Wildcat Canter

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY AG EQUINE PROGRAMS NEWSLETTER



November 2020



Sharing our equine passion and potential during Experience Equine Week PAGE 7

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UK Ag Equine Programs to host 10th annual Equine Research Showcase virtually PAGE 8

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UK Rodeo Team update PAGE 10

The University of Kentucky Rodeo Team has been busy at work this semester. So far, the team has competed in three rodeos: two in Missouri and one in Arkansas. The team is very proud of what the members have accomplished given the continued circumstances with the ongoing pandemic.



Rain, rain go away – keeping equine access to trail systems

PAGE 15

Student submission: Imagine this – a quiet, cool morning broken only by the steady clip, clop of horse hooves down a well-worn trail. For most equestrians, trail riding is a form of relaxation. A time to step away from the chaotic scene that is modern-day society and reconnect with nature. Well, until it rains.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DEADLINES

- Dec. 1-4 Finals week
- Dec. 4 End of the fall semester
- Dec. 10 Equine Virtual Senior Sendoff
- Jan. 5, 19 and Feb. 2, 9 UK Equine Research Showcase
- Jan. 25 First day of Spring semester classes

As we approach the end of a most unique semester at the University of Kentucky, our future students are engaged in decisions that chart new beginnings for their lives and those of their families. As our current students are preparing for and taking their finals, Future Wildcats are putting their finishing touches on their admissions applications. Given that there have been some recent adjustments compared to previous years' deadlines, I hope that the following information will delineate the 2020-2021 UK admissions cycle.

Dec. 1 is the Early Action Admissions Deadline for UK. Future first-year students are encouraged to make sure their application information is completed and submitted by this time, especially if eligible for the UK Academic Scholarship program. Also embedded in the Dec. 1 deadline is consideration for the UK Honors Program as well as the opportunity to apply (later) for UK housing for early consideration (if admitted). Admissions decisions are made at the central, main campus level – any Future Wildcat interested in Equine Science and Management or any other program within the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment need not submit an additional application to be considered as a student. If you submit your admissions application by Dec. 1, you will know your status as a Wildcat no later than Jan. 15. More information can be found at www.uky.edu/admission.

Admissions is standardized test score optional for Fall 2021 matriculation. Whether students decide to apply with or without test scores, all information will be reviewed to provide the greatest benefit for admissions as well as scholarship opportunities. To understand more about this policy, students and families can visit the aforementioned admissions website.



Further adding to our college's reputation for support and inclusion, we are continuing our first-year scholarship program with a newly extended deadline of Jan. 15 for first-time freshman and Jan. 31 for transfer students. Check out students.ca.uky.edu to learn more about our process and how to apply. Having offered more than \$3 million to our students over the last four years, we want all our students to take advantage of this additional opportunity. Other financial opportunities include completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA (fafsa.ed.gov) as well as the William C. Parker Scholarship program – a unique program that supports UK's values of inclusion and diversity.

As mentioned earlier, students who apply by Dec. 1 and are admitted should consider Early Action Housing. By submitting their housing application by Feb. 15, students can optimize their potential housing opportunities, especially if specific residence hall amenities are in mind. Applying for Early Action housing is still non-binding (i.e., if you are considering other colleges or universities). Besides premium housing options, UK's Living Learning Program provides extraordinary academic and programmatic support where our students live. While there are several LLP options for Wildcats to choose from for their first year, the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment facilitates the Belle C. Gunn First-Year Program in Woodland Glen IV. Our community is second to none in complementing our students' academic interests by way of tracks in livestock and equine, food and health, family and community, as well as nature and landscapes. If students apply for admissions after Dec. 1 or need extra time to consider the housing application, our current housing deadline is May 1.

As students become acquainted with Equine Science and Management through the admissions process or other ways, rest assured we will be in touch to help prevent missing an important deadline. Future students are encouraged to not only check their email often but to follow the college @ukagriculture on various social media platforms. We also offer virtual sessions daily for students to explore any academic program within our college and get their questions answered. Bookmark students.ca.uky.edu for virtual visit information and so much more. Students can also email their questions to grow@uky.edu.

We cannot wait to see you on campus soon! Wishing all a happy and safe holiday season and GO CATS!

