

April 2016

Wildcat Canter

University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs Newsletter



Wildcat Canter



UK MANRRS Wins National Honors

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Team Race Assured Finished in the Money at Idea State U Finals

The University of Kentucky's student entrepreneur team Race Assured placed fourth at the Idea State U finals competition this past weekend at the Griffin Gate Marriott in Lexington. The team of Julia Fabiani, an undergraduate in equine science and management; Stefanie Pagano, a graduate student in biomedical engineering; and Ben Martin, a graduate student in finance and agricultural economics, received \$7,500 for their win in the business plan category.



Inaugural UK Equine Nutrition Short Course to be held May 14

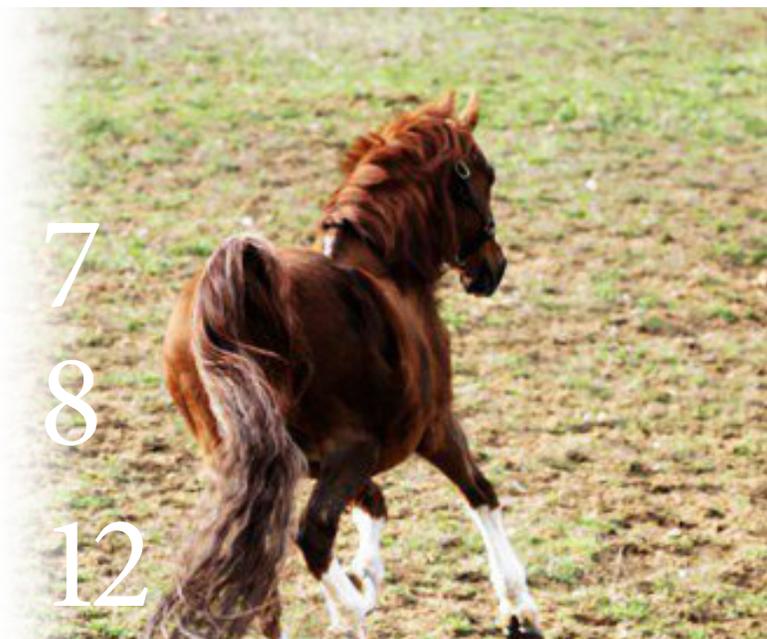
An inaugural University of Kentucky Equine Nutrition Short Course will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 14. The event is for horse owners interested in understanding how nutrition can affect their horses' health and longevity. The event is presented by UK Ag Equine Programs' equine nutrition working group within the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

Other features:

Student Professionalism Series

Program Spotlight-Elizabeth (LaBonty) James

Experience in All Aspects of the Thoroughbred Industry



Welcome

Many of you are graduating and moving on to a new adventure; the same happens to be true for me, too. (Well, at least the “moving on to a new adventure” part!) April 30, 2016, marks the end of my three-year term as Director of UK Ag Equine Programs, and I will be returning to my “normal” life as a research and teaching faculty member in the Department of Agricultural Economics. While I will miss my day-to-day involvement with the Equine Programs, I am excited about the new opportunities which lie ahead. Many of these can be directly attributed to the people I met and experiences I had while serving as the Equine Programs director.

You have new opportunities, too! Through courses you have taken, internships or jobs you have held, and people you have met, there are new doors opening. Saying goodbye is difficult, but saying hello to a new adventure is exciting and energizing. I hope you are as excited to walk through those new doors as I am.

It has been a real privilege to work with my Equine Programs colleagues. I wish each of you knew what a talented and passionate collection of individuals drive this program and want to see it be the best it can be, provide the best experience and training for the students and deliver the biggest benefit to the horse industry. I’ve learned so much from every single one of them, and I’m thankful that we will continue to be able to work together, even if under a slightly different arrangement.

I’m very optimistic about the future of the UK Ag Equine Programs. In 10 short years, the Equine Programs has made huge strides. I see the continued growth in our teaching, research and extension pillars positioning the University of Kentucky to become the global leader in equine education.

I wish all the best to our graduating seniors. Know that we are proud of you and are enthusiastic about having you become the next generation of leaders for our industry. And regardless of where you are in life, when those new doors open, keep calm and ride on!

