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EDITION

WILDCAT CANTER

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY AG EQUINE PROGRAMS NEWSLETTER

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The University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment's Equine Programs held its second annual Equine Week of Service Oct. 4-9.

UK Ag Equine Programs recently hosted its annual Career and Opportunity Fair to more than 170 current and future college students from 11 different academic programs.



HIGHLIGHTS



BIG BLUE NATION ROOTING FOR UK-BRED AVERLY JANE AT THE BREEDERS' CUP

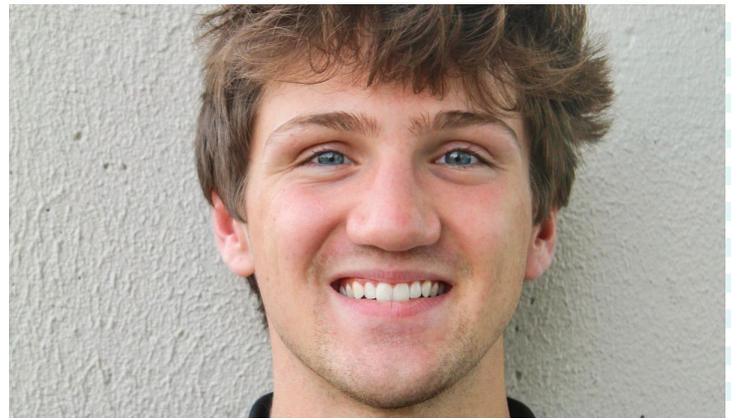
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UK AG EQUINE PROGRAMS WELCOMES RYAN SMITH

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Hello! My name is Ryan Smith and I am currently a sophomore here at the University of Kentucky. I am a finance and marketing major at the Gatton School of Business and Economics and I am incredibly excited to begin working within the UK Ag Equine Program as a communication and student relations intern.



SECOND ANNUAL EQUINE WEEK OF SERVICE

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Students in the equine leadership program called Wildcat Wranglers created and implemented the Week of Service to give students a chance to give back to the equine industry, an especially important need during the isolation of the pandemic. The Wranglers coordinated volunteers and promoted the service event via social media.



UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DEADLINES

- Nov. 1 - Last day to apply for December graduation via myUK GPS
- Nov. 1 - Last day to register for in-person Commencement
- Nov. 3 - Last day to drop a class with a W
- Nov. 24-27 - Thanksgiving break for students
- Dec. 7 - ESMA Internship Showcase, E.S. Good Barn
- Dec. 13-16 - Finals Week
- Dec. 17 - Commencement (in-person), Rupp Arena at 10 a.m.

WELCOME

When I transferred into the Equine Science and Management program in the fall of 2019, I was not the typical student. In fact, I had no hands-on horse experience. Being from Louisville, I fell in love with Thoroughbreds and horse racing at a young age. I grew up going to the track with my dad to watch the races on weekends. The first major racing event I ever attended was the 2006 Breeders' Cup at Churchill Downs. I still remember that day vividly, and ever since, it has been a goal of mine to be involved in the top levels of the sport and connected to a horse competing in this championship event.

Before I transferred, I never had an opportunity to work towards that goal. My family was not involved in the industry, and I was not on a career path leading me to it. I came to the University of Kentucky looking to change that.

Once I started the program, I had to find somewhere that I could work with Thoroughbreds and learn how to handle them. I needed a place that would be willing to spend the time to teach me. An opportunity was posted for student workers at UK Maine Chance Farm, and I figured that would be a great place to start.

Maine Chance Farm is an equine learning and research facility at the university. At the farm, I started gaining experience with mares and foals in the spring, and eventually yearlings in the summer. With it being my first year of working with horses, I was generally assigned to the calmer horses. One of those was a yearling filly that, in the Thoroughbred world, would be called Sh Sh Shakin' 2019. Her name on the farm, however, was Bacon.