Wayne Centers

Director of Student Relations, UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

MASTHEAD

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If I could choose one word to describe this semester, it would be surreal. It has been an enormous challenge to feel a sense of belonging and of finding community amongst others while we have so many restrictions, from wearing masks and thus not able to see facial expressions to being socially distanced and therefore learning how to interact with others through virtual classrooms and meetings. Yet, within the UK Equine community, we've seen great and impactful things unfold, innovation taking place, collaborations happening and our community growing stronger because of it.

Whether it's been in your classes as we've collectively worked together to overcome the challenges of the virtual classroom, to the flexibility given by both instructors and students as we all take it a day at a time, to the extra time spent explaining a topic or a friendly face meeting with you to answer questions you might have, students, faculty and staff have impressively risen to the occasion.

A student-focused event led by fellow students helped us find ways to partner, to get away from the virtual classroom and to immerse ourselves in the local industry through our inaugural UK Equine Week of Service. An event we hope to repeat annually, it brought joy, networking and clearer thinking to those who participated.



Telling our story to others - especially those starting the college search experience - through our virtual Experience Equine Week allowed our students to showcase what they love so much about being a part of the equine program at UK. During this process we saw innovation in creating opportunities, answering questions and extending our community beyond campus. And others learned not only about what we have to offer, but also that we are incredibly passionate about our shared community.

We've learned to just accept that all things will be virtual for the time being, even if that means graduation will not be in person or that we will have to celebrate our equine graduates virtually again instead of through our regular graduation reception. We are thankful that we still have a means to connect, to celebrate accomplishments, to discuss classes for next semester, to meet with fellow alums and to chat with prospective families about their big decisions in taking the next leap on their educational path.

Google defines Community as "a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests and goals." Even though this semester and the unknowns of the near future have had their challenges, finding ways to engage, network, create some sense of normalcy and foster a sense of belonging has been at the heart of our UK Equine community.

Just as the horse is at the heart of everything we do, building this community, especially during these challenging times, has been a priority. I know that I am proud to be part of this community and to work side-by-side with those involved as we continue to foster opportunities for growth in the future to keep our students, alumni, prospective families, faculty and staff engaged and moving forward.

As we wrap up the Fall semester, take a deep breath, ask for help and know that you can do this. Once the semester is over, take some time for yourself, spend time with family (and horses!), recharge and come back for the Spring semester knowing that we are in this together. We are your community! And we are in this together!

Kristen Wilson Equine Science and Management Academic Coordinator

Sharing our equine passion and potential during Experience Equine Week

By Becca Geringer, equine senior and Wildcat Wrangler



The University of Kentucky is a special place for any person with a passion for horses. Being located in the Horse Capital of the World really gives anyone here a great opportunity to learn and engage in the horse community.

Hosting our virtual UK Experience Equine Week this month gave us a chance to share that passion and potential with prospective students and parents alike. Our usual one day in-person event was extended into a week-long virtual event to accommodate students and offer a unique experience even during this unfamiliar time. Seventy-seven registrants from 20 different states we able to attend multiple live sessions, prerecorded campus tours and admissions and program overviews which were mostly created by our very own equine students here on campus.

James MacLeod, director of UK Equine Programs and faculty member in the UK Gluck Equine Research Center, shared his thoughts about the week. "Experience Equine Week is another wonderful example of everyone working together in innovative ways to address current COVID-19 challenges. The resulting collaboration of students, staff and faculty yielded video content that clearly worked well for the prospective applicants who participated from around the country, while concurrently generating valuable content for the Equine Programs website. The level of talent, creativity and commitment within our UK Equine community is very special to be a part of," he said.

This unique opportunity gave both students and parents the ability to see what attending UK as an Equine Science and Management student is all about.

"Experience Equine Week was a great way for us to showcase all things equine at the University of Kentucky virtually without people having to travel during this challenging time," said Kristen Wilson, academic coordinator for the Equine Science and Management Program.

With the help of our own Wildcat Wranglers, alumni and faculty and staff, parents and students got to ask questions in real time.

FEATURED STORY

Wildcat Wrangler Mackenzie Johnson said, "Experience Equine week was a great way to educate potential Wildcats on the amazing things UK Ag Equine Programs has to offer. The virtual platform allowed many students and parents from all over the country to get involved when they might typically have been unable to attend in person."