Jill Stowe
UK Ag Equine Programs Director
April 2013-April 2016



Upcoming Events/Deadlines:

May 2
AEC 320: Ag Product Marketing and Sales
Student Presentations, 12:30-2:30 p.m.
Cameron Williams Auditorium, reception to
follow

May 8
Equine Science and Management
Graduation Reception, 12:30 p.m.
Good Barn

May 8
UK Graduation
Rupp Arena

May 14
Equine Nutrition Workshop for Horse Owners
Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and Maine
Chance Farm

May 17
Kentucky Equine Networking Association
(KENA) Meeting, 6 p.m.

May 21
Gently Used Tack Sale, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Kentucky Equine Humane Center

May 22
High Hope Steeplechase

MASTHEAD**■ Wildcat Canter Editorial Staff**

Hannah Forte, intern, contributing writer
Alexandra Harper, MBA, managing editor, contributing writer, layout
Holly Wiemers, MA, APR, senior editor, contributing writer

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UK MANRRS Wins National Honors

By Aimee Nielson

For the fourth consecutive year, the University of Kentucky MANRRS chapter was named National Chapter of the Year at the recent 31st annual conference for Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences. The chapter, housed in the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, also brought home honors for students and 4-H agents.

Quentin Tyler, assistant dean and director of the college's Office of Diversity, heaped praise on the students and advisers of the chapter. Tyler is completing his term as national MANRRS professional president May 1 and will move into the role of immediate past president, a three-year term.

"I am very proud of the strength, courage and vision of this year's group. From the beginning of the year, they had a collective goal of winning the National Chapter of the Year for the fourth consecutive time," he said. "Not only did they perform well in the classroom, they also excelled in the areas of community and campus involvement, leadership and buying into what MANRRS represents."

Tyler said businesses, government organizations and other colleges and universities took notice of the exceptional students that make up the UK MANRRS chapter.

"Despite our membership consisting of more than 40 percent freshmen, it is evident that we as a college have a strong foundation and support from our leadership that turns the dreams of our students into reality," Tyler said. "I have been fortunate to not only serve as president of an amazing organization but to see the growth of the UK MANRRS chapter. Four years of being recognized as the best chapter of 75 across 38 states is an amazing accomplishment."

Tyler and co-advisers Antomia Farrell and Natasha Saunders took more than 70 delegates to Jacksonville, Florida, for the conference. The students' written report and oral presentation to the national gathering described the chapter's membership, leadership development, community service and activities, and contained ideas for promoting the national society.

In addition to the overall chapter recognition, UK MANRRS brought home a number of individual honors. ReDell Atkinson, a senior merchandising, apparel and textile design major, placed first in the Impromptu Public Speaking Contest. Brittany Love, a junior majoring in kinesiology, placed second in the Written Essay Contest. UK MANRRS was runner up in the National MANRRS Quiz Bowl. Seven of the 20 Farm Credit MANRRS VIP Scholars were UK students: Xavia Gantz, Tiffany Harper, Fabian Leon, Carley Fort, Destiny Butler, Brian Bryson and Gloria Maldonado.

Other honors included:

Ashley Shanee, Jefferson County extension 4-H agent and graduate student, is now serving as the National MANRRS graduate student president.

Marcus Tyler, a sophomore majoring in agricultural economics, was elected to serve as the national MANRRS undergraduate president.

Kelly Moore, a senior majoring in community and leadership development, will be the new national MANRRS undergraduate past president. She is the 2015-2016 national MANRRS undergraduate president and earned the Eunice Foster Award, a distinguished award for her hard work and dedication to the national MANRRS organization.

Marcus Bernard, a doctoral student in community and leadership development, is now serving as National MANRRS graduate parliamentarian.

Tiffany Harper, a graduate student in community and leadership development, is now serving as national MANRRS region I and V graduate vice president.

Xavia Gantz, a graduate student in hospitality and tourism management, is now serving as national MANRRS region III graduate vice president.

Carley Fort, a freshman majoring in community and leadership development, won the Bayer Elevator Speech Contest and earned a summer internship with Bayer Crop Science.

For more information about UK MANRRS and the UK CAFE Office of Diversity, visit <http://diversity.ca.uky.edu/>.

UK Ag Equine Programs Recognized for Excellence at Local PRSA Awards Ceremony

By Holly Wiemers

UK Ag Equine Programs recently took home three top honors for excellence in communications from the Lexington-based Thoroughbred Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America at its annual awards luncheon April 19.

The program's two newsletters, the Bluegrass Equine Digest and the Wildcat Canter, as well as a campaign celebrating the 10th anniversary of the program, all garnered top awards.

