

# Wildcat Canter

UKAg  
EQUINE

March/April 2012

UK Ag Equine Programs  
Student Newsletter

It's a busy time in the semester for everyone. I always picture spring break as being the high point of a roller coaster and we are now on the drop. Before your semester does a "loopy-loop," make sure you are buckled in and ready to enjoy the rest of this ride we call spring semester and even beyond. Here are a few things to keep in mind before you get out of the cart and begin your summer.



Are you involved in campus organizations? Does your group want to have a fundraiser or set up a table in the lobby of the building? Stop by N6 Ag Science North and let us know how we can help you market and plan your fundraiser or other event! If you have things that you want to brag about with any of your clubs, riding teams, classes, or professors, stop by N6 Ag North and let us know that too. We are always looking of ways to highlight our students, faculty and staff in and outside of the classroom.

Registration is currently going on for Fall 2012 semester. If you haven't met with your advisor yet, make sure you schedule an appointment with him or her soon. Priority Registration will be March 26-April 17, 2012 and is dependent upon how many credit hours you have earned by the end of the Fall 2011 semester. For any questions you may have about scheduling or advising, make sure you stop by the Advising Resource Center, located in N8 Ag Science North.

We are without a career contact for students in the College right now. Make sure you connect up with the Stuckert Career Center on campus for any help with resumes, internship or job searches or even working on your interview skills.

Lastly, stay connected. A recent study of employers showed that students need soft skills, including the ability to understand and use new technologies like social media. There is no better way to know what is going on in the College of Agriculture than by being connected via social media. Here are just a few places you might want to check out:

- On Facebook, like "University of Kentucky College of Agriculture," "UK College of Agriculture Academic Programs" and "Equine Initiative."
- On Twitter, make sure to follow @UKAgriculture and @UKAgStudents for all the latest information; use hashtags #UKAg or #MyUKAgStory.
- Check out the UK Ag Student blog at [www.ukagstudents.blogspot.com](http://www.ukagstudents.blogspot.com).

I hope you learned about one new resource or one new place to check out. I encourage all of you to utilize your resources to ensure your semester ride ends smooth. Let me know if you have any questions or need any advice! Go Cats!

Jason Headrick  
Director of Student Relations  
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# News and Announcements

## 2012 Career Fair

The fourth annual Equine Career Fair, co-hosted by the University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs and Georgetown College's Equine Scholars Program, was a great success. Shannon White, general manager of Fares Farm, gave an informational welcoming address and exhibitors representing more than 30 area organizations provided career information and networking opportunities.

"This year's Equine Career Fair was the best one yet," said Elizabeth LaBonty, UK lecturer and internship coordinator. "It was great to see so many students there and all of the speakers, session leaders and industry representatives were so invested. It was fantastic."



The Equine Career Fair provided students the opportunity to gain valuable insight from industry leaders about how to pursue careers in the equine industry. Participants could also talk one-on-one with local businesses to learn about internships, jobs and volunteer opportunities. This year's five interest sessions included speakers on veterinary medicine support positions, graduate school opportunities, pharmaceutical sales, breed association staffing and Thoroughbred industry jobs.

Event planning intern, Brianne Trainer, echoed the success of the event. "We had organizations from several different sectors of the equine industry in attendance to speak with students about potential career paths they may follow upon graduation. I was thrilled that so many students took this amazing opportunity to network with so many businesses from the equine industry," she said.

More than 160 college students attended the event, and in addition to those from UK, included students from Asbury University, the Kentucky Equine Management Internship program, Midway College and Morehead State University. In all, there were students from more than 25 states and two foreign countries (Canada and South Korea).

*By Chelsea Urhahn*

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## Kids Barn

On March 7, the Kentucky Horse Park hosted a grand opening of its new Kids Barn, an interactive group of displays geared for children under 13 years old. One of the park's draft horse barns was repurposed for the educational display area, with each of the 20 stalls that once housed horses now featuring educational and interactive equine displays geared to children. UK Ag Equine Programs' display, called "Exploration Station: Science and Discovery," features information about the Kentucky 4-H Horse Program, body condition scoring, hay and forages, parasites—with actual jars of worms—and how horse and human skeletons are similar. In addition, UK's partnership program, Saddle Up Safely, is an educational resident, and offers interactive education on horse riding safety.