The Wildcat Wranglers, the program's student leadership team, created videos showcasing their own internships at UK, Instagram takeovers showcasing what it's like as an student and helped lead the online live Q&A sessions for both prospective students and parents.

Students and staff both reported feeling like the week was a great success for many.

"The event allowed for prospective students and their families to get a more in-depth look at what our undergraduate equine program has to offer," Wilson said. "We hope to see these prospective students here on campus with us in the near future to learn and grow in the equine industry."

For more information about UK Ag Equine Programs, please visit equine.ca.uky.edu or check out the program's Instagram page to see some of the content created for this educational week @ukequineprograms. To see some of the videos that were shared, check out the following:

Welcome https://youtu.be/vJHLlyTPOO8 College overview https://youtu.be/CYuSYrN9T_o Equine Programs overview https://youtu.be/0oPhxL02OZc

UK Ag Equine Programs to host 10th annual Equine Research Showcase virtually

By Holly Wiemers

University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs will host its 10th annual UK Equine Showcase virtually through four sessions over four dates in January and February 2021. The event will continue the "life journey" theme initiated last year and will emphasize weanling to yearling horses, presenting both completed and work-in-progress projects relevant to this age group.

"We are excited to once again put together an excellent set of lectures and continuing education featuring many of our colleagues," said Emma Adam, assistant professor and research and industry liaison at the Gluck Equine Research Center. ""The way our industry is helped through the resources we have at the University of Kentucky is unparalleled."



Due to the current pandemic, the event has moved to a virtual format. Organizers wanted to continue to provide information and continuing education opportunities in 2021 rather than postpone for a year. Recognizing that staying engaged for long periods of time via a virtual format is challenging, organizers chose to break up the annual event into several shorter sessions over the course of a few weeks.

Jan. 5, 6-7:30 p.m. EST, will focus on musculoskeletal issues and include the following topics and speakers:

- Bisphosphonates, NSAIDs and other medicines in the juvenile horse with Scott Stanley, professor of analytical chemistry at the Gluck Equine Research Center.
- Sesamoid bone maturation by the laboratory of James MacLeod, director of UK Ag Equine Programs and John S. and Elizabeth A. Knight chair and professor of veterinary science at the Gluck Center.
- Bone pathology in Wobbler's Syndrome with Jennifer Janes, assistant professor of anatomic pathology at UK's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

Jan. 19, 6-7:30 p.m. EST, will focus on nutrition and pasture topics and include the following information and speakers:

- Mineral requirements for a growing horse with Mieke Brummer-Holder, assistant professor in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences.
- Amino acids and protein synthesis in the growing horse with Kristine Urschel, associate professor in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences.
- UK Horse Pasture Evaluation Program information with Krista Lea, program coordinator, and Ray Smith, professor and extension forage specialist, both from the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences.

Feb. 2, 6-7:30 p.m. EST, will focus on parasitology, vaccination immunology and causes of mortality and include the following information and speakers:

- Vaccination, immunity and immune response in weanlings with David Horohov, chair of the Department
 of Veterinary Science, director of and Jes E. and Clementine M. Schlaikjer Endowed Chair at the Gluck
 Center.
- Parasitology as it pertains to weanlings and yearlings with Martin Nielsen, Schlaikjer professor of Equine Infectious Disease at the Gluck Center.
- Common(est) causes of mortality in this age group with Laura Kennedy, assistant professor and veterinary pathologist at the UK VDL.

Feb. 9, 6-7:30 p.m. EST will cover hot topics in a mini session format of 10 minutes each, with updates about equine research literature resources at UK, nocardioform placentitis summary from 2020, COVID-19 economic impact and the next equine survey, lab updates, Equine Biological Passport update, genetic diversity project, updates on equine surface research, important parasitology updates and more.

"This is a unique and special outreach event. The purpose is to showcase some of what is happening at the University of Kentucky in terms of scientific discovery and service efforts relevant to the young horse," MacLeod said. "Participants will hopefully gain new information they can apply to their programs, but importantly also a greater appreciation for some of the critical questions being addressed at UK, why these issues are important and where the cutting edge of research is on a number of very interesting topics. This annual program, now reaching 10 years, highlights our commitment to advance research, service and teaching for the benefit of horses and the equine community."