The Bluegrass Equine Digest and the Wildcat Canter both earned "win" distinctions in the online category through a points system that awards a win, place or show based on the quality of the work submitted. Both ended up with enough points to earn the win distinction.

In the campaigns category, the program was recognized in the special events category for its 2015 campaign, "Celebrating 10 Transformative Years of Equine Education & Impact."

UK Ag Equine Programs at Rolex

By Holly Wiemers



UK Ag Equine Programs will be set up in the trade fair area of the Rolex 3 Day Event. The program's booth is on the concourse of the indoor arena, near the concession stand. Attendees are encouraged to stop by and say hi.

Additionally, for the first time, the program will be hosting an equine-alumni focused tailgating event during Saturday's cross country portion of the show. Planned and executed by equine alumni and the program office, the alumni tailgating event promises to be a fun time, rain or shine.

Ag Equine Programs' Hannah Forte UK Student of the Year Finalist

By Holly Wiemers

At a ceremony April 14, UK Ag Equine Programs' student intern, Hannah Forte, was among a prestigious group of 10 top notch students named finalists for UK Student Employee of the Year from a group of more than 50 nominees. Forte has such an important component of the program and has done some really fabulous work for the Equine Programs Office and Gluck Equine Research Center. Kudos Hannah!



Student Professionalism Series

By Elizabeth A. James

The University of Kentucky Equine Science and Management Undergraduate Degree Program strives to not only educate you about equine science, but also to prepare you for your future career. Part of this preparation includes classroom guest lectures, hands on labs, requiring an internship before you graduate, exposing you to numerous industry related careers and, most recently, we have added a series called the Student Professionalism Series to the Wildcat Canter. The Student Professionalism Series will offer insights and tips to help you effectively prepare for, find, apply to and obtain the career of your choice. This month we will discuss who you want to be this summer.

Summer

It's finally here! The sun is out, Kentucky is in full bloom, and the days are getting longer. As I write this the semester is winding down (or in some cases going out with a bang) and summer is on the horizon. I can't help but ask you, and ask myself in the process, who do you want to be this summer?

The beauty of seasons and semesters is that there is always the possibility of a fresh start right around the corner. The best advice I can give you as you invest in your future is to not let such opportunities pass you by. I would encourage you to take a walk this week or next. Go somewhere outside, by yourself, and reflect on where you have been and where you want to go before the summer just passes you by. Below are some questions that could guide your time alone to help you get all you can out of the warm months ahead.

- 1.) What have I accomplished in the last semester/year that I am proud of? What did I learn about myself in the process?
- 2.) What is something about myself I would like to change? How can go about making that change?
- 3.) What do I want to get out this summer? Is there something I would like to learn, try, experience? If so, what do I need to do that?
- 4.) Whose life can I positively impact this summer? Is there someone I can help in their career, their riding, their horsemanship or even their personal life? If so, how can I do that? If not, how do I find someone to help?
- 5.) What can I do this summer to invest in my future career? What job do I need to take, who can I job shadow and what relationships do I need to invest in to strengthen my network?
- 6.) Who do I need to surround myself with to meet my goals?

Summer isn't just about sunshine and flowers. It's a time to recharge, regroup and grow. In the months ahead, may you rest, relax and move even closer to the person you want to be and the career you want to have.



Program Spotlight- Elizabeth (LaBonty) James

By Alexandra Harper

Elizabeth James grew up in Havre, Montana.

She received her bachelor of science in animal science from the University of Nebraska. James then went on to obtain her master's in animal biology from University of California-Davis, and is currently working on her doctorate in higher education evaluation and policy from the University of Kentucky.

James is currently a lecturer and the internship coordinator for the Equine Science and Management Program. She also advises students and serves on several committees.

When asked why she decided to come to UK, James said, "If you want to do anything with horses, Lexington is the place to be. If you want to be a part of the premier equine program in the country, UK is it!"

James' favorite part about her job is the students.

"I love getting to know them, working with them, helping them and watching them succeed," James said.

Since starting her PhD, James said she feels like that is her main hobby, but she also has two horses that she loves getting to work with. James is also in the process of starting a Christian, equine mentoring program and claims she's determined to be a successful gardener.

This past month was a very special time for James, as she married Dan James April 17. A normal semester for James is quite busy, but planning a wedding on top of it definitely made for an interesting experience.

"I love married life," James said. "I'm lucky to have married the most incredible man. There is never a dull moment with him!"

