

FEBRUARY 2022  
EDITION

# WILDCAT CANTER

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY AG EQUINE PROGRAMS NEWSLETTER

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# HIGHLIGHTS



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36<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
**EQUINE LAW**

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DEADLINES

- Feb. 28, UK Ag Equine Programs Photography Contest submission deadline
- April 3, UK Horsey Hustle 5K, Coldstream Park - 2 p.m. race time
- April 26, ESMA Internship Showcase, E.S. Good Barn
- April 21, Bits & Bites, presented by the Equine Alumni Affiliate Network, 7 p.m. Mirror Twin, Lexington
- April 28 – May 1; Land Rover Kentucky Three Day Event; alumni tailgating event April 30
- May 5, Equine Science and Management Graduation Open House
- May 6 - Commencement for College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

# WELCOME

Greetings! My name is Mary Jane Little, and I serve as the Extension Associate for Youth Equine Programs out of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences. My position focuses heavily on the Kentucky 4-H Horse Program and the day-to-day varies depending on what time of the year it is.

What is 4-H you may be asking? 4-H is a community of young people ages 9-18 across the country who are learning leadership, citizenship and life skills through an array of opportunities beginning at the county level. 4-H Youth Development is a program area of the Cooperative Extension Service stemming from the state's land-grant university(ies). In Kentucky, we have two land-grant universities - The University of Kentucky and Kentucky State University. We are lucky to have a brick and mortar Cooperative Extension Service office in all 120 counties of the state. That cannot be said for most states in America. The 4-H Horse Program in Kentucky is designed to reach youth that have a passion for horses, whether they own one or not. The program offers a variety of areas that 4-Hers can be involved, learn valuable skills and make friends for life.

Right now, Dr. Fernanda Camargo, equine extension specialist and associate professor in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences, and I are busy preparing for two of our biggest events of the year - the Kentucky 4-H State Horse Contest and the Kentucky State Fair 4-H Horse Show. These culminating events bolster youth from across the Commonwealth. The 2022 Kentucky 4-H State Horse Contest will be held in Elizabethtown, Kentucky, and will offer horse judging, hipology, horse bowl, communications and arts. The 2022 Kentucky State Fair 4-H Horse Show is held at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville, and is a six-day show featuring drill team, walking/racking/mountain, hunter, speed, western, miniatures, dressage and western dressage and Saddleseat divisions.

Senior level 4-H youth (ages 14-18) get the opportunity to qualify to represent the Kentucky 4-H Horse Program and Bluegrass State at multiple regional and national events too. Qualifying seniors get invited to compete in Perry, Georgia, at the Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championships, and in Columbus, Ohio, at the All-American Quarter Horse Congress, and again in Louisville at the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup during the North American International Livestock Expo.

Dr. Camargo and I began a virtual 4-H Horse Science 101 Project Group for youth ages 9-18 where participants who may not have access to a local 4-H Horse Club can join us to learn all about horses and the industry that will qualify them to enter in our state contest and show. The COVID-19 pandemic transformed the way people connect and engage with each other and has proven that even after the pandemic is over, there are still needs that this virtual group can fulfill.

We also recently partnered with Teach Kentucky Ag to present the new Horse Science curriculum to youth across the state. These lessons engage youth in educational, fun, hands-on lessons that teach them not only about the horse, but also link everyday concepts and principles to the equine industry. We hope these participants also become aware of their local 4-H Horse Club and how to get involved.

Last May we created a monthly newsletter "From the Horse's Mouth," regarding upcoming events, highlights and other relevant topics for the KY 4-H Horse Program. Be sure to check it out on our website: <https://afs.ca.uky.edu/4h-youth/horse/newsletter>. You can also find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Kentucky-4-H-Horse-Program-182870858417127>. Since beginning this position last April, I have enjoyed being fully immersed in campus and providing positive youth development opportunities to the 4-Hers across the state. My door is always open if you want to stop by to learn more about the KY 4-H Horse Program, or just to say hey!



MARY JANE LITTLE

EXTENSION ASSOCIATE FOR  
YOUTH EQUINE PROGRAMS



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# UK AG EQUINE PROGRAMS PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST CLOSES FEB. 28

Photos for the photography contest are being accepted through Feb. 28. There are three age divisions for submissions: youth (17 and under), UK students and open (18 and over) for anyone who would like to participate. Original photographs that capture horses in any discipline and photos of horses interacting with people or a farm landscape setting will be judged by a committee of staff, students and trained photographers. Prizes will be awarded to category winners of each age group and a "People's Choice Award" will be decided through the UK Ag Equine Programs' Facebook page. Click [here](#) for more information and to enter.

All are encouraged to participate, from students to the general public. There are three age divisions for submissions: UK students, youth (17 and under) and open (18 and over).

WANT TO BE **FEATURED** IN THE WILDCAT CANTER?  
A CHANCE TO **WIN** SOME UK EQUINE SWAG?

