 14 years since the last EIDC conference, and needless to say much has happened in the intervening years," said David Horohov, PhD, local organizing committee chair and Jes. E and Clementine M. Schlaikjer Endowed Chair at the Gluck Equine Research Center. "The abstracts and plenary sessions provided updated information on a variety of equine infectious and parasitic diseases and identified gaps in our knowledge that will require additional research."

During the conference Horohov was named international chair of the newly formed Equine Infectious Diseases Committee. The committee was formed to ensure the international conference series continues every four years.

"In order to ensure the continued success of this meeting, we have adopted bylaws and procedures for future EIDC conferences," Horohov said. "As the local organizing chair for this conference, I now assume the responsibilities of chair of the committee responsible for developing the program for EIDC X to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 2016. I will also work closely with the Local Organizing Committee Chair, Dr. Maria Barrandeguy, as she develops a plan for this meeting."

Three other faculty members from the Gluck Equine Research Center were named to the 15-member international committee. They include Udeni Balasuriya, BVSc, MS, PhD, associate professor of virology; Martin Nielsen, DVM, PhD, EVPC, assistant professor; and Peter Timoney, MVB, PhD, FRCVS, Frederick Van Lennep Chair in Equine Veterinary Science. Other members of the international committee include Maria Barrandeguy, DVM, PhD (Argentina); Ann Cullinane, MVB, PhD, MRCVS (Ireland); James Gilkerson, BVSc, BSc(Vet) Hons, PhD (Australia); Alan Guthrie, BVSc, MMedVet, PhD (South Africa); Ken Lam, MSc, DIC, PhD, CEng, MIEE (Hong Kong); Tomio Matsumura, DVM, PhD (Japan); Richard Newton, FRCVS (United Kingdom); Klaus Osterrieder, PhD (Germany); Nicola Pusterla, DVM, PhD, Dipl. ACVIM (United States); Andrew Waller, BSc, PhD (United Kingdom); and Ulli Wernery, DVM, PhD (United Arab Emirates).

"The international organizing committee is truly international in its composition and represents all fields of research within the area of equine infectious and parasitic diseases," Horohov said.

The series began in 1966 in Stresa, Italy. Other previous meetings included Paris, France (1969 and 1972); Lyon, France (1976); Lexington, Ky. (1987); Cambridge, United Kingdom (1991);

GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

BARRY MEADE

From: **Paintsville, Ky.**

Degrees:

Bachelor of Science in biology and chemistry at Eastern Kentucky University

Master's degree in population genetics

DVM from Louisiana State University

Barry Meade came to the Gluck Equine Research Center because of the department's outstanding reputation and expertise in equine disease research.

"My main intention for enrolling in graduate school at this stage of my career was to upgrade my technical and writing skills," he said.

Meade's research interests include mathematical and statistical modeling of equine infectious disease transmission that occurs in equine populations at racetracks, stables, and other locations where animals reside in close proximity to each other.

For his dissertation topic, Meade compared outbreaks of equine herpesvirus 1 (EHV-1) attributed to either a non-neuropathogenic or a neuropathogenic strain of virus involving horses located at Churchill Downs racetrack in Louisville, Ky., and horses stabled at Murray State University in Kentucky.

"Both cohorts were affected by natural outbreaks of disease associated with either respiratory or neurological strains of the virus," he said.

Meade said the research objective was to establish whether the outbreaks were similar with regard to their transmission dynamics, environmental influences, or host-specific characteristics. To compare transmission, he developed an advanced statistical model to predict the first appearance of illness for each group of horses. The estimates for the date of illness onset derived from the models allowed for construction of an epidemic curve and, with the use of survival analysis techniques, a comparison of the relationship between time to infection for each group.

Meade is currently the federal Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC) for North Carolina and is based in Raleigh. UK

>Shaila Sigsgaard is a contributing writer for the Bluegrass Equine Digest.

Infectious Disease Conference

Tokyo, Japan (1994); and Dubai, United Arab Emirates (1998).

"We had an amazing amount of support from the industry in order to make this conference possible," said Ed Squires, PhD, Dipl. ACT (hon.), UK Ag Equine Programs director and executive director of the UK Gluck Equine Research Foundation. "We'd like to thank our sponsors once again for supporting this important conference."