The couple's next step together is to find a home and buy a farm. They're looking forward to the next chapter in their life.



Photo by Dainya Sapergia

Jill Stowe's Term as UK Ag Equine Programs Director Ends

By Holly Wiemers

Jill Stowe, UK Ag Equine Programs director and faculty member in the Department of Agricultural Economics, ends her three-year term as director of UK Ag Equine Programs April 30. She will return full-time to her faculty role in Agricultural Economics, where she teaches and conducts research.

Stowe came to UK in 2008 as an equine economist and served as part of the internal leadership of the program for several years before she became director. Since 2008, she has taught in the equine and ag econ undergraduate degree programs, advised graduate students and conducted equine economic research.

She led the 2012 Kentucky Equine Survey, the first comprehensive equine industry study done in Kentucky since 1977, which was implemented in partnership with dozens of organizational partners. The project inventoried the state's equine industry and determined the economic impact of the equine industry on Kentucky.

Stowe also serves as the faculty advisor of the UK Dressage and Eventing Team, a role she will continue. She will also continue to serve on the program's internal leadership team, a group composed of several faculty and staff members within the program, as well members representing advisory committee and graduate student roles.

Stowe took over the leadership reins of the program from Ed Squires, past executive director of the Gluck Equine Research Foundation and faculty member in the Gluck Center.

During her tenure, the program has continued to grow and expand and several new partnerships have been formed. A search has been launched for a new director, and the program is enhancing its overall leadership structure, looking to increase the director role to a full-time position and expanding the program with the addition of new people in key areas of need, including two soon-to-be-announced lecturers, an equine philanthropy officer and research program coordinator (filled by Susan Lephart). Additionally, Holly Wiemers will be assuming some of the operational roles previously held under the director's position.

Stowe was recognized at a program meeting April 22, and presented with a wooden plaque and framed picture box to commemorate her time leading the program by Rick Bennett, associate dean for research within the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

During those remarks, Bennett shared information he had received about Stowe's time as director. "Jill is the ultimate team player. She excels in building relationships and consensus. She works so well with people and is very much someone who unites them. She has been such an asset to our relationships internally and externally. She is genuinely respected and trusted. Our program is better for having had her lead it," he read.

The program thanks Stowe for her leadership and service.

Related: Stowe's welcome in this issue as well as the Wildcat Canter stories published when Stowe became director in 2013: http://equine.ca.uky.edu/sites/equine.ca.uky.edu/files/apr_2013_final.pdf



Left: Alexandra Harper presents Jill Stowe with a framed picture highlighting her time in the program. Right: Holly Wiemers presents Stowe with a custom made wood plaque listing the words program members used most to describe Stowe, designed by Ron Werner-Wilson, chair of the College's Family Sciences Department.

Equine Programs Senior College Philanthropy Officer

The University of Kentucky is seeking a Senior College Philanthropy Officer to identify, cultivate, and solicit prospects for major gifts to the Gluck Equine Foundation and all equine-related programs within the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

The ideal candidate will be a strong, collaborative person with a proven record of success in building and sustaining relationships that foster major gift giving. This position requires an individual with a broad knowledge of the equine industry, who understands person-to-person relationships, and has the ability to convincingly articulate the vision and priorities of the Gluck Foundation and College Equine Programs and match them to the interests of prospective donors. Familiarity with planned giving, charitable gift arrangements as well as demonstrated experience in marketing, philanthropic messaging and persuasive writing is also desirable.

To learn more about these exciting opportunities, please contact: Mary Beth Bracken Marybeth.bracken@uky.edu or 859-257-3348.



Equine Science and Management Alumni Profile

Morgan Pyles, '14

Graduate Research Assistant at the University of Kentucky



Where is home for you?

That is a tricky question. I spent my childhood years in central Florida. After graduating from high school, I moved with my family to Wyoming, where I began my college education at Central Wyoming College. My family still lives in Wyoming, however, my husband, son and I now live in Lexington, Ky. I guess I would consider Wyoming my home since that is where we visit on breaks and holidays.

How did you first become involved in the horse industry?

I have had horses pretty much my entire life. My mom had horses when I was born and I was on the back of a horse by the time I was 2 years old. I began riding English, however I made the switch to western at the age of 12. Although I don't have much time to ride now, I have two geldings here in Kentucky with me: Jimmy, a 16-year-old Quarter Horse and Showdown, an 8-year-old Palomino.