# Animal and Food Sciences Association 2012 Poster Symposium

The Animal and Food Sciences Graduate Association is hosting a Poster Symposium on April 26 at the E. S. Good Barn from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free lunch will be provided for all who attend.

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## Equine Science Class Visits KER

Equine science students from the University of Kentucky recently visited Kentucky Equine Research (KER). The tour was scheduled to enrich the study of equine exercise physiology included in a class taught by Kristine Urschel, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences.

Eileen Phethean, business manager at KER, led the tour and explained the use of the high-speed equine treadmill and heart monitor in studies of exercise physiology and nutrition research. Thoroughbred gelding "Pi" was used to demonstrate treadmill exercise.

*Source: KER*

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## Leadership Straight From the Horse's Mouth

Local leaders in various aspects of the equine industry will examine how the horse influenced their personal leadership development and career paths during a public panel discussion Tuesday, April 17 in the University of Kentucky Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory auditorium.

Hosted by the Center for Leadership Development in the UK College of Agriculture, the evening's activities will start at 6:30 p.m. EDT with a panelist reception. Discussion will begin at 7 p.m. and feature Avo Kiviranna, chair of Midway College's Equine Studies Division and horse training professional; Harold Rainwater, founder and director of the equine program at Asbury College and mayor of Wilmore; Ed Squires, director of UK Ag Equine Programs; Sara Tracy, community liaison for Locust Trace AgriScience Farm; and Patricia Cooksey, director of public relations for the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission and first female jockey to win a stakes race at Churchill Downs.

The Center for Leadership Development, under the direction of Professor Tricia Dyk, currently facilitates Equine Guided Leadership Education workshops for both students and the public, during which they explore ways horses teach people leadership competencies.

"We hope these leaders' stories will inspire students who are interested in careers in the horse industry," said Lissa Pohl, program and outreach associate for The Center for Leadership Development.

The event is sponsored by the W. Norris Duvall Leadership Education Fund, whose mission is to support the leadership development of young college and college-bound students by exposing them to community leaders who exemplify character and values.

There is no fee to attend, and parking is available at the event. The UK Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory is located at 1490 Bull Lea Road, off Newtown Pike in Lexington. For more information, contact Pohl,

# HORSES

## a comprehensive study

THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 320,000 HORSES IN KENTUCKY.

*Or are there?*

HORSES GENERATE APPROXIMATELY \$3.5 BILLION FOR KENTUCKY'S ECONOMY EACH YEAR.

*We think.*

HORSES ARE ONE OF THE VERY CORNERSTONES OF OUR CULTURE.

*But our industry faces many challenges, and we must have better tools for making decisions.*

The University of Kentucky's Ag Equine Programs (formerly the Equine Initiative) and the Kentucky Horse Council, in conjunction with the University of Louisville's Equine Business Program and the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), will conduct a comprehensive study of all breeds of horses across Kentucky.

**The surveys will be mailed in July 2012.**

*From this study, we will be able to:*

- Describe the economic impact of the equine industry in the state
- Quantify the number of horses in the state at the county level
- Provide information for new and existing businesses
- Provide better information to help design and implement equine programs benefitting the state
- Establish a benchmark that will enable the industry to nimbly adapt to changing market conditions
- Provide better assessment of disease incidence and surveillance
- Provide useful data for elected officials

Kentucky is known as the Horse Capital of the World, yet the Commonwealth lacks fundamental information about its signature industry. The last rigorous equine study was conducted in 1977.

You are Kentucky's equine industry, and your input is vital.

# Kentucky Equine Survey

BEGINNING JULY 2012

## HOW YOU CAN HELP:

**If you get a survey this summer, fill it out and send it back.** Each and every response, and each and every horse, matters.

With everyone's help and participation, we will know by early 2013 how many horses there are in Kentucky, by breed, use and county, and what the overall economic impact is to the Commonwealth.

