

UK Equine Initiative Student Newsletter

June 2008



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Welcome to the June issue of the Equine Initiative's student newsletter!

Hopefully your summer is off to a great start and you're enjoying your time off/work/internships/more school, or some combination of all of the above!

While the pace on campus slows down significantly over the summer, many of the horse activities prospective students are engaged in seem to intensify. You'll read in this issue about some of the events we've had a presence at since school let out. It's been great to see the interest from around the state, and even across the country, in UK's equine programs and organizations! There's a lot of great stuff going on here. Coming next month, we'll start to have some exciting changes to this publication and to our communications in general, so stay tuned!

We're also in the process of a complete overhaul of our website, a project that's long overdue! We expect to have a new online presence before school begins in the fall and welcome your feedback on what you'd like to see us include. What information would you like to see and what features should we build in? Let us know. We'd love to hear from you! You can drop us a line at equineinitiative@uky.edu to share your opinion.

We hope you continue to enjoy your summer and look forward to your return in the fall! Keep tuning in to stay abreast of what's happening here over the summer, and be sure to check back next month for some exciting news!

Warmest summer wishes,
Holly Wiemers, Equine Initiative Communications Director



UK College of Agriculture field day places emphasis on equine issues

By Savannah Faye Craddock

The University of Kentucky College of Agriculture hosted a field day titled, “Agriculture in a New Bioeconomy,” on Thursday, June 12 at Spindletop Research Farm. The event was created to raise awareness about issues local producers and landowners are currently facing. This event was free and open to the public.

“Every four years, the plant and soil science department hosts a field day at UK’s research farm north of Lexington. Our goal is to highlight research across a range of topics, and this year we incorporated a special emphasis on equine research and horse pasture management,” said Ray Smith, associate professor and forage extension specialist.

Smith heads up UK’s pasture evaluation program, a fee-based program that evaluates horse pastures around central Kentucky and provides detailed recommendations on how to maximize pasture production and use.

“The focus of the afternoon workshops was practical, hands-on learning. For example, during the pasture evaluation workshop, we explained how to evaluate the status of your pasture and provided tips on pasture renovation and weed control,” Smith said. “We also highlighted how to build controlled stream crossings in horse pastures and practical methods for erosion control.”

Along with workshops and clinics, the field day hosted tours specific to interests in tobacco, equine, pest management and forage issues. Workshop topics included hay production; pasture evaluation for horses, setting depth for tobacco transplanters, corn growth and development and invasive woody plant control methods. Other workshops covered hay production, assessing soil productivity for crops, weed identification and resistant weeds, and organic grain crop production.

An evening equine tour that followed the sessions highlighted the majority of equine research currently being conducted within the college’s department of animal and food sciences. Topics on the tour included horse nutrition research, variety testing for horse pastures, establishment of riparian zones on horse farms, mare and foal research, bermuda grass for summer pasture and grazing horses on small acreage.

Concurrent to the evening tour, two rounds of hour-long field tours were also conducted. The first included segments related to forage; tobacco; wheat for grain, forage and straw production and pest management. The second featured segments on forage, biofuels, corn production for livestock producers and weed control in forage crops.

The Fayette County Cattlemen’s Association sold and served meals during the tours and workshops. Many displays and exhibits were also set up around the area.

If you have any questions or would like more information on this field day or the pasture evaluation program, contact Smith at raysmith1@uky.edu or 859-257-3358.

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Equine Initiative Highlights

The UK Equine Initiative attended the 79th annual Kentucky State FFA Convention on Thursday, June 12 in Louisville, Ky. A booth was there with representation from EI's Savannah Craddock, where numerous questions were answered about the new undergraduate degree program and the College of Agriculture from a student's perspective.

The UK Equine Initiative's was also present at the Field Day hosted by the College of Agriculture held at Spindletop Farm on Thursday, June 12. Holly Wiemers was the EI representative for this event (see story on previous page). Approximately 350 attendees braved the hot summer afternoon to learn more about forage issues.

During the past two months, the Equine Initiative also made appearances at the Kentucky High School Rodeo on May 21-25 and the State 4-H Equine Communications Event on June 10.

Connie Blount Memorial Scholarship established

In remembrance of Connie Blount, the Equine Science and Management student and UK Equestrian Team member killed in a hit-and-run accident in April, the UK College of Agriculture has joined with the Blount family to create a memorial scholarship in her honor. The scholarship will be available for Equine Science and Management students attending UK and will benefit students with club, organization and community involvement as well as a love and passion for learning about horses and the horse industry. If you would like to make a contribution to the Connie Blount Memorial Scholarship Fund, please contact Marci Hicks in the Office of Development at marci.hicks@uky.edu.