I learned so much from working with Bacon and the rest of her group of yearlings. They taught me everything from how to be patient but firm, to how to work them in the round pen and deal with their temper tantrums. They helped develop my horsemanship skills and gave me the confidence to go on and pursue other opportunities in the Thorough-



bred industry, like my internship at Churchill Downs this past summer with Rigney Racing. I was lucky enough to take Bacon through the sales ring last October at Fasig-Tipton, and I was going to be proud just to see her and any of the rest of her yearling group race.

This spring, I constantly checked workout reports and entries to see if any of our yearlings from last fall popped up. The first one I spotted was a filly named Averly Jane—formerly known to us as Bacon. She debuted in April at Keeneland and won going away from the field with ease. Since then it has been a whirlwind, with her winning a stakes race at Churchill Downs during Derby week and one at Saratoga that her older brother won a few years prior. Most recently, she won the Indian Summer Stakes at Keeneland to qualify for a spot in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf Sprint.

Getting to be at Keeneland that day to watch Averly Jane was truly special. To have gotten to work with such an exceptional racehorse like this so soon is more than I ever could have imagined. I am grateful to everyone at Maine Chance and UK Ag Equine Programs for giving me the opportunity to learn and start working towards my passion and career at the farm. I have learned so much from all the faculty, staff at the farm and the horses in my time here at UK. Of course, I am particularly thankful to Averly Jane, who helped fulfill that goal I set 15 years ago when attending my first Breeders' Cup. Hopefully the 2021 races will prove to be even more memorable than those first ones back in 2006.



DANIEL DEATRICK,
EQUINE SENIOR, WILDCAT WRANGLER



MASTHEAD

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BIG BLUE NATION ROOTING FOR UK-BRED AVERLY JANE AT THE BREEDERS' CUP

By Holly Wiemers

Photos by Matt Barton and courtesy Daniel Deatrack, [Video](#) by Brian Volland and Dave Stalion

When the starting gates open Friday for the Juvenile Turf Sprint race during the Breeders' Cup in Del Mar, California, a special filly named Averly Jane will have a large contingent of University of Kentucky fans and connections rooting her on.

Those connections are deep. From the UK alumnus who heads the racing partnership group that owns her, to the numerous faculty, staff, alumni and current students who were part of her life from foaling through the sales ring, the filly has impacted many people associated with UK.

Bred and raised by UK's Maine Chance Farm, a unit of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment's Animal and Food Sciences Department, Averly Jane is undefeated in her first four starts. A \$35,000 graduate of the 2020 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Fall Yearling Sale, she is currently owned by Hat Creek Racing and trained by Wesley Ward. A sea of ecstatic UK fans were on hand in the winner's circle after her decisive win in the Oct. 10 Indian Summer Stakes at Keeneland that earned her an automatic berth to Breeders' Cup.

While this highly visible racing success of Averly Jane is very exciting, the greatest legacy for the university comes from preparing students to become skilled and successful contributors to the equine workforce after they graduate.

"For our college, education is at the core of Averly Jane's success and our program is committed to the state's signature industry by developing a knowledgeable, skilled workforce and providing critical research and outreach efforts," said Nancy Cox, UK vice president for land-grant engagement and dean of the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. "Faculty and staff within our equine programs are truly dedicated to the success of our students and the health and safety of our animals."

UK's Maine Chance Farm is a place where undergraduate students come to learn through hands-on educational opportunities. Some have extensive experience handling or riding horses prior to coming to UK, while others step onto the farm with a love for horses and a desire to work in the industry but very limited experience. By the time they graduate, all have been provided both a foundation of knowledge and relevant hands-on experience in equine-related career paths.

"It's great to watch the race, but I really reflect on what that means for the students in terms of how they view their experience here, either as working students or students that come to the farm for classes," said Laurie Lawrence, professor in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences.

"I got the experience to help train Averly Jane," said Megan Gansen, a junior majoring in animal science. "She was a super eager horse. She was amazing and it's amazing to watch and see, especially when they give us a shout out when she's about to run. They say that she was raised by UK and it's just awesome to know that I was able to be a part of it."