This information will be used to strengthen the industry, inform strategic planning and provide a benchmark for Kentucky's agricultural economy and its signature industry.

**THIS IS A BIG PROJECT** that requires many resources. Several industry organizations and individuals have contributed time, money, information, and expertise to making this happen. Their support has been instrumental to the project's progression. A current list of contributors can be found on the project website.



TO FIND OUT MORE OR CONTACT US:

<http://www2.ca.uky.edu/equine/kyequinesurvey>

[equine@uky.edu](mailto:equine@uky.edu)

(859) 257-7272, Ext. 271



## Experience. Experience. Experience.

There are more than 50 equine-related higher education programs in the United States and they graduate, on average, more than 500 students each year. Meanwhile, the horse industry employs more than 460,000 full time equivalent employees annually. So what does that mean for you and your education? Why is the University of Kentucky the best place to come for an Equine Science and Management education and what can you do to make yourself stand out among graduates? The answer to all of these questions is the same. Experience, experience, experience.



The UK EQSM program is unlike any other program in the country. With six equine-focused faculty, two degree options, more than 10 equine specific courses and Maine Chance Equine Campus just down the road, our program is designed to offer students both knowledge and experience. From the moment you enroll in the program, you are assigned a faculty advisor to help plan your coursework, discuss career opportunities and aid in your overall academic success. We also offer two equine career related courses, including Introduction to Equine Careers , where students are exposed to more than 30 industry careers, and Equine Career Prep where students learn to write cover letters and resumes, participate in service-learning projects, create application portfolios, study networking and job search tips and ultimately complete mock interviews with industry professionals.

UK Ag Equine Programs also hosts an annual Equine Career Fair and Distinguished Lecture Series. The Equine Career Fair is an opportunity for students to learn from industry leaders about how to succeed and to interact with more than 30 local businesses that offer volunteer, internship, part time and full-time opportunities. The Distinguished Lecture Series is held annually to highlight the career achievements of prestigious individuals and also for these speakers to share their advice with the next generation of horsemen and women. With all of these investments in your success, your only responsibility is to take advantage of them. Introduce yourself to your professors, communicate regularly with your advisor, actively engage in your courses, attend the extra events and take advantage of the numerous opportunities UK offers to help prepare you for your career.

The UK equine experience extends beyond the classroom as well. The EQSM degree requires you to take a 3-credit internship during your junior or senior year. But there are also many other ways you can extend your education from the classroom to the industry. From the time you declare EQSM as your major, you will be added to a list serve that periodically sends you volunteer and internship opportunities as well as part time, seasonal, and full-time job openings. Beginning the first day of your freshman year, you can start building your resume and gaining hands-on experience by taking advantages of these unique opportunities. For those of you with an international interest, faculty regularly take study abroad trips and the UK Study Abroad office is available to help coordinate a semester abroad experience if you are interested.

Believe it or not, the opportunities available to you don't stop there. There are numerous other ways for you to get involved, interact with your classmates and develop your leadership skills. UK Ag Equine Programs supports six equine-related clubs and teams, including Equestrian, Polo, Saddle Seat, Dressage and Eventing teams and Horse Racing, and the Research in Equine and Agricultural Disciplines club. There is an Equine Fall Kick-off barbeque held each fall for you get to know your classmates better, interact with the faculty and learn more about how to get involved in the clubs and teams. Of course, UK is located in Lexington, Ky., the Horse Capital of the World, so your opportunities in the industry include the Department of Veterinary Science Lecture Series, Kentucky Equine Networking Association

*continued...*

meetings, Kentucky Thoroughbred Farm Managers Club meetings, Woodford Equine Hospital lecture series, Alltech News and Brews, Kentucky Horse Park events, Keeneland sales and race meets, Fasig-Tipton sales, Rolex 3 Day Event, National Horse Show, local horse shows and much more.

