

AUGUST 2022
EDITION

WILDCAT CANTER

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY AG EQUINE PROGRAMS NEWSLETTER

UK Ag Equine Programs welcomed a record freshman class for Fall 2022. We are excited to welcome 102 new freshman to the program!

More than 200 equine students, faculty, staff and alumni gathered at the University of Kentucky E.S. Good Barn for UK Ag Equine Programs' Annual Welcome Back BBQ Aug. 25.

The University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment will welcome all Kentucky college students with equine and distillation, wine and brewing career aspirations to the Kentucky Signature Industries Career Fair Sept. 29.



HIGHLIGHTS

EQUINE STUDENTS WELCOME BBQ FEATURES FOOD AND FUN

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URSCHEL RECOGNIZED FOR HER SERVICE AS DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

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To kick off the fall semester, UK Ag Equine Programs will again host a Welcome Back BBQ on Aug. 25 at the E.S. Good Barn from 5-7 p.m. This year, the event will include the opportunity for equine clubs and teams to be represented and interact with new students.



EXPERIENCE EQUINE DAY OCT. 21

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Experience Equine Day is back again and scheduled for Oct. 21. The day provides informational sessions about UK's equine major, as well as a visit to UK's Maine Chance Equine Campus and equine industry tours. Space is limited and spots will fill quickly.



UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DEADLINES

September 29, Kentucky Signature Industries Career Fair

October 2-8, UK Equine Week of Service

October 5-8, UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Round Up

December 6, Equine Science and Management Internship Showcase

December 16, UK Last Day of the Semester, Graduation Open House, UK Commencement

Full event listings and details can be found [here](#).

WELCOME

Hello Everyone!

I cannot believe its fall already, I had a great summer and I hope each of you did as well. I am thrilled to welcome all of you to campus. Whether you are a new or returning student, my hope is we all have a fun and amazing semester.

If we have not had the opportunity to meet on campus, in Ag North or at orientation, I would like to extend this greeting and introduce myself by sharing a little a bit of information about me and what I do for the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. I moved with my family from California to Kentucky in May 2021 to serve as the Assistant Dean of Advising for the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. My family and I sincerely enjoy the city of Lexington and love finding new things and places to explore. Please feel free to reach out and share with me any cool, fun and exciting places my family and I should visit in or around Lexington. I have two amazing daughters, Isabelle and Nadia. Isabelle is in 6th grade and Nadia is in 1st grade, and they both love all things basketball, Disney and reading. You may see these two beauties tag-along with me at university events, as they are now big UK fans.

As the Assistant of Advising for the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, I assist students, staff and faculty with all things advising related for the college. I consider myself a dedicated professional with a wealth of experience and knowledge within the higher education system, serving underrepresented minority students, first generation college students as well as both traditional and nontraditional student populations. I am very passionate about my work and strive to serve as a strong voice and positive change agent for students, staff and faculty. As the first woman in my family to complete a bachelor's degree, master's degree and doctoral coursework, I understand how very powerful the college experience and a college education can be in changing the lives of individuals, families and communities. My mentor (academic advisor) is one of many individuals that helped guide me towards my success. My advising experiences is one of the reasons I have committed my professional career to building, supporting and creating positive advising environments for students to thrive socially, academically and professionally.

I hope you will reach out to share with me your advising experiences and most of all I hope each of you will have a wonderful fall semester.



SARAH ELLISON

ASSISTANT DEAN OF ADVISING
CENTER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD
AND ENVIRONMENT



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RECORD NUMBER OF FRESHMEN FOR FALL 2022

UK Ag Equine Programs has a record freshman class for Fall 2022. We are excited to welcome 102 new freshman to the program!



EQUINE STUDENTS WELCOME BBQ FEATURES FOOD AND FUN

By Claudia Harding

Photos by Stephen Patton, UK Rodeo Team, Dr. James MacLeod and Erin DesNoyers

More than 200 equine students, faculty, staff and alumni gathered at the University of Kentucky E.S. Good Barn for UK Ag Equine Programs' Annual Welcome Back BBQ Aug. 25. Attendees were met with games, an equine clubs and teams meet and greet and burgers and hot dogs fresh off the grill, manned as it is each year by Bob Coleman, associate professor in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences.