The platinum sponsor for the conference was Pfizer Animal Health. Gold sponsors were Boehringer Ingelheim, Coolmore America, Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation, IDEXX Laboratories, International Racehorse Transport, Merck Animal Health, Merial, and VMRD Inc. Silver sponsors were the American Association of Equine Practitioners, American Quarter Horse Association, Bayer HealthCare Animal Health, Butler Schein Animal Health, Darley, Hagyard Equine Medical Institute, Juddmonte Farms, Mersant International Limited, Peden Bloodstock GmbH, Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital, and Siena Farm LLC. Bronze sponsors were Castleton Lyons, Centaur, Equine Diagnostic Solutions LLC, Equine Medical Associates, Milburn Equine, Neogen Corporation, North American Equine Ranching Information Council, Platinum Performance, and Virbac Animal Health. Other supporters included Gainesway, Kentucky Thoroughbred Association/Kentucky Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders, Kentucky Thoroughbred Farm Managers' Club, and WinStar Farm LLC.

The Gluck Center's mission is scientific discovery, education, and dissemination of knowledge for the benefit of the health and well-being of horses. The Gluck Center faculty conducts equine research in six targeted areas: genetics and genomics, infectious diseases and immunology, musculoskeletal science, parasitology, pharmacology/toxicology, and reproductive health. For more information, visit www.ca.uky.edu/gluck. UK

>Jenny Evans is foundation coordinator at the Gluck Equine Research Center.

WEED OF THE MONTH

Common name: **Common Milkweed**
Scientific name: ***Asclepias syriaca*** **L.**
Life Cycle: **Perennial**
Origin: **North America**
Poisonous: **Yes**

Common milkweed, sometimes called milkweed, occurs throughout North America except in the extreme southern, southwestern, and far western states. This deep-rooted perennial broadleaf weed can reach four to five feet in height, and mature plants are woody at the base of the plant. This species is frequently found in pastures, edges of woods, and roadsides. It reproduces from seeds and buds on a deep root.

Twenty to 130 small greenish-white to greenish-purple flowers typically bloom at the common milkweed's terminal (tip of the stem). Leaves and stems contain a white, milky sap. A mature plant produces leaves that are opposite along a stout stem and might also produce several fruits, each containing many seeds. At maturity, the fruit opens and wind disperses the seeds.

Common milkweed produces cardiac-glycosides that are toxic to horses and might cause depression, irregular heartbeat, diarrhea, overall weakness, and labored breathing. Death might occur within 24 hours. Green leaves are the most toxic, but dried leaves in hay are also toxic.

Controlling common milkweed in pastures is very difficult. Property owners might be able to remove small populations effectively by hand weeding and removing the deep taproot. Mowing is generally ineffective, and treatment with herbicides might require multiple applications. Remove mowed or herbicide-treated plants from the field to avoid animals eating the dying or decaying plants. Consult your local Cooperative Extension Service personnel for a list of herbicidal controls in your area. UK

>William W. Witt, PhD, is a researcher in Plant and Soil Sciences department.

Case Clay Named Gluck Equine Research Foundation Chair

Case Clay, president and chief executive officer of Three Chimneys Farm in Lexington, Ky., was named chair of the University of Kentucky Gluck Equine Research Foundation's board of directors during its October meeting. Art Zubrod, manager of Brittany Farm, in Versailles, Ky., was named vice chair.

"Being elected chair of the Gluck Equine Research Foundation means a lot to me, as my grandfather, Albert G. Clay, was one of the founders and a board chair," Clay said. "My father, Robert Clay, also served on the board. I will take this honor very seriously, and I am excited to work with the board to take the world's only research facility with the majority of faculty doing full-time equine research to the next level."

Clay joined the board in January 2010. He serves as a member of the Breeders' Cup and also serves on the boards of directors of Kentucky Equine Education Project (KEEP), the Federal Political Action Committee of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association, and the Kentucky Derby Museum.

"I am excited to work closely with Case as the new chair of the Gluck Equine Research Foundation," said Ed Squires, MS, PhD, Hon. Dipl. ACT, director of UK Ag Equine

Case Clay

Programs and executive director of the Gluck Equine Research Foundation. "Case comes with a great knowledge of the horse industry and experience on numerous boards. This combination will provide him with the tools to be a very effective leader for the Gluck Foundation."