The equine-related opportunities in Lexington, and through the University of Kentucky Equine Science and Management Program are unrivaled. However, it is your responsibility to capitalize on them. Spend your time at UK acquiring classroom knowledge, gaining industry experience, exploring networking and leadership opportunities and in the end you will be glad you did. You will stand out among your peers the same way UK does.

*By Elizabeth LaBonty, Lecturer and Equine Internship Coordinator*

### Semester Academic Calendar

#### April

April 27- Last day of classes  
April 30- May 4- Final Examinations

#### May

May 4- End of 2012 Spring Semester  
May 6- Commencement

### Upcoming Events

#### April

April 26-29- Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event

#### May

May 31- 4th Annual Farm and Facilities Expo

## Like us on Facebook!

The University of Kentucky's College of Agriculture has several equine-related Facebook pages that present the latest news and events information. Stay up-to-date with UK's horsey happenings by following their activities on these pages:



- UK Ag Equine Programs
- Gluck Equine Research Center
- Saddle Up Safely



UK Ag Equine Programs presents

# 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Equine Farm & Facilities Expo



Thursday, May 31, 2012

4 - 8 p.m.

MEAL PROVIDED

## Margaux Farm, LLC

596 Moores Mill Rd.

Midway, Kentucky 40347

**Wagon tours of the farm** 4 - 5:30 p.m.

**Field demonstrations** 6 - 8 p.m.

THE EXPO WILL HIGHLIGHT COMPANIES throughout the central bluegrass displaying equine equipment and supplies as well as a variety of informational booths staffed by UK specialists.



*Margaux Farm, LLC, is a leading Thoroughbred breeding operation focused on producing sound and durable top-quality racehorses. Margaux Farm stands several stallions, including five-time Grade 1 Winner Devil His Due. It is managed by 2001 Kentucky Thoroughbred Farm Managers' Club President and 2003 Farm Manager of the Year Steve Johnson.*



### DIRECTIONS from Lexington



- Take Leestown Rd. North
- 6.6 miles past Masterson Station Park, turn right on Moores Mill Road
- Follow the signs to the farm

### UK demonstrations

- Selecting the Right Feed — DR. LAURIE LAWRENCE
- Tall Fescue: Friend or Foe — DR. RAY SMITH
- Muck Management and Herbicides —  
DR. BILL WITT AND DR. J.D. GREEN
- Field Renovation Options: Round-up Ready Alfalfa®,  
Teff and Others — DR. GARRY LACEFIELD

**RSVP** appreciated to  
Woodford County Extension Office  
(859) 873-4601  
dL\_CES\_woodford@email.uky.edu



Educational programs of the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability, or national origin.



# Internships

## Texas Cowgirl Takes Internship to Learn About Breed Registries



Grace Caldwell, an Equine Science and Management senior from San Antonio, Texas, learned how breed registries work through her internship at the Paso Fino Horse Association (PFHA). Through the PFHA, Caldwell had the unique opportunity to communicate with horse owners from all over the world.

The PFHA, located in the National Horse Center at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, Ky., is the official breed registry for Paso Fino horses in the United States, South America, Central America, Canada and Europe.

“The PFHA offers a unique internship that combines work in a large breed association and a small, close knit office setting,” said internship coordinator, Elizabeth LaBonty.

“I chose to do my internship at the PFHA because I was interested in getting experience in the office of a large horse organization,” Caldwell said.

Caldwell was supervised by Shanon Hawkins while on internship, who works in the department of membership services as registrar.

Hawkins said, “Being a small organization, each member of the staff takes on a variety of responsibilities to keep the office running smoothly. Having an intern allowed us to distribute tasks more evenly and everyone became more specialized in their duties. Interns also provide new ideas and techniques for completing tasks that can be utilized to benefit the organization.”

One of Caldwell’s favorite things about her internship was talking to members and helping them solve problems.

“It was interesting to learn the techniques for different places and it was also interesting how viewpoints changed according to location,” Caldwell said.

The PFHA wants each of their interns to gain real world knowledge of working for a breed registry. The PFHA’s interns often have to work directly with members, which they believe is a people skill that can transfer anywhere.