What were your career goals before graduation?

One of my career goals was (and still is) to obtain a faculty position in academia. I began teaching riding lessons in high school and found that I really enjoyed teaching. During my years as an undergraduate at Central Wyoming College and the University of Kentucky, I actively sought out opportunities to continue improving my instructional abilities as teaching assistant for several classes.

Where are you currently employed?

I am a Graduate Research Assistant in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences at the University of Kentucky.

What led you to this position?

I knew that I wanted to continue my education by pursuing a master's and in order to do that I needed to gain experience in equine research. Dr. Coleman, my undergraduate advisor, recommended that I talk to Dr. Ed Squires at the University of Kentucky Gluck Equine Research Center, and I then spent the summer working on a stallion study at Gluck. Through that study, I met Dr. Laurie Lawrence and an opportunity arose to study equine nutrition with her as my major advisor.

What are your current job responsibilities?

I am directly responsible for equine nutrition research studies as part of my graduate degree program. I also assist with equine nutrition studies that are a part of my fellow lab mate's graduate degrees, train and work with undergraduate students, both in the lab and on the research farm, prepare manuscripts to be published in peer-reviewed journals and present results from research studies at scientific meetings.

How are you currently involved in the horse industry?

Conducting research in equine nutrition provides an opportunity to investigate unanswered questions that will contribute to the current knowledge in the equine industry. My master's research investigated the effects of maternal diet on the colonization of the intestinal bacteria in the foal. Microbial colonization is very important in the development of the gastrointestinal tract of the foal, however little is known about the process. My research will hopefully further the current knowledge about bacterial colonization and the factors that influence this process. In the long run, I hope to improve nutrient utilization and minimize gastrointestinal upsets while maintaining optimal growth in the foal.

What advice do you have for current equine students?

Take advantage of all the opportunities in Lexington and at the University of Kentucky. Try and gain experience in many different aspects of the equine industry by finding jobs and doing internships. There are plenty of opportunities to gain experience in equine-related research, all aspects of the Thoroughbred industry, riding and training, and in many other areas. Don't limit yourself by focusing on one area, broaden your knowledge and learn as much as you can about every part of the industry.

 College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Equine Programs

Team Race Assured Finished in the Money at Idea State U Finals

By Deb Weis

Source: UKNow

The University of Kentucky's student entrepreneur team Race Assured placed fourth at the Idea State U finals competition this past weekend at the Griffin Gate Marriott in Lexington. The team of Julia Fabiani, an undergraduate in equine science and management; Stefanie Pagano, a graduate student in biomedical engineering; and Ben Martin, a graduate student in finance and agricultural economics, received \$7,500 for their win in the business plan category.

Three additional UK teams that also qualified with wins at regionals competed at finals, which included presenting their business plan or model to a panel of judges, a written proposal, marketing video, display and elevator pitch. The Kentucky Office of Entrepreneurship, part of the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development, oversees Idea State U.

The Race Assured team presented a business plan for a blood test, which can potentially predict injuries in horses well before serious problems occur. The team also won the Georgia Bowl intercollegiate entrepreneurship competition hosted by Georgia Tech.

UK Venture Challenge winner Caitlin Halliwell, a senior in equine business management and merchandising graduate Allison Burke with Serandu Custom Riding Boots, presented their plan for a customized equestrian boot using 3-D scanning.

Ultimate Angler, including pharmaceutical sciences doctoral candidate Jarrod Williams, and MBA candidates Alan Sparkman and Mike Rudy, is a website to better connect professional fishing guides with their potential clients.

Computer engineering sophomores Andrew Dharamsey and Cassady Ritter, who placed second in UK Venture Challenge, presented the Talkables smart pet collar that enables one's pet to communicate with you at strategic places throughout the home.

UK's student entrepreneur teams are mentored and coached through the UK Venture Challenge annual competition and the Venture Studio Bootcamp. Venture Challenge is part of iNET in the College of Communication and Information. Venture Studio Bootcamp is part of the Von Allmen Center for Entrepreneurship and Lexington Office of the Kentucky Innovation Network, in the Gatton College of Business and Economics.