Students had the opportunity to engage with the UK Eventing Team, UK Equestrian Team (both western and hunt seat), UK Polo Team, UK Rodeo Team and Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANNRS). The first 100 attendees received UK Ag Equine swag and all attendees were entered into a raffle for a free equine t-shirt.

Members of the Wildcat Wrangler equine student ambassador team supported the event with setup and tear down as well as by keeping the fun going with bouncy horse activities, corn hole and door prize drawings.

"The Equine Welcome Back BBQ is an awesome way to kick off the fall semester and introduce our new students to our UK equine community. It's personally one of my favorite events to connect everyone, including alums from our program that come back to visit," said Kristen Wilson, academic coordinator, and Wildcat Wrangler advisor.



KENTUCKY SIGNATURE INDUSTRIES CAREER FAIR HIGHLIGHTS OPPORTUNITIES IN EQUINE AND DISTILLATION FIELDS

By Holly Wiemers



The University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment will welcome all Kentucky college students with equine and distillation, wine and brewing career aspirations to the Kentucky Signature Industries Career Fair Sept. 29.

UK Ag Equine Programs, which has hosted an annual equine career fair for more than a decade, is teaming up this year with the James B. Bean Institute for Kentucky Spirits to jointly host the event in the UK Gatton Student Center 4-7 p.m. EDT. The career fair will expose future industry professionals to internships, part-time and full-time jobs and volunteer opportunities. The fair is also an opportunity for employers who don't currently have job openings to raise awareness about career and involvement possibilities in all areas of the equine and bourbon industries.

The event is also useful for students interested in related areas such as finance, hospitality, supply chain, engineering, accounting, tourism, communication and more. Last year's Equine Career and Opportunity Fair drew more than 170 current and future college students from 11 different academic programs. More than 35 employers and 80 recruiters shared job, internship, volunteer and networking opportunities. Organizers are expecting this year's joint event to reach even more people.

"The career fair is a chance for our students to explore the diverse opportunities within the equine industry," said Savannah Robin, equine internship coordinator and event co-organizer. "We are so thankful to have the support of our industry partners and equine employers helping to grow our equine professionals."

The impact of both industries on the state is significant. Kentucky is home to 242,400 horses, according to most recent Kentucky Equine Survey. There are approximately 35,000 equine operations in Kentucky, creating more than 40,665 jobs and contributing approximately \$134 million in annual tax revenue. The bourbon industry generates more than 22,500 jobs and the annual payroll tops \$1.23 billion. The impact goes further with more than \$286 million in annual tax revenue in the commonwealth attributed to bourbon.

“The University of Kentucky and the James B. Beam Institute for Kentucky Spirits are committed to educating and developing the state’s workforce. This starts with our students and recent alumni. Connecting students with the distilling industry early will accelerate economic opportunities for them and build a talent pipeline for Kentucky’s \$9 billion signature industry,” said Seth DeBolt, director of the Beam Institute and the Distillation, Wine and Brewing Studies undergraduate certificate program.

Thanks to the generous support of the Kentucky Thoroughbred Association and Kentucky Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders, as well as the Kentucky Equine Education Project, all registration costs for equine employers have been discounted. Similarly, the Kentucky Distillers’ Association has helped underwrite the cost for employers in the distilling, wine and brewing industries.

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

THIRD ANNUAL EQUINE WEEK OF SERVICE SET



BENEFITING:
 Blue Grass Farms Charities
 Central Kentucky Riding for Hope
 Justin’s Place
 Kentucky Horse Park
 KHP Mounted Police
 Our Mims Retirement Haven
 Secretariat Center

UK EQUINE WEEK OF SERVICE

OCT. 2 - 8




SAVE THE DATES!

 Sign-ups open on Sep. 7!

 [ukequineprograms](https://www.instagram.com/ukequineprograms)

 [UK Ag Equine Programs](https://www.facebook.com/UKAgEquinePrograms)


 University of Kentucky
 Ag Equine Programs
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

The third annual UK Equine Week of Service, a weeklong volunteer effort by UK equine students, faculty and staff that was envisioned and implemented by the Wildcat Wrangler equine student ambassador team, has been set for Oct. 2-8.

This year’s event will benefit Bluegrass Farms Charities, Central Kentucky Riding for Hope, Justin’s Place, Kentucky Horse Park, Kentucky Horse Park Mounted Police, Our Mims Retirement Haven and the Secretariat Center.