"Something like the Breeders' Cup is pretty phenomenal for anybody, not just our program," said Tim Jedra, animal resource manager for UK's Maine Chance Farm. "Averly Jane exceeded our expectations, just like a lot of our students do when they move on into the industry."

There is a unique and important partnership that has developed with the industry. That educational component wouldn't be possible without a Thoroughbred racing industry that supports the university's land grant missions through donations of the mares and stallion seasons and by employing the interns and graduates of UK.

For instance, Averly Jane's dam is a mare named Sh Sh Shakin' who was donated to UK by Endeavor Farm located in Midway, Kentucky. She raced for trainer Mark Tsagalakis, who co-owns Endeavor Farm with Terry Nickell. UK's relationship with Endeavor extends beyond the horses it has donated. The farm also now employs Maine Chance graduates Laura and Keith Haag in management positions, an example of the synergy of UK's students moving into relevant industry roles.



Averly Jane's sire is Midshipman, who has seen another Breeders' Cup success story this year for offspring in addition to Averly Jane. That stallion season was donated by Darley, Lexington.

While UK's administration, faculty and staff follow and celebrate the successes of all of UK's horses, the high-profile racing accomplishments of Averly Jane clearly demonstrate to students and the industry the program's quality. As a result, students gain the knowledge, skills and confidence to be successful in the equine industry after graduation.

"Working with the horses at Maine Chance has allowed me to learn so much that now I feel confident that I can go out and be a successful horsewoman in the Thoroughbred industry," said Olivia Irwin, a senior majoring in equine who was also part of Averly Jane's life at UK.



"When I transferred into the program, I had no hands-on horse experience. Being from Louisville, I fell in love with Thoroughbreds and horse racing at a young age. I grew up going to the track with my dad. The first major racing event I ever attended was the 2006 Breeders' Cup at Churchill Downs. I still remember that day vividly, and ever since, it has been a goal of mine to be involved in the top levels of the sport and connected to a horse competing in this championship event," said graduating senior Daniel Deatrick, an equine major. "Once I started the program, I needed a place that would be willing to spend the time to teach me. At Maine Chance Farm, I started gaining experience with mares and foals in the spring, and eventually yearlings in the summer."

One of his charges has proved to be a memorable one.

"With it being my first year of working with horses, I was generally assigned to the calmer horses. One of those was a yearling filly now known as Averly Jane. Her name on the farm, however, was Bacon," he said. "I learned so much from working with Bacon and the rest of her group of yearlings. They helped develop my horsemanship and gave me the confidence to go on and pursue other opportunities in the Thoroughbred industry."



"I was lucky enough to take Bacon through the sales ring last October at Fasig-Tipton," Deatrick said. "Getting to be at Keeneland that day (Oct. 10) to watch her qualify for the Breeders' Cup was truly special. To have gotten to work with such an exceptional racehorse like this so soon is more than I ever could have imagined. I am grateful to everyone at Maine Chance and UK's equine program for giving me the opportunity to learn and start working towards my passion and career. I have learned so much from all the faculty, staff and the horses at the farm in my time at UK. Of course, I am particularly thankful to Averly Jane, who helped fulfill that goal I set 15 years ago when attending my first Breeders' Cup."

See a video on Averly Jane by UK [here](#).

See Breeders' Cup coverage of Averly Jane [here](#).

Note: In addition to Deatrick, Gansen and Irwin, many other former and current students were part of Averly Jane's life while she was at UK, including Kaitlyn Bradbury, Alexa Jaramillo, Jacob Jaworski, Miranda Kunes, Sterling Moore, Belle Samblanet, Brittany Sparks and Claire Wilson.