The UK Equine Showcase is open to veterinarians, owners and managers of all horse breeds or anyone with an interest in learning more about foals and horse management. Its virtual format means that this opportunity is open to attendees from across the U.S. and even world.

The cost to attend all sessions is \$25 until the early-bird registration deadline of Jan. 5. This package will include a PDF of the presentations and access to a recording of the sessions after the event has concluded. Attendees can also opt to attend only one or two of the sessions they are interested in. Individual event registration will also be available for \$10 each. There are special rates for farms interested in having multiple employees attend. Students from any university can participate for free. Please contact equine@uky.edu for help in registering for those discounted or free sessions. Continuing education credit for veterinarians and veterinary technicians is pending approval by the Kentucky Board of Veterinary Examiners. Register here. Contact equine@uky.edu with questions about the event or with help registering.

UK is also accepting sponsor participation for the showcase. Presenting opportunities are available to participating organizations on a first-come, first-served basis. Email equine@uky.edu for details.



UK Rodeo Team

The University of Kentucky Rodeo Team has been busy at work this semester. So far, the team has competed in three rodeos: two in Missouri and one in Arkansas. The next rodeo is in November in Murray, Kentucky. The team is very proud of what the members have accomplished given the continued circumstances with the ongoing pandemic.

The Rodeo Team has been practicing as normal and hosting monthly meetings. The team is also doing team pictures and cannot wait to have them back to share with everyone. The team is currently in the process of updating its website as well as adding new merchandise for sale. For more information and all the latest news, be sure to check out the website and support the team at https://www.ukyrodeoteam.com/.

Program Spotlight



Reese Koffler-Stanfield

Adjunct professor, teaching EQM 300 — Global Perspective of the Sport Horse Industry

EDUCATION

B.S. Agricultural Economics from UK

M.A. Patterson School of International Commerce and Diplomacy from UK

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ASPECT OF YOUR WORK?

Working with the students.

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO EDUCATE EQUINE STUDENTS?

I was excited to bring my knowledge of Sport Horses to the program.

WHAT IS YOUR HISTORY WITH AG EQUINE PROGRAMS AT THE UK?

Member of the College of Ag Equine Advisory Board.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR EQUINE STUDENTS?

Try lots of aspects of the equine industry, especially while you are in college. Always remember in the equine world, no job is above you.

WHAT IS YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE INDUSTRY?

I am a professional dressage trainer and owner of Maplecrest Farm in Georgetown, Kentucky, where we have horses in full training and I teach a lot of lessons to dressage, Eventers and show jumpers. I am a USDF FEI Certified Instructor along with a bronze, silver, gold medalist.

November Equine Science Review recap

By Holly Wiemers

The Equine Science Review: highlighting research and outreach efforts at the University of Kentucky 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. Have updates delivered to your inbox each month by subscribing to the Review here.

The November issue of the Equine Science Review is online or can be read in <u>Issuu</u>. Some highlights of this issue include several stories about older horse research, developing a more effective measurement tool for racetrack surfaces, ivermectin and moxidectin resistance discovered in North America and much more!

Stories this month include:

- Novel Biomarker for Ascending Placentitis: IL-6
- Nov. 20 is Deadline to Complete National Survey on Horses Aged 15 Years and Older
- <u>Leading Horseracing Organizations Partner with UK</u> to Support Research Efforts to Improve Surface Safety
- Cost SAVING Moves for Winter Pasture
- UK Ag Equine Programs to Host 10th Annual Equine Research Showcase Virtually
- Science Sleuths: the Science that Shapes Diagnostic Tests: PCR, qPCR What's the Difference?
- Rocha One of Two Gluck Center Graduate Students Competing in UK's 3MT Competition
- UK Gluck Center's Macon Wins Graduate Student Congress Research Award
- Equine Innovators Podcast Features UK's Dr. Amanda Adams on Older Horse
- African Horse Sickness: Potential Threat for Disease-free Countries
- Alfalfa Included in Second Round of Coronavirus Food Assistance Program
- Deadline Approaching for NRCS EQIP Assistance
- UK VDL Releases New Accession Form
- UK Pastures Please!! Jan. 26
- UK Indoor Horse Arena Survey Infographic and Follow-up Information







EQUINE SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT

SENIOR CLASS OF EBRATION

LIVE 6:30 P.M. EST VIA ZOOM

REGISTER HERE



Certified Horsemanship Association Welcomes New Board Members for 2021; UK's Coleman is new president



The Certified Horsemanship Association (CHA) has new leadership on its board for the end of 2020 and into 2021.