Inaugural UK Equine Nutrition Short Course to be held May 14

By Holly Wiemers

An inaugural University of Kentucky Equine Nutrition Short Course will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 14. The event is for horse owners interested in understanding how nutrition can affect their horses' health and longevity. The event is presented by UK Ag Equine Programs' equine nutrition working group within the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

"There has been increasing interest in how feeds and feeding management affect the risk for metabolic and digestive diseases in horses. The nutrition working group has assembled a group of outstanding speakers and innovative, hands-on activities that will give horse owners practical information about desirable and undesirable feeding practices," said event organizer Laurie Lawrence, a professor and equine nutrition researcher in the college's Department of Animal and Food Sciences.

Morning session lectures, which will be held at the UK Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, 1490 Bull Lea Road, in Lexington, will be presented by UK equine faculty and graduate students as well as industry practitioners. Topics include cracking the code on nutritionally-related diseases; equine digestion—colic, ulcers and other digestive disorders; how calories, affect body weight and body condition; what's in horse feed; and horse nutrition myths and mysteries.

Afternoon labs, which will be held on UK's Maine Chance Farm, include: pasture plant identification; tapes, weights and body condition; the right feed in the right amount; pasture management; and feeding management tips and tools.

Space is limited. The cost is \$75 and includes lunch. Those interested in attending can register online at <https://UKEquineNutrition.Eventbrite.com>. Registration deadline is May 1.

Through the mission areas of a land-grant institution, UK Ag Equine Programs serves as the front door to equine in the college and represents the breadth of equine offerings at UK and the college's long-term commitment to serving the state's signature equine industry.

Experience in All Aspects of the Thoroughbred Industry

By Hannah Forte

Megan Douglass is from Columbiana County, Ohio, and chose the University of Kentucky because of its location in the Horse Capital of the World. She is currently a junior in the UK Equine Science and Management program, and has been riding horses since elementary school, actively participating in 3-day eventing, show jumping, the United States Pony Club and 4-H. Her parents owned a farm, exposing her to horses starting at a young age.

“Megan is one of the hardest working students we have. She is always wanting to learn more and experience new things,” said James. “I was very curious to find out she would want to do for her internship and couldn’t have thought of a better fit than the Maker’s Mark Secretariat Center.”

Douglass chose the Maker’s Mark Secretariat Center for her internship because of the breadth of the program. The center retrains off-the-track Thoroughbreds with many different approaches: groundwork, desensitization, riding and holistic medicine. Her duties included holding horses for the vet and farrier, working with horses on the ground and under saddle, creating updated record books and giving tours of the center.

“As a rider who has trained Thoroughbred yearlings for the track, it was a great learning experience for me to ride and retrain experienced racehorses,” Douglass said. “I wanted to work with horses at the other end of the spectrum- at the end of their racing career.”

According to Douglass, her favorite part of the internship was witnessing each horse respond differently to training methods, and the necessary adjustments to their training or maintenance that spurred from the horses’ reactions. Douglass said she learned the most about holistic medicine and how natural herbs and supplements can be used in place of traditional medicines such as pharmaceutical drugs.

After graduation, Douglass plans to continue working in the Thoroughbred industry. For her, this internship exposed her to one of the many aspects of the industry, and she hopes to work abroad after graduation to gain international Thoroughbred experience.



Bluegrass Equine Digest



Check out the April issue of the Bluegrass Equine Digest, a free, monthly electronic newsletter dedicated to providing up-to-date information on equine research from the University of Kentucky's College of Agriculture, Food and Environment in collaboration with TheHorse.com and sponsored by Zoetis. This month's stories can be found at http://www.thehorse.com/enews/bluegrass-equine-digest/PDF/BED-Apr2016.pdf?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=bluegrass-equine-digest&utm_campaign=04-24-2016.

- Kentucky Mosquitoes' Impact on Horses
- The Grass Guide: Bahiagrass
- Preventing Horse-Related Injuries to humans
- How Scientists Count Equine Parasites with a Cell Phone

Stay connected with your fellow alums. Find and join the new alumni Facebook page:
University of Kentucky Equine Alumni



CLUBS AND TEAMS DIRECTORY

DRESSAGE AND EVENTING TEAM

Advisor: Dr. Jill Stowe, jill.stowe@uky.edu
President: Elizabeth Lampert, eala229@g.uky.edu
Facebook: UK Dressage and Eventing

HORSE RACING CLUB

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President: Madison Scott, ukhorseracingclub@gmail.com
Facebook: University of Kentucky Horse Racing Club

EQUESTRIAN TEAM

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SADDLE SEAT TEAM

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Facebook: UK Saddleseat Team 2014-2015Group)