UK AG EQUINE PROGRAMS WELCOMES RYAN SMITH

Photo by Sydney Carter



Hello! My name is Ryan Smith and I am currently a sophomore here at the University of Kentucky. I am a finance and marketing major at the Gatton School of Business and Economics and I am incredibly excited to begin working within the UK Ag Equine Program as a communication and student relations intern. I am a Lexington native and have spent virtually my entire life surrounded by UK culture, so I am incredibly proud to be able to wear the letters working for the school.

Having lived in the Horse Capital of the World (sorry Ocala) for 19 years, it is only natural that I developed an interest in the equine industry. I worked at a veterinary pharmacy that specialized in equine patients for two summers, one as a pharmacy technician, and the second as an intern within the purchasing department there. In addition to this, I spent the latter half of this past summer working at a farm with mares and fillies in Paris, Kentucky. Both of these jobs helped to instill this interest in me and I am incredibly excited to learn more about the industry and work with the students who are in the Equine Science and Management program.

While I am working with the UK Ag Equine Program there are many things that I am hoping to accomplish, including bringing more interest to the program and creating close relationships with the students and faculty involved. Although I am not a student within the program, my interest in the industry is strong and I am hoping to share my interest with both current and prospective students to encourage them to engage with our exciting program. In addition to this, creating strong relationships with students is another goal that I hope to accomplish over the course of this internship. I have yet to meet one student within the program that isn't passionate about what they are studying, and I am excited and honored to be able to represent a program with such a buzzing student population.

After graduation, I am hoping to use my finance and marketing degree to work in marketing or brand management within the agriculture field and I hope to eventually earn a graduate degree in management or in some sort of specialization such as international business if I end up taking my career in that direction. Companies with a focus in the equine industry and/or environmental sustainability are fascinating to me and I hope to be able to work under that umbrella at some point following my undergraduate studies. In addition to this, I would love to live abroad and spend a few years in a different country to gain a global perspective and have that incredible experience.

Eventually, I would love to think I could own my own farm with a variety of different animals both conventional and unconventional. Namely I would like to have horses, dogs and sheep. Lots and lots of sheep.

I am so grateful and excited for this opportunity to represent the program and I am looking forward to developing as a student and a professional alongside you all!

UK AG EQUINE PROGRAMS STUDENTS GAVE BACK TO EQUINE COMMUNITY DURING SECOND ANNUAL EQUINE WEEK OF SERVICE

By Holly Wiemers, Photos by Wildcat Wranglers

The University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment's Equine Programs held its second annual Equine Week of Service Oct. 4-9.

Students in the equine leadership program called Wildcat Wranglers created and implemented the Week of Service to give students a chance to give back to the equine industry, an especially important need during the isolation of the pandemic. The Wranglers coordinated volunteers and promoted the service event via social media.

"We had an amazing turnout during the week, with more than 250 shifts being filled and just over 500 hours of time given," said Nick D'Amore, a senior equine major and Wildcat Wrangler who headed up the group's volunteer and outreach committee. "We couldn't be happier, given the success of the event last year, to be able to follow that up and be just as well received this year. It was very rewarding for everyone involved."

The Week of Service helped seven Lexington-area equine organizations, including the African Cemetery No. 2, Kentucky Riding for Hope, Kentucky Equine Adoption Center, Kentucky Horse Park and Mounted Police, Old Friends and Our Mims Retirement Haven.

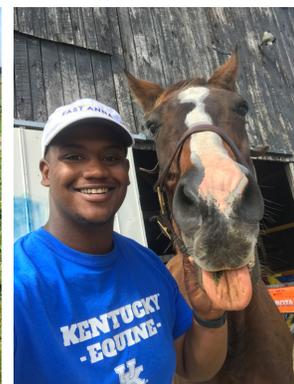
"My favorite part about the UK Equine Week of Service is seeing how the community comes together. Students, alumni, faculty and staff, and anyone else who participates, has an opportunity to work alongside each other to help create a lasting impact on the organizations," said Margaret Babiarz, an equine senior and head of the marketing and communications group for the week. "Planning the UK Equine Week of Service allowed me to build upon invaluable skills like networking, leadership and communication."