Signups will open Sept. 7 and will be open to all UK equine students, alums, faculty, staff and community members interested in giving back to Kentucky’s equine industry.

FRIDAY, OCT. 21



Experience Equine Day is back again and scheduled for Oct. 21. The day provides informational sessions about UK's equine major, as well as a visit to UK's Maine Chance Equine Campus and equine industry tours. Space is limited and spots will fill quickly.

Sign up here: <http://students.ca.uky.edu/Exp.equine.fall.2022>

URSCHEL RECOGNIZED FOR HER SERVICE AS DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

By Holly Wiemers

Kristine Urschel, associate professor in the UK's Department of Animal and Food Sciences, was recognized by UK Ag Equine Programs at a recent program meeting for five years of exemplary service as the director of undergraduate studies (DUS) for the equine major.

The DUS chairs the curriculum committee for the major. That committee is responsible for the academic degree program, from courses to graduation requirements. They are the architects of the academic journey for equine undergraduate students.

According to James MacLeod, UK Ag Equine Programs' director and professor in the Gluck Equine Research Center, Urschel has always been informed and totally on top of things, not only in terms of the equine major, but also with regard to university level regulations and official processes.

He said he has been told that she set the bar for DUS competence and considered that a true statement, recognizing that the equine program and its students have benefited enormously from her many contributions.

"Dr. Kristine Urschel was an outstanding director of undergraduate studies for Equine Science and Management, where she set a high bar for excellence in undergraduate program leadership. Her technical knowledge, attention to detail, strong work ethic and commitment to student success are significant factors in the continued growth and success of the Equine Science and Management undergraduate program. Simply put, Kristine is an all-star. I look forward to her continued growth as an academic leader in the college and university," said UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Senior Associate Dean Carmen Agouridis.

"I've had the privilege of working with Kristine since starting at UK almost 10 years ago. The past five years we've worked much more closely, while she served in her role as DUS for the equine science and management undergraduate program. It's been fun to work with her not only as a colleague, but also as a friend," said Kristen Wilson, senior academic coordinator for the equine major. "Her approach to advising is top notch. She maps out a plan for each individual student, uses advising notes (which I love!) and truly wants each student to succeed no matter their career path or major."

Some of the projects and initiatives that Wilson recognized Urschel for during her time as DUS included:

- Chair of equine curriculum, ensuring issues, new ideas and anything else needing tended to were discussed and addressed in a timely manner.
- Committee member to revamp the Program Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Plan, which earned gold stars by main campus and has been utilized as an example at the university level for other programs. She will now lead these efforts moving forward.
- Signed hundreds of internship contracts.
- Led efforts to identify gaps and needs in our instructional efforts which helped serve as a strong basis for staffing changes and increasing opportunities for graduate students to teach and support equine related classes.
- Represented the equine program by serving on the college's curriculum committee and was always on top of things due to her role serving on faculty senate.
- Took on a heavier advising load (advising both equine and animal science students) and probably went cross eyed looking at all the degree audits ensuring seniors could graduate in the semester they thought they should.
- Filled in to help with the hundreds of prospective student visits the program does each year.

Urschel was recently selected to chair the Undergraduate Council on the University Senate for the 2022-23



Internship Spotlight

LAUREN HALL

Veterinary Assistant/Technician, Hagyard Equine Medical Institute

University of Kentucky Equine Science and Management sophomore Lauren Hall is interning at Hagyard Equine Medical Institute this summer, working in the role of veterinary assistant/technician.

Hagyard Equine Medical Institute, based in Lexington, prides itself on being the oldest and one of the largest private equine veterinary practices in the world.

When asked about her responsibilities, she said, "I am given three to five patients for my shift that I am responsible for giving treatments to, including medications, fluids, taking vitals and monitoring comfort. I work under the guidance of senior technicians, fellows and Hagyard veterinarians. I also clean up barns, stock supplies and assist with intakes."

Hall said her favorite part of the internship is seeing a lot of unique cases come through the facility and learning how to take care of critical patients and the care they require.

Her advice for students interested in a similar position? "If you are even remotely interested in veterinary school, I would suggest getting a veterinary internship like this because you are able to gain so much experience and feel for the profession as well as getting you lots of veterinary hours required for applications. Plus, the earlier you start, the better because if you decide you do not like it, you have a better chance of finding something else," she said.

Hall said she plans to apply to vet school after graduation and that her internship at Hagyard has benefited her.