“Grace was not afraid of any task we gave her. She was willing to jump into the mix and help both the staff and the PFHA members. Grace’s punctuality, effective writing skills and ability to follow instruction also helped make her a wonderful intern,” Hawkins said.

After graduation, Caldwell plans to continue using skills gained on her internship.

“I am undecided as to what kind of company I would like to work for, but I am positive that I want to work in the office of a company that is working to unite the horse industry overall,” Caldwell said.

# Internship Teaches Student about Rider Biomechanics at the Pennsylvania Horse Expo



Brynn Jones, a freshman from Wilmington Del., recently completed an internship at the Pennsylvania World Horse Expo. Jones had the unique experience of interning under Colleen Kelly, who specializes in rider biomechanics.

Kelly is world-renowned for her seminars in rider biomechanics and this internship allowed Jones to learn Kelly's methods in order to teach people from all sectors from the equine industry about biomechanics.

"This was one of those amazing opportunities that came across my desk and I never thought I'd be able to find a student willing to travel to Pennsylvania in the middle of the semester to take advantage of it," said Internship Coordinator, Elizabeth LaBonty, "which is why I was so impressed with Brynn and her ambition when she was interested. Brynn proved that great experiences are out there for those willing to go the extra mile."

"Learning about biomechanics was a new thing for me and applying the science to the rider was a great experience. For example, I learned that I am 15 pounds heavier on my right side and that is why I tend to drift to the right down the centerline in my dressage tests," Jones said.

With the knowledge that Jones learned from Kelly, Jones was able to teach attendees of the Pennsylvania World Horse Expo about how balance affects their horse riding abilities, and how to improve rider balance.

During her internship, Jones was able to attend presentations given by event riders Erik Dierks, Stuart Pittman and Jimmy Wofford who talked about topics like indoor cross country and how to retrain off the track Thoroughbreds.

"My favorite part of my internship was traveling. I loved being able to get on a plane and travel to do something I love. I also enjoyed the Horse Expo as a whole. There were so many demonstrations and vendors along with learning from my internship," Jones said.

Jones has been riding horses since she was just 7 years old and currently competes in the sport of eventing, and hopes to one day open a barn for training both event horses and race horses

"I think this internship helped to prepare me for my future because it gave me a different perspective on ways you can teach the rider to correct their position and aids. Doing this internship allowed me to be certified in Rider Biomechanics so that I can help others fix their positions and understand the fundamentals behind correct position and incorrect position," Jones said.

When it came to choosing a major, Jones knew that a career in the horse industry was the only one for her. Jones decided on the University of Kentucky's Equine Science and Management degree because of the large number of equine activities in Lexington and the surrounding areas.

Jones said, "I have had the opportunity to learn about so many different fields in the industry, and I have had so many experience I wouldn't have had back at home. Kentucky has allowed me to branch out and attend events such as the Breeders' Cup so that I could gain first-hand knowledge of the industry and what it takes to be successful."

## **Kentucky 4-H Horse Program Prepares for Another Fun-filled Year with New Opportunities**

The 4-H Horse Program in Kentucky is in many ways similar to 4-H program in other states. We annually host a State Judging Contest, State Knowledge Contest and State Horse Show to prepare and qualify the top teams and individuals to go on to compete at Southern Regionals, Quarter Horse Congress and Eastern Nationals. Some of the things not usually seen by the general public are the hours of practice that go into preparing for these events. The Horse Extension team at the University of Kentucky is always trying to think of more ways to better prepare the youth as well as the leaders so that they can put forth their best performance when the competition rolls around.

The goal of the KY 4-H Horse Program is to not only help the youth be successful at state and national competitions, but to develop leadership, initiative, self-reliance, sportsmanship, as well as become a well-rounded horseman. The hope is that the kids who go through the program not only have the ability to ride in a show, but also understand the proper way to care for a horse, be safe around a horse and be able to learn positive life lessons from an activity they are passionate about.