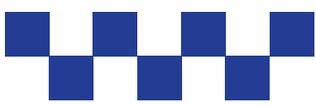
According to Kristen Wilson, academic coordinator in UK Ag Equine Programs and advisor of the Wildcat Wranglers, the event was successful and hopefully helped equine organizations in their day-to-day functions.

"The UK Equine Week of Service is a great opportunity for our students, faculty, staff and alumni to come together to give back to the local equine industry, and to get away from the classroom and network."

James MacLeod, director of UK Ag Equine Programs, echoed her sentiments, adding that he is glad it has become an annual tradition.

"We can all be proud of everything the students have accomplished. The broad participation and enthusiasm are wonderful, with both the host organizations and the volunteers living the commitment to be the change you wish to see in the world," MacLeod said.





"The leadership role that the Wildcat Wrangler equine ambassador team takes on to plan, coordinate and implement this event is impressive, teaching them many skills that will help them into their future career goals," Wilson said.

This event was also supported by local industry organizations, including Central Equipment for their sponsorship of the bulb planting project at African Cemetery No. 2. Through their generosity, the project was able to plant different flowering bulbs highlighting and memorializing the equine industry horsemen buried there. Each type of bulb planted will correspond to the various equine occupations represented in the cemetery.

To see recaps from the week, visit UK Ag Equine Programs' Instagram or Facebook pages or learn more at <https://equine.ca.uky.edu/>.



REFLECTION ON EQUINE WEEK OF SERVICE

By Harrison Goode, equine sophomore and Wildcat Wrangler



After a year full of isolation in quarantine, the Equine Week of Service gave students the opportunity to leave campus and give back to their community.

From a personal standpoint, I had so much fun volunteering during the UK Equine Week of Service at the Kentucky Equine Adoption Center. After meeting their horses and staff I was immersed with joy. The horses were obviously the center of attention with the highest quality care from the volunteers.

At the Kentucky Equine Adoption Center, we painted fences, scrubbed water troughs and refilled them with fresh water. While the tasks seem mundane, it was fun to hang around my UK school members and meet more of the faculty.



Equine Week of Service for me was also very special because of the gravesite cleanup and bulb planting at the African Cemetery No.2. African American horsemen, grooms and farriers are buried with dignity in recognition of their service to the Kentucky racehorse industry. These men laid the foundation for me to become a part of the horse industry and they deserve the utmost respect. Cleaning their final resting place is the least I can do.

We thoroughly enjoyed our time helping these organizations and loved the number of participants who shared their time. The organizations were pleased to have the eager volunteers helping their horses.

Kentucky Equine Adoption Center development director, Kelli Sorg, said, "It has meant so much to us for the UK equine volunteers to be here this week because so many things are getting done that just have not been done because we don't have the human power to make that happen."

A few of my fellow Wildcat Wranglers shared their experiences about the UK Equine Week of Service. Equine sophomore Piper McGehee said, "I was able to go to Old Friends to paint paddock fences and was also given the opportunity to help at the African Cemetery No. 2 planting beautiful flowers. It always feels so good to give back to my community and I really enjoyed participating with fellow equine students and other University of Kentucky students and professors."

Equine sophomore Madelyn Leahey said, "Equine Week of Service was a time for me to give back to a community that has given me so much. It made me feel fulfilled and allowed me to build relationships with people in the community."



ANNUAL UK EQUINE CAREER AND OPPORTUNITY FAIR SHOWCASES INDUSTRY PROFESSIONS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

By Holly Wiemers, Photos by Sydney Carter



University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs recently hosted its annual Career and Opportunity Fair to more than 170 current and future college students from 11 different academic programs. Over 35 employers and 80 recruiters were on hand to share job, internship, volunteer and networking opportunities.

New this year, a prospective student component was added to allow high school students the opportunity to hear from equine degree programs and visit the fair to see the various job and career path options that exist within the industry. Students and their families had the chance to speak with equine programs from UK, Asbury University, Bluegrass Community and Technical College, the Kentucky Equine Management Internship program, Midway University, Morehead State University and the University of Louisville, who was also the food and beverage sponsor for the event.