Added Mats Troedsson, DVM, PhD, Dipl. ACT, director of the Gluck Equine Research Center and chair of the UK Department of Veterinary Science, "Mr. Case Clay's leadership brings new enthusiasm combined with strong knowledge and experience from the horse industry to the Gluck Equine Research Foundation. I am looking forward to working with Case to navigate the Gluck Center through a new era of research that benefits the health and well-being of horses in Kentucky and around the world."

Clay takes the leadership reins from Walter Zent, DVM, a former partner at Hagyard Equine Medical Institute, who served on the Gluck Equine Research Foundation's board of directors from December 2000 to October 2012.

"Dr. Zent has served the Gluck Equine Research Foundation during a time that saw a change in leadership, expansion of research facilities at Maine Chance Equine Campus, as well as financial challenges during the global downturn of the economy," Troedsson said. "His longstanding association with the Gluck Center, combined with a true compassion for advances in equine veterinary medicine and science, made him uniquely suited to lead the Gluck Foundation during this time."

"I can truly say that Walter is one of the most passionate people about the Gluck Center that I know," Squires said. "He has been a great advocate for the faculty and research coming out of the center. Tom (Goncharoff) was the perfect vice chair. He was never afraid to question the status quo."

Zubrod replaces Goncharoff, manager of Crystal Springs Farm in New Mexico, as vice chair. Goncharoff has served on the Gluck Equine Research Foundation's board of directors since December 2006. His term expires in January 2015.

Gluck Equine Research Foundation directors are elected to a four-year term and can serve two terms. The Gluck Equine Research Foundation was formed as a nonprofit organization to provide the exchange of information between the Gluck Center and the horse industry and to secure funds. Since the foundation's inception, it has been highly supportive in raising funds for equine research, endowed faculty positions, and facilities.

The mission of the Gluck Center, a UK Ag Equine program, is scientific discovery, education and dissemination of knowledge for the benefit of the health and well-being of horses. The Gluck Center faculty conducts equine research in six targeted areas: genetics and genomics, infectious diseases and immunology, musculoskeletal science, parasitology, pharmacology/toxicology and reproductive health. For more information on the Gluck Center, visit www.ca.uky.edu/gluck. UK

>Jenny Evans is foundation coordinator at the Gluck Equine Research Center.

Fluoridated Water and Horses

The potential risk of fluoride-supplemented public water to horses is a topic that arises periodically. A casual Internet search of this topic can uncover alarming reports purporting fluoride poisoning in horses from fluoridated municipal water. These reports typically are published in non-peer-reviewed sources and are missing important information necessary to confirm the diagnosis, to rule out exposure to other fluoride sources, and to eliminate other potential causes. A careful review of the peer-reviewed literature in reputable scientific journals showed no published reports documenting fluoride poisoning in horses due to consuming fluoridated public water.

Fluoride is one of the most common elements in the environment and is found naturally in soil, rock, water, air, plants, and animal tissues. Volcanic rock and ash and water from deep wells or hot springs in some regions are naturally high in fluoride. Low concentrations of dietary fluoride can be beneficial to animals while excessive amounts can cause fluoride poisoning (fluorosis).

WEST NILE-INNOVATOR® vaccines have helped protect millions of horses from mosquito-borne diseases.[1] And FLUVAC INNOVATOR is the only vaccine with equine influenza virus strain (EIV) KY'97 that helps deliver demonstrated protection against heterologous challenge with Ohio '03,[2] plus rhinopneumonitis (EHV-1 and EHV-4). Together, our INNOVATOR vaccines help offer time-tested disease protection. In fact, the kind of protection we're willing to back up with an equine Immunization Support Guarantee (ISG). To learn more, visit PfizerEquine.com/ISG, or talk to your Pfizer Animal Health representative.

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Pfizer Animal Health

[1] Market Dynamics Inc, February 2011

[2] Data on file, Study Report No. B671-08-004.R, Pfizer Inc.

Flouridated Water

Fluorosis can occur in any species, including horses. In the past, fluorosis occurred more commonly due to ingestion of forages or waters contaminated with fluoride-containing industrial waste; high-fluorine rock-phosphate supplements in animal feeds; and fluoride-containing rodenticides, insecticides, and other chemicals. Regulations restricting the amount of fluoride in industrial pollution, requiring de-fluoridation of rock-phosphate feed ingredients, and banning many fluoride-containing pesticides have greatly decreased the occurrence of fluorosis. Fluoride poisoning still occasionally occurs in areas with high volcanic activity or secondary to ingesting fluoride-containing medications or contaminated water.