In an effort to continue to offer educational opportunities to 4-H participants, we presented a Judging Clinic for youth and adults for the first time this spring. This clinic was designed to teach methods on how to approach judging contests, learn the differences in disciplines and breeds of horses and their desirable traits displayed in different classes and to learn what a judge expects when they are the one riding in a show. Speakers were professional judges and trainers in saddle seat, Tennessee Walkers, western judged competitions and hunt seat. More than 150 people attended this event at the Fayette County Extension office, proving that this was a much needed element to our educational program. This will definitely become an annual event!

Another new item to the ongoing list of events for the 4-H Horse Program is the first ever grooming contest that was held March 31st at the Kentucky Horse Park. 4-H teamed up with the Horse Park to offer a competition where teams of three took a written test on grooming and safety, were assigned a horse owned by the horse park, had 30 minutes to groom the horse in the Alltech Arena and then performed a showmanship pattern with the horse. Teams were judged on safety, team work and overall appearance of the horse. We were extremely excited about this contest because it was yet another opportunity for youth who are interested in horses to interact and learn about the animals without the requirement of them owning a horse themselves.

University of Kentucky Equine Extension personnel are continually molding the program in order to keep the focus on education. Our new programs this year have been a hit so far, and we look forward to finding more ways we can engage youth in activities that broaden their horizons and enhance their horsemanship skills.

If you are interested in volunteering with the 4-H Horse Program please contact:

Amy Lawyer  
Equine Extension Associate  
615 Garrigus Bldg.  
University of Kentucky  
Lexington, KY 40546  
[amy.lawyer@uky.edu](mailto:amy.lawyer@uky.edu)

# How to Plan an Event

Planning a first class event with an attendance of about 125-150 people takes more effort than one might think. The planning and preparation that goes on behind the scenes requires a good team effort from all. At the Horse Racing Club's first meeting of the year in January, we sit down and divide up the event planning by giving each officer a committee or two to lead. These committees include: Speakers, PR/Advertising, Event Planning, Silent Auction, Sponsorship and Charity. This year, we had difficulty setting a date as this upcoming April had other activities we needed to plan around such as the NCAA men's basketball tournament, horse sales and other organization meetings.

This is the first year that our spring panel event, "Inside Horse Racing," will be held at a venue off campus. This year will mark the fourth year of hosting this event. The first two years hosted trainers and the third year had a Kentucky Derby theme, opening the event up to not only trainers, but owners, jockeys and breeders as well. This year we chose a Triple Crown theme to celebrate the victorious quest of the three race series of the Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont Stakes. After working with different schedules we finally have a panel of four committed speakers that include Darley's president Jimmy Bell, Triple Crown winning Jockey Jean Cruquet, Team Valor's Barry Irwin and horse trainer Dale Romans.

As a way for the club to give back to an industry that gives so much to its members, we choose a Thoroughbred industry charity to share the evening's profits with. This year's charity is the Permanently Disabled Jockey's Fund. We chose this charity because we wanted to highlight the jockeys who are one of the biggest ambassadors of our sport. This evening will sure be a night no student, industry member or race fan will want to miss. For more information about the event, email club president Natalie Heitz at [nmheit2@uky.edu](mailto:nmheit2@uky.edu) or visit the Horse Racing Club's Facebook page.

Main points to planning a successful event:

- Set a date
- Find a location
- Get speakers
  - Factor to deal with: schedules/will they be in Lexington?
  - Keep in contact throughout the time they committed to the date of the event to ensure they will show up
  - Have a possible back-up in mind
  - Send the question list so they can prepare
- Start promotion
  - Press release
  - Flyers/posters
  - Verbal announcements
  - Send out invitations
- Get sponsors
  - Send out letters
- Collect Silent Auction items
- Event planning
- Set a menu
- Floor plan set (tables and tablecloths)
- Order flowers
- Converse with the emcee on questions to ask
- Make the intro video
- Get volunteers
- Make a guest list
  - Set up brochures from sponsors
  - Stay within a budget

## UK Horse Racing Club Hosts: “Inside Horse Racing: The Road to the Triple Crown”

The University of Kentucky’s Horse Racing Club will host a panel featuring leaders within Thoroughbred horse racing April 17 at Fasig Tipton in Lexington. The event, “Inside Horse Racing: The Road to the Triple Crown,” will begin at 6 p.m.