"This internship has given me a head start on so many things, including the application requirements and hands-on experience. I feel more confident in my desire to pursue vet school now that I have seen so much already in the equine veterinary field," she said.



[Claudia Harding a senior majoring in Equine Science and Management is a communications and student relations intern with UK Ag Equine Programs.



STUDENT EXPERIENCE FUND OPEN

The UK Ag Equine Programs Student Experience and Applied Education Fund was established to enable undergraduate students in the Equine Science and Management major to gain horse experience through both academic and recreational activities while enrolled at the University of Kentucky. This fund is to be utilized to provide financial support for individual students or student groups to initiate, develop or participate in equine-related extracurricular activities including, but not limited to: outreach activities, educational trips, equine-related clubs and teams and other equine-related recreational and educational opportunities.

In addition, this fund can be used to fund undergraduate student capstone projects or to support student involvement in undergraduate research. UK Equine Programs will review any and all ideas related to equine learning and activities.

Application Details:

- UK Equine Programs will award up to \$4,500 in total. It is anticipated that the available money will be divided into multiple awards to be utilized before the end of calendar year 2023. Applications will be accepted at anytime through Monday, Oct. 24, 2022. Awardees will be notified by or before Friday, Dec. 16, 2022.
- Please note that applications will not be considered for tuition, housing or other fixed costs for attending the university. Students may be reimbursed for expenses or Equine Programs may cover cost or pay invoice on behalf of the student. All payouts for awards will need to be coordinated with UK Equine Programs Business Officer PRIOR to encumbering expenses. Direct payments will not be made to individual students or groups, as it could affect overall financial aid. Reimbursements are subject to review by the University Financial Office compliance team. Individual student awardees must be in good academic standing.



UPDATED ISSUES FROM OUR PUBLICATION STABLE

Summer Equine Science Review

Our summer issue of the Equine Science Review is now [online](#) and available via [Issuu](#). Contents include a look at mRNA biomarker research, our Kentucky Equine Survey that is now underway, two podcasts featuring Drs. Amanda Adams and Steve Higgins, a commentary about biosecurity lessons learned from Rotavirus B, pasture renovation and more!

Graduate Gallop

Check out the August 2022 edition of [The Graduate Gallop](#), with program news and updates tailored for UK equine alums.



Kirkpatrick & Co Presents In Their Care: Years After Sitting In The Wrong One, Etedgui Has Found His Seat

Source: Aug. 25 story in The Paulick Report. Story by Tom Pedulla

Luis Etedgui began following Hofburg, bred and owned by Juddmonte Farms, in the spring of 2018. The teenager's interest intensified when the chestnut son of Tapit placed second in the Florida Derby, leading him to persuade his father, Alberto, to purchase general admission tickets to the Kentucky Derby.

Heavy rain forced them to seek shelter on the afternoon of the Derby at Churchill Downs. Luis, decked out in a shirt that read Hofburg and bore Juddmonte's famous pink, green and white colors, spotted a vacant box. He and his father retreated there.

Minutes before the Derby, Garrett O'Rourke, Juddmonte's general manager, arrived and gently informed father and son that they were occupying his seats. At the same time, O'Rourke's eye was drawn to Luis' shirt and a conversation ensued. The young man told O'Rourke of his ambition to eventually become a farm manager, leading O'Rourke to offer his help.

Etedgui's family had relocated to South Florida from Venezuela when he was 11. When it was time to apply to college, he submitted one application. He was intent on being part of the University of Kentucky's equine management program while working part-time.

"You would be in the horse capital of the world. I figured it was the place for me to be if I was to work, which was my plan," he said.

Read more [here](#).

The Jockey Club Elects Six New Members

Source: edited news release, published by the BloodHorse Aug. 26

The Jockey Club announced Aug. 26 the election of six new members: Len Coleman, Nancy Cox, Marc Holliday, Kosta Hronis, W. Gray Lyster IV, and David O'Farrell.

In addition to her role as co-chair of HISA's blue-ribbon nominating committee, Cox is the vice president for Land Grant Engagement and the dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment at the University of Kentucky. Prior to that, she served as associate dean for research and director of the Experiment Station at the university. Cox championed the formation of the UK Equine Initiative (now UK Ag Equine Programs), recognizing the importance of the horse industry and its significance to Kentucky.

Read the entire story [here](#).



Ag Equine Programs

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