Congratulations to UK's own Bob Coleman, associate professor and equine extension specialist in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences, for being named new CHA president.

UK alum Hannah Moriarty selected to Irish National Stud program



Congratulations to Spring 2020 graduate, Hannah Moriarty, on being selected to participate in the Irish National Stud Education Program beginning in January 2021.

UK's MacLeod named as one of Kentucky Equine Education Project's new board members

The Kentucky Equine Education Project (KEEP), Kentucky's equine economic advocate, announced additions to its Board of Directors.

Nine new individuals were added to the KEEP Board of Directors: Shannon Cobb, Michelle Fischer, Vince Gabbert, Jeff Hall, Katie LaMonica, James MacLeod, James Miller, Bret Shultz and Donnie Snellings.



The Foundation for the Horse announces 2020 recipients of \$75,000 Coyote Rock Ranch Scholarships; UK Alum Folmar one of them

Chosen from nearly 40 exceptional applicants, three distinguished veterinary students aspiring toward careers in equine medicine have been selected to receive \$75,000 Coyote Rock Ranch Veterinary Scholarships. The scholarships will be awarded in December during the American Association of Equine Practitioners' 66th Annual Convention, taking place virtually.

The scholarship recipients, each of whom share a passion for performance horse medicine, are:

- Chelsea Folmar, Texas A&M University and University of Kentucky equine alum
- Kimberly Hildreth Martin, University of Pennsylvania
- Lindsay Seewald, Cornell University

"This scholarship allows me the freedom to pursue an equine internship and then residency in large animal internal medicine," said Folmar, a first-generation college graduate. "This path can be more financially challenging, and this scholarship gives me the ability to hone my research potential, technical skills and communication abilities."

Rain, rain go away - keeping equine access to trail systems

Note from editor: An important part of the mission of our program includes undergraduate educa¬tion, specifically with our Equine Science and Management undergraduate degree program. A class taught by Camie Heleski, a faculty member and lecturer within the program – is one designed to present provocative, often controversial issues that are current to the equine industry. In EQM 305, "Equine Industry Issues," students are introduced to topics, hear from speakers, research infor¬mation and communicate about industry issues in written and oral formats. The course is designed to expose students to hot button issues in the industry and encourage them to research and formulate well-communicated opinions about those issues. One avenue made available to this course is pub¬lishing some of those stories here.

By Abby Bowles

Imagine this – a quiet, cool morning broken only by the steady clip, clop of horse hooves down a well-worn trail. For most equestrians, trail riding is a form of relaxation. A time to step away from the chaotic scene that is modern-day society and reconnect with nature. Well, until it rains. Most people don't think much about the impact of rain, but for equestrians who trail ride, rain can quickly become a source of frustration. Why?

Well, the short answer is that water speeds up erosion on trails. This process is natural, but it can be amplified when equestrians ride over muddy areas.

Denise O'Meara of Equine Land Conservation Resource said, "Horses are tough on land. The torque of pointy feet leads to churning of soil and plants, creating conditions for erosion."

This upsets landowners who work diligently to maintain trail systems for equestrian use. When equestrians abuse their land, landowners may close the trail and restrict equine access. So, how do equestrians help keep trails open for use? The obvious answer is not to ride on muddy trails. Another option is to design and maintain sustainable trails.

Sustainable trails, according to the Equine Land Conservation Resource, are a defined path that is resistant to erosion and causes minimal damage to the environment. One technique for designing sustainable trails is to build following the natural contour of the land.

Susan Stormer said, "A sustainable trail does not follow the fall line."

A fall line is essentially the steepest route down a hill. By staying away from the fall line, water is kept off the trail. This allows for a decrease in the potential for muddy areas to develop after heavy rainfall. Whenever possible, designing and building on a side slope is the best option.