Confirmed speakers for the panel-style event include Jimmy Bell, president of Darley USA; jockey Jean Cruguet; Thoroughbred owner Barry Irwin and trainer Dale Romans. Horse Racing Radio Network’s Mike Penna will serve as master of ceremonies.

There will be a silent auction benefitting the Permanently Disabled Jockeys Fund. Appetizers and beverages will be served. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$10 for the general public.

Event sponsors include Churchill Downs, Kentucky Thoroughbred Farm Managers’ Club, UK Student Government Association, The Breeders’ Cup, Fasig Tipton, Thoroughbred Daily News, Horse Racing Radio Network, Kentucky Equine Education Project, Kentucky Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders, and UK Ag Equine Programs’ Rood and Riddle Fund.

On-site parking is free. Questions can be directed to the club at [ukhorseracingclub@gmail.com](mailto:ukhorseracingclub@gmail.com) or public relations representative Marshall Blevins at [marshallblevins@gmail.com](mailto:marshallblevins@gmail.com).

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### Horse Profile: Dressage Team’s Beloved Whiskey

The University of Kentucky Dressage Team rides at Jenny Joyce’s Sycamore Ridge Farm, in Paris, Ky. Many of Joyce’s students this year have been taught by the infamous Whiskey who has earned himself a permanent home in the hearts of everyone on the team.



Whiskey became a member of the team through Equine Internship Coordinator and Lecturer Elizabeth LaBonty. LaBonty had used him for working cattle and western disciplines, but after riding him a few times, Coach Joyce decided he would be a great tool for teaching students about balance and steady contact.

Whiskey is very sensitive to body position, so all who ride him have learned to keep better posture in the saddle. His tendency is to stop and back-up if the rider leans forward because of his western background, but the moment you sit up tall he will move forward freely into a nice frame. He rewards you for doing the right things and instantly reminds you when you are

**13** doing something wrong, and he is tolerant of all riders.

*more...*

*continued...*

Whiskey has been an asset to the team since the very beginning. Early in the semester I was approached by a freshman that had never ridden a horse in her life, but was very interested in learning to ride dressage. The team is open to all students at the University no matter what their level of experience and we were excited to get a new face into the equestrian sport. Sydney Fulkerson began taking weekly lessons with Coach Joyce, riding Whiskey each time. Whiskey took care of her, as she was learning not only how to steer and get the horse to move off her leg, but how to tack-up and groom.

“Whiskey is very sensitive and tolerant. He always knows when I am tense to try something and if I do something wrong he will stop and let me try again,” Fulkerson said.

Not only does Whiskey help beginner riders learn the basics, he also placed first at UK’s IDA show on March 4 at Sycamore Ridge Farm. Jen Davis rode Whiskey in the last ride of the day in the Introductory level and won with a 72.2%, which also made her high point rider for the day.

Whiskey will continue to be cherished by all members of the UK Dressage Team and we appreciate having the opportunity to learn from him!

*By Jen Brogie*

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## Clubs and Teams

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### UK Dressage & Eventing Team



The UK Dressage team hosted a show at Sycamore Ridge Farm on March 4 where UK rider Jen Davis won high point individual. The team sent two teams to an Intercollegiate Dressage Show at the University of Miami in Ohio on March 24 and 25. Ana Montalvo finished second place riding First Level, Lauren Hansen finished second place riding Upper Training, Jen Davis earned second and fourth place in Intro Level, and Lexi Szmanda won third place in Intro Level. The team finished fourth overall at the University of Miami Ohio IDA show.

The UK Dressage team placed third in the region this year. Jen Davis finished in second place in the Intro Level and Lexi Szmanda won third place. Jen Brogie won third in the region in the Lower Training division. The team looks forward to having another successful year!