**ENTER**  
THE 2<sup>ND</sup>  
**ANNUAL**

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

AG EQUINE PROGRAMS

2022

**PHOTO CONTEST**

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@UKEquinePrograms



PHOTO BY SOPHIA SCHINDLER

# SOCIETY OFFERS MINORITIES A LEG UP IN HORSE RACING INDUSTRY

*By Jordan Strickler*

Two University of Kentucky equine students have received the initial internships at a Florida horse racing track provided through a collaboration between The Stronach Group horse racing company 1/ST and the Ed Brown Society. The society was created to promote and educate the public about valuable Black contributions to industry.

Deja Robinson, a UK equine science and management major, said she is thrilled about the opportunities the internship that begins this spring can bring.

"I am very excited for this internship," she said. "It will expose us to the various aspects of the industry such as racing, gaming, hospitality, marketing and horse care, which I am most interested in. Furthermore, I am looking forward to the hands-on experience, knowledge, and skills I will gain."

Charles Churchill, another equine science and management major, will also be an intern.

"Since my introduction into the industry, I have strived after two goals, observing the numerous professional routes in horse racing and learning how procedures and operations vary between all jurisdictions for both domestic and international entities," Churchill said. "I am humbled to be selected for this internship at Gulfstream Park and look forward to networking while gaining new knowledge on this incredible sport."

"Career opportunities in horse-affiliated industries are much greater and more diversified than many people realize," said James MacLeod, professor of Veterinary Science and Director of UK Ag Equine Programs. "We are proud of everything that Deja and Charles have accomplished and very grateful to The Ed Brown Society and 1/ST for making this wonderful internship program possible."

In the 1800s and early 1900s, African Americans had a rich tradition in horse racing. However, in more recent times their contributions have not been recognized. Ray Daniels and Greg Harbut formed the Ed Brown Society to create workforce growth for Black Kentuckians in the multi-billion-dollar horse racing business.

Daniels and Harbut are respected throughout the racing industry and their horse, Necker Island, competed in the Kentucky Derby in 2020. It was the first time in 13 years that a Derby horse had African American ownership. They want to help other minorities gain a foothold in the industry.



*Ray Daniels and Greg Harbut are helping give minorities a boost in the equestrian industry. Photo provided by Ray Daniels.*

Daniels, president of the society and member of the UK board of trustees, said internships the organization provides at Florida's Gulfstream Park are a great step forward for students to enter the industry.

"We try to build strong relationships in the industry that will break down barriers," Daniels said. "The interns will be introduced to the many wonderful career fields in this industry, from upper management to hands-on. Long term, these internships will lead to prominent job placement in the equine industry."

The society is named after Edward D. Brown, a Lexington-born slave who, once freed, became one of the most successful Black people in the sport. As a jockey, he won the 1870 Belmont Stakes and as a trainer won the 1877 Kentucky Derby with Baden-Baden and began the training Hindoo and Ben Brush, who went on to win the 1881 and 1896 Kentucky Derbys, respectively.

After a career of more than 30 years in the sport, which also included an induction into the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame, Brown died in 1906. At the time of his death, he was an affluent African American in the commonwealth.

"Ed Brown was extremely successful, but we don't think he has received the recognition he deserved," said Daniels on the decision to name the society after Brown. "With all that he accomplished, we believed that he was a natural fit as our organization's name-sake."

To learn more about the Ed Brown Society, visit <https://www.edbrownsociety.com>.

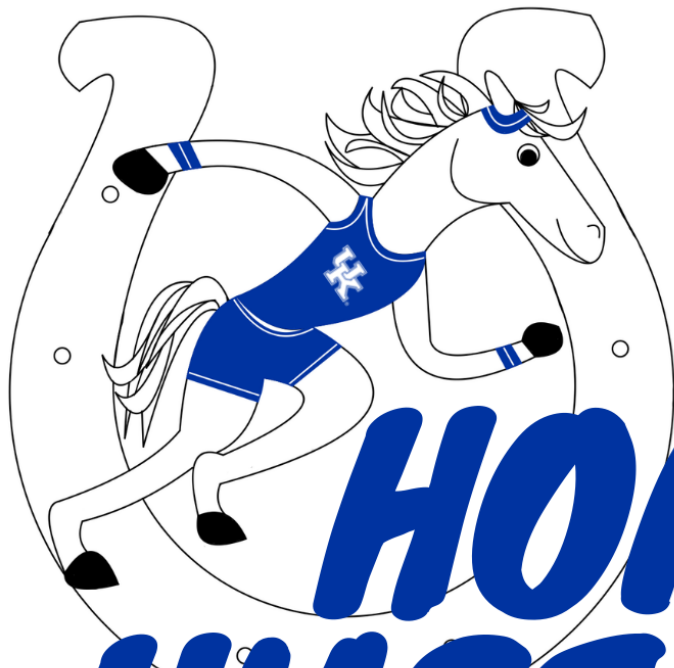


## BITS & BITES, PRESENTED BY THE EQUINE ALUMNI AFFILIATE NETWORK, LAUNCHES

The Equine Alumni Affiliate Network (EQAAN) hosted its first Bits & Bites, a bi-monthly informal gathering for UK equine alumni, friends and family, Feb. 17 at Mirror Twin in Lexington. The social event was created as a way to connect with alumni, equine industry professionals and the EQAAN Board of Directors. Future dates: April