Acute, high-dose intoxications result in severe signs and rapid death. Chronic, lower dose intoxication causes predominantly tooth and bones abnormalities. While small amounts of fluoride improve tooth and bone strength, excessive amounts can cause lameness, stiffness, bone thickening, pain and difficulty eating, weight loss, poor growth rates, and poor health. Teeth are affected during the period of tooth development, which in horses is complete before four to five years of age. Fluorotic dental lesions will not develop if animals are exposed to excessive fluoride after permanent teeth have erupted.

Public water sources in Kentucky and nationwide often are supplemented with fluoride to help prevent dental disease in humans. Fluoride supplementation in public water is targeted to achieve fluoride concentrations of 0.8 to 1.3 mg/L. The maximum fluoride concentration permitted in public water sources by the national Safe Drinking Water Act is 4 mg/L. The maximum safe level of fluoride in water for horses has not been established. Published guidelines for horses are based on extrapolations from other species. In the United States, the Environmental Protection Agency recommends a maximum fluoride concentration of 2 mg/L in water intended for livestock.

In Kentucky, the majority of horses drink fluoridated public water as their major water source, and fluorosis is not seen in this horse population. Studies are needed to determine safe limits of fluoride in feed and water for horses, however evidence to date indicates that fluoride concentrations allowable in U.S. public water systems are well tolerated by horses and do not cause fluorosis. UK

Questions or comments?

To share your feedback about the Bluegrass Equine Digest, e-mail **Holly Wiemers at** equine@uky.edu.

>CONTACT: Cynthia Gaskill, DVM, PhD; 859/257-8283; cynthia.gaskill@uky.edu; Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory; University of Kentucky; Lexington, Ky.

This is an excerpt from Equine Disease Quarterly, funded by underwriters at Lloyd's, London, brokers, and their Kentucky agents.

Lloyd's of London and UK College of Agriculture Reach Partnership Landmark

The long-standing and successful partnership between Lloyd's of London and the University of Kentucky (UK) College of Agriculture passed a major milestone when financial support from the global specialty insurance market topped $1 million.

Lloyd's representatives recently presented a $45,000 check to UK in continuing support of the Lloyd's *Equine Disease Quarterly*, a research-based publication dedicated to equine health and produced by the Department of Veterinary Science.

The award-winning publication includes articles written by prominent researchers from around the world and provides timely and authoritative reports on some of the most important issues facing the equine industry. The *Quarterly* reaches more than 18,000 readers in 93 countries. Available in paper and online, its articles are reprinted regularly in scientific and lay equine publications worldwide.

"This year is a significant milestone for both Lloyd's and the University of Kentucky," said Julian Lloyd, chair of Lloyd's Livestock Committee and bloodstock underwriter at the Amlin Syndicate. "It marks the 20th anniversary of the *Equine Disease Quarterly*—the premier veterinary publication of its kind worldwide. Further, this year's $45,000 contribution brings Lloyd's financial support of equine health at the University of Kentucky over the $1 million mark. We are very proud of our enduring relationship with the university and the excellent work this collaboration provides."

Mats Troedsson, DVM, PhD, Dipl. ACT, chair of the Department of Veterinary Science and director of the Maxwell H. Gluck Equine Research Center, agreed. "The Lloyd's *Equine Disease Quarterly* has become a valuable source of information to equine veterinarians and industry leaders around the world, and the contributions from Lloyd's cannot be overemphasized," he said. "We are very thankful to the long-standing support that has made the success of the *Quarterly* possible, and we are looking forward to future years of collaborations with Lloyd's."

Equine Disease Quarterly is available to subscribers at no charge. It is co-edited by UK Department of Veterinary Science faculty Roberta Dwyer, DVM, MS, Dipl. ACVPM; Peter Timoney, MVB, PhD, FRCVS, Frederick Van Lennep Chair in Equine Veterinary Science; and Neil Williams, DVM, PhD, Dipl. ACVP, associate director of the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

The current *Equine Disease Quarterly* is located online at www.ca.uky.edu/gluck/q_oct12.asp. For more information about the Department of Veterinary Science and the Maxwell H. Gluck Equine Research Center visit www.ca.uky.edu/gluck/index.htm.