While designing sustainable trails is important, maintaining these trails is even more important. The majority of the time, landowners are the people doing the maintenance. Relationships between equestrians and landowners play a vital role in protecting future equine access to trails. Of the total 2.3 billion acres of land in the United States, public land covers about 600 million acres, which is roughly about a third of all land. This public land is home to thousands of miles of trail systems. To keep these trail systems open for equine access, equestrians need to do their part in helping with yearly maintenance. Branches poking into the trail can cause injury to both horse and rider. If puddles

do happen to form, they need to be corrected immediately. The most sustainable action is to install knicks or rolling grade dips by carving a wide, shallow drain the same size as the puddle.

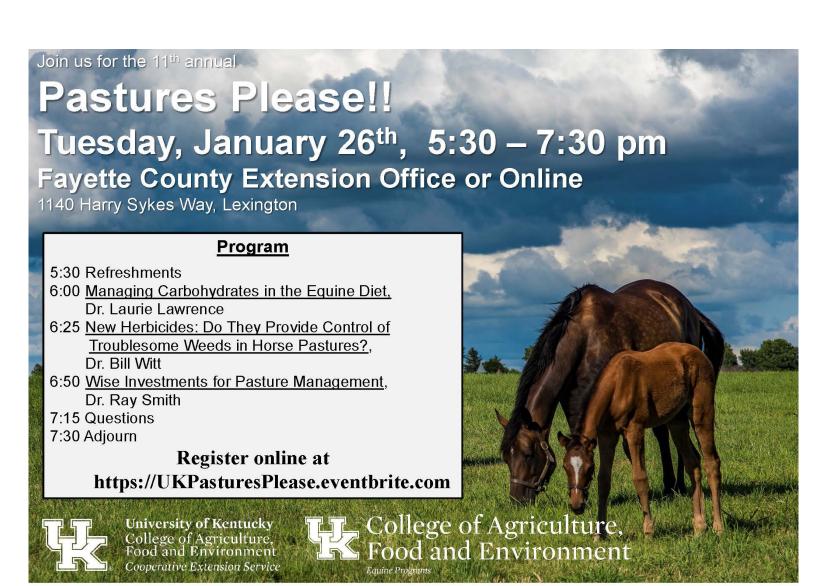
Sustainable maintenance practices such as these are the driving factors behind keeping trails open that everyone can enjoy. With a growing population of outdoor enthusiasts, equestrians are not the only ones hitting the trails. The American Hiking Society (2015) reported that approximately 35 million Americans over the age of 6 went hiking in 2013. That doesn't even include cyclists who make up another large portion of the outdoor community. Overall, multi-use trails see even more wear and tear than equine-only trails. With equestrians at the forefront of sustainable practices, landowners and park officials can rest assured that their trail systems are taken care of properly. This bodes well for the future of equine access to public and private trails.

In conclusion, equestrians can do a lot to help keep trails open for equine use. In a world where the increasing pressure of urbanization is decreasing the availability of public land, equestrians need to do their role in sustaining trail systems. By showing landowners that equestrians care about the trails they use, it fosters good relationships for the future. Implementing sustainable practices keep trails in proper conditions, especially multi-use trails. Hikers, cyclists, and equestrians all put undue pressure and stress on a trail system. Equestrians have always enjoyed trail riding. It's a way to reconnect with nature and relax. Now, after reading this, hopefully, equestrians will use their knowledge to decide whether it is a good idea to trail ride a particular day. If there is rain in the forecast or if it has rained recently, it is better to stay off the trails. All equestrians need to do their part to keep equine access to trail systems for the future.

References

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- 2. Equine Land Conservation Resource. (2013, June 11). Horses Welcomed Here: Horses on Public Land Series Part One. https://elcr.org/horses-welcomed-here-horses-on-public-lands-series-part-one2/
- 3. Stormer, S. & Balliet, D. (2013, June 11). Design, Construction, Maintenance and Proper Use Make a Difference. Equine Land Conservation Resource. http://elcr.org/sustainable-trails-for-equestrian-use/





Limited seating will be available, advanced registration is required. Masks and social distancing will be enforced.

Cooperative Extension Service Agriculture and Natural Resources Family and Consumer Sciences 4-H Youth Development

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