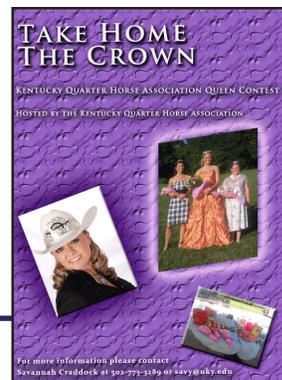


Industry News

Get Crowned 2008 Kentucky Quarter Horse Association Queen

The Kentucky Quarter Horse Association is pleased to announce it is now taking applications for the 2008 KyQHA Queen, Junior Queen and Princess Contest. The format of this contest has changed over the past few years and is now revamped. The contest is split into three categories; interview, AQHA rulebook test and horsemanship. The horsemanship portion will be held at the KyQHA Summer Spectacular Horse Show in Liberty, Ky., July 16-20. The interview and AQHA rulebook test will be completed at the year-end banquet held in December. At this time, the winners in each division and category will be crowned.

If you are interested in participating please contact KyQHA Committee Chairman Savannah Craddock savy@uky.edu or visit the Kentucky Quarter Horse Association website at www.kyqha.com



Equine study abroad option

A new program in France will offer a one-year post-graduate diploma in equine science and management. Students will spend time at two universities in France, at the French National Stud and a month in Kentucky. The program is aimed at training individuals for leadership positions. This is not a hands-on horse experience, it will focus on business and leadership skills. There will be a small number of students and they would really like to have a few Americans. The students will have to be fluent in French. Because it is a new program they will extend the application date for American students.

For more information, please visit www.enesad.fr or e-mail Professor Véronique Julliand at v.julliand@enesad.fr or Dr. Laurie Lawrence at llawrence@email.uky.edu.

Job Opportunities

Help Wanted Classifieds:

Please note, classifieds listed here are not directly affiliated with UK or its equine programs, rather information passed along from equine businesses as an FYI.

The Kentucky Equine Humane Center announces the establishment of the KyEHC Internship Program. The KyEHC Internship Program is offered to students to help expand their knowledge through practical experience, giving them an opportunity to achieve professional competency through "hands-on" experiences in problem-solving, decision-making, and relational skills in a professional environment. Specific internships may be crafted to meet program requirements in the following areas: veterinary technician, pre-veterinary studies, horse husbandry, equine sciences, farm management or related areas. KyEHC can help students design a program to satisfy practicum, internship or independent study requirements within their major. On-site housing is provided. Interns will be selected from university and college applicants. Interested students should contact the Kentucky Equine Humane Center (KyEHC) for more information and an interview at 859.881.5849 or info@KyEHC.org.

UK Student needed as an Equestrian Camp Counselor at YMCA Camp Tecumseh, Brookston, Ind., for campers ages 11-15. Instruct riding lessons each morning and afternoon at equestrian center. Center has four outdoor rings and one indoor ring. Instructors are needed for beginners through advanced in both English (i.e. jumping, dressage) and Western (i.e. reining, western pleasure, trail). Class sizes are four to six. We are a CHA site accredited and adhere to their safety practices. Evenings on duty are with cabin groups participating in regular camp programming. Counselors also lead devotions each night in their cabin. Must have completed at least freshman year of college. Pay Range: \$2,550-\$2,750.

Staff Training begins May 25, 2008. If you have any questions, contact Amie Gleason (Equestrian Director) at 1-800-382-2267 (inside IN Indiana only), office phone 765-564-2898, or e-mail at amieg@camptecumseh.org. More information can be found at www.camptecumseh.org. Applications can be completed and submitted from there.

Suggestion Box

We want to hear from you! What are we missing? What should we change? What would you like to know more about? What information should we feature in an upcoming issue?

Your feedback is important and we welcome your comments! Please email equineinitiative@email.uky.edu and let us know what you think.

Scholarships

The spring time is peak scholarship application deadline season. For information on upcoming scholarships check these out.

- The Race for Education anticipates awarding at least \$400,000 in scholarships and hopes as much as possible can go to Kentucky horse farm workers and their families. Contact Elisabeth Jensen, Vice President, at (859) 252-8648 or visit www.racingscholarships.com/page.php?page=resources
- KyQHA: www.kyqha.com/youth/scholarship.pdf
- Kentucky Horse Council Scholarship: www.kentuckyhorse.org/scholarships.shtml

Contact Us

Equine Initiative
N212 Ag Sciences Building North
Lexington, KY 40546-0091

Office: (859) 257-2226
Fax: (859) 323-8484

Email: equineinitiative@email.uky.edu

Web: www.ca.uky.edu/equine/

Director of the Equine Initiative and Dickson Professor of Equine Science and Management: **Dr. Jamie MacLeod**

Associate Director for Undergraduate Education in Equine Science and Management: **Dr. Bob Coleman**

Equine Initiative Communications Director and Editor: **Holly Wiemers**

Equine Initiative Communications and Editorial Assistant: **Savannah Craddock**

Equine Initiative Staff Support: **Kevin Hagan**

You can also find us on Facebook under the **Equine Initiative Group**