Lloyd's of London is a 325-year-old insurance market whose members underwrite risk on a direct and reinsurance basis in more than 200 countries. As a global leader in specialty insurance, Lloyd's remains committed to supporting equine research and providing the insurance coverage essential to the well-being and prosperity of bloodstock interests worldwide. UK

>Roberta Dwyer, DVM, MS, Dipl. ACVPM, is a professor in the Department of Veterinary Science at the University of Kentucky.

UK Ag Equine Store

In response to requests for merchandise featuring University of Kentucky (UK) equine logos, UK Ag Equine Programs has launched a new online store. Find UK Ag Equine or Gluck Equine Research Center logoed items from t-shirts to coats to tailgating gear all in one spot. Visit www.UKAgEquineStore.com with your PC, tablet, or smartphone, and login as a guest.

Rider Safety Program Releases Pasture Safety Booklet

UK HealthCare, in partnership with University of Kentucky colleges of Agriculture and Public Health and in conjunction with close to 50 community, equine, and medical organizations, has released a new educational booklet within the Saddle Up Safely educational partnership.

"Safety While in the Pasture" covers topics such as understanding herd behavior, gates and gate areas, horse equipment, bringing horses into the barn, turning horses loose, riding in pastures with turned-out horses, and pasture maintenance.

The booklet was written by members of the Saddle Up Safely Auxiliary, a group of dedicated volunteers passionate about rider safety issues who serve to help create and disseminate the campaign's educational messages.

"The auxiliary regularly met to discuss and debate each safety point to ensure the recommendations were grounded in good horsemanship and were realistic," said Bill Gombeski, MBA, MPH, director of strategic marketing at UK HealthCare and Saddle Up Safely lead. "I really appreciate their dedication and vision."

Saddle Up Safely was launched in 2009 in advance of the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games in Lexington in response to the number of riders admitted to UK's Emergency Department. The campaign aims to increase awareness and educate riders about riding and horse handling safety. The campaign's ultimate goal is to reduce the number and severity of rider injuries and to help make a great sport safer.

To visit the website, share tips about horse and rider safety, or to read the blog, go to http://ukhealthcare.uky.edu/Saddle-Up. For a copy of the booklet, visit http://ukhealthcare.uky.edu/uploadedFiles/about/community/saddleup/Saddle-Up-SAFELY-Safety-While-in-the-Pasture.pdf. UK

>Holly Wiemers, MA, is communications director for UK Ag Equine Programs.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 18-19

UK Ag Equine Programs will host a University of Kentucky Equine Showcase on Jan. 18 and the 4th Annual Kentucky Breeders' Short Course on Jan. 19. The location is to be determined.

The UK Equine Showcase, now in its second year, will highlight the university's latest equine research. It will run from 1-5 p.m. on Jan. 18, with a light reception following.

The 4th Annual Kentucky Breeders' Short Course is an in-depth equine reproduction and management program from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on Jan. 19, with lunch provided.

Both programs are open to veterinarians, owners, and managers of all breeds or anyone with an interest in learning more about equine reproduction and horse management.

REED KESSLER, the 18-year-old equestrian phenomenon who became the youngest competitor in the 2012 Summer Olympics equestrian field and the youngest U.S. Equestrian Team member in history to take part in the Games, spoke at the University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs' Distinguished Industry Lecture Series held Nov. 15. Approximately 100 people attended the event sponsored by Hagyard Equine Medical Institute at Seay Auditorium in the Ag North Building on UK's campus. Dan Liebman, former editor of *The Blood-Horse* magazine, interviewed Kessler, who spoke about her journey as an Olympian and her future plans in the sport.

The Distinguished Lecture Series began in the fall of 2009 and has become a signature program of UK Ag Equine Programs. It is designed to showcase important figures from the equine industry in an informal setting. Past series participants include Keeneland President Nick Nicholson in November 2009, accomplished equestrienne Nina Bonnie in April 2010, Keeneland's Ted Bassett in April 2011, and Zenyatta owners Jerry and Ann Moss in September 2011.

For more information about this event, including photos and video from the evening, please visit www.ca.uky.edu/equine.

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