The Eventing helped host a clinic with international event rider Eric Dierks March 30 to April 1. Dierks has many outstanding accomplishments under his belt including being chosen as winner of the 2012 Retired Racehorse Trainer Challenge, serving on the United State Pony Club’s board of governors, achieving his “A” rating from the United States Pony Club, serving as coach and selector to the Area IV Young Rider Event Team, and being long listed for both the 2002 World Equestrian Games and the 2004 Olympic Games.

# Equestrian Team

The UK Hunt Seat Team competed in Zones on March 31 at Morehead State University. Nationals will be held May 3-6 in Raleigh, N.C., where the team plans to send a team and individuals to represent UK.

Equestrian team members who have qualified for Zones include:

Jessica Browne  
Becca Ellington  
Brianna Goodnow  
Austin Killebrew  
Doug Masters  
Lauren Patterson  
Holly Ray  
Stephanie Rowney  
Meghan Shader  
Kevin Sipes

The team will be selling t-shirts at the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event held April 26-29 at the Kentucky Horse Park, so be sure to check out their booth at the Trade Fair located in the Covered Arena.

The UK Western Team had five riders competing in a show at the University of Findlay on March 23. Evin Torney and Allie Board competed in the advanced division, Kevin Sipes rode in the novice division, and Fallon Jackson and Taylor Stewart rode in the intermediate division.

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## Horse Racing Club

The UK Horse Racing Club toured WinStar farm on Saturday, March 24. The club held elections at their March 29 meeting in the William T. Young Library Gallery. The club is also hosting its spring panel event, Inside Horse Racing: The Road to the Triple Crown, on April 17.

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## Polo Team

The UK Polo Team hosted regionals against the University of Virginia and the University of Michigan on March 31 and April 1.

The Varsity Women's team recently competed in a tournament in Atlanta and won. The UK Polo pony Tamara won best playing pony and Posey Obrecht won most valuable player.

The Junior Varsity Women's team traveled to the University of Southern California and won all of their games. They also traveled to Culver Academy and the University of Michigan and won all of their games. The Varsity Men's team traveled to Cornell and won 16-15 in a very tough match. This was their first time beating Cornell! The team also traveled to the University of Connecticut and played two very fast and rough games.

Be sure to follow "U of Kentucky Polo" on Facebook for updates and information about the team!

## Research in Equine and Agricultural Disciplines

The Research in Agricultural Disciplines (READ) club has several activities planned for the next month. On March 30 at 2 p.m., the club toured the UK Gluck Equine Research Center with Dr. Ed Squires. On April 5 at 7 p.m., there was a meeting to elect officers for the 2012-2013 school year. On April 14 at 10 a.m., the club toured the Kentucky Equine Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation Center (KESMARC), and on April 21 at 10 a.m., the club has tentative plans to tour Kentucky Equine Research (KER). Stay tuned for more updates from the READ club.

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### Saddle Seat Team

The UK Saddle Seat Team had a great show on April 1 at Hodge Arena in Versailles, Ky. The UK Saddle Seat team members won several ribbons including High Point Rider, Reserve High Point Rider and High Point Team. The team also congratulated seniors Erica Salley, Renu Ramesh and Aimee Griggs and thanked them for their time spent with the team.

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## Bluegrass Equine Digest

The Bluegrass Equine Digest is a free, monthly electronic newsletter dedicated to providing up-to-date information on equine research from the University of Kentucky's College of Agriculture.

The Bluegrass Equine Digest brings together several entities, as content is provided by the Gluck Equine Research Center and University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs and the e-newsletter is brought to you by TheHorse.com and sponsored by Pfizer Animal Health.

It features equine news, tips and research findings from UK's College of Agriculture, including the Gluck Equine Research Center, the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and a wide range of departments at UK that conduct equine research.

Visit [www.thehorse.com/enewsletter/register.aspx](http://www.thehorse.com/enewsletter/register.aspx) to sign up!



## BLUEGRASS EQUINE DIGEST

A free monthly online newsletter with the latest research and practical, use-it-today advice from the University of Kentucky's Gluck Equine Research Center and the Equine Initiative.

*Sign-up at:*

[www.thehorse.com/enewsletter/register.aspx](http://www.thehorse.com/enewsletter/register.aspx)



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