"I was very pleased with this year's Career and Opportunity Fair. We returned to an in-person event, expanded the format and participants, and were able to successfully showcase the myriad of opportunities available in the equine industry," said Savannah Robin, equine internship coordinator and event organizer. "Employers had very positive remarks in regard to student engagement, relationship building and professionalism. Students also provided positive feedback in that the fair was a great experience to network and explore future opportunities."

Equine businesses that participated included Ardent Animal Health, Central Kentucky Riding for Hope, Claiborne Farm, Coolmore America, Godolphin LLC, Hagyard Equine Medical Institute, Hooves of Hope Equestrian Center Inc., Justin's Place, Keeneland Association Inc., Kentucky Equine Research, Lane's End Farm, Maker's Mark Secretariat Center, McMahan and Hill Bloodstock LLC, Park Equine Hospital, Paso Fino Horse Association, Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital, Split Rock Jumping Tour, Spy Coast Farm, Taylor Made Sales Agency Inc., The Jockey Club, Three Chimneys Farm, UK Department of Veterinary Science, Wickliffe Pharmaceuticals Inc. and WinStar Farm.

"Emphasis on 'Career and Opportunity' is central to this important annual event," said James MacLeod, professor of veterinary science and director of UK Ag Equine Programs. "The substance and scope of equine-related career paths continue to grow, and this was an exciting convergence of employers, current equine science students, prospective equine science students and educational organizations."

Next year's event is scheduled for Sept. 29. More information about this and other opportunities can be found on UK Ag Equine Programs' website: <https://equine.ca.uky.edu/>.



Internship Spotlight

DEJA ROBINSON

Intern, Kentucky Horse Racing Commission



Equine senior Deja Robinson has spent the month of October exploring her new internship at the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission. The opportunity for this position was provided by the Ed Brown Society, which works to promote diversity within the equine racing industry.

"This is a goal that is near and dear to my heart. I take great pride in serving as a role model to minority youth and other college students aspiring to work within the industry," Robinson said.

The KHRC is an independent agency of state government charged with regulating the conduct of horse racing and pari-mutuel wagering on horse racing and related activities within the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

It oversees and regulates all types of equine racing, including Thoroughbred, Standardbred, Quarter Horse, Paint horse, Appaloosa and Arabian Horse races.

According to Robinson, her role as an intern with KHRC has provided her with extensive shadowing, learning and working experiences.

"As an intern at the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission, I am exposed to a variety of aspects of the racing industry, especially regarding regulation. This internship opportunity has allowed me to expand my knowledge and understanding of the industry by shadowing commissioners across the various divisions and committees. Due to this, I have been able to further develop key skills including communication, adaptability, networking and professionalism skills," Robinson said.

She says that she enjoys the ability to learn something new every day and working hands-on at local racetracks.



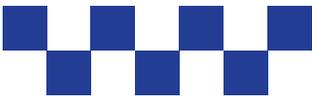
GET THE SCOOP ON EQUINE CLUBS AND TEAMS

Photos by Sydney Carter



On Thursday, Sept. 10, UK Ag Equine Programs hosted an ice cream social for new incoming students to learn more about our equine-related clubs and teams. This event was one of our two welcome back events to kick off the start of the semester. Students enjoyed Graeter's ice cream on a beautiful late afternoon outside at the Garrigus Alumni Plaza. Representatives from the Collegiate Professional Horsemen's Association, Equestrian Team (Hunt Seat and Western), UK Dressage, UK Eventing, UK Rodeo, UK Polo and UK Saddleseat teams answered questions and highlighted the activities of their respective organizations. Attendees also took turns in the ice cream and equine themed photo booth for some added fun. A big thanks to our Wildcat Wrangler student ambassador team for helping to set up, handle registration and clean up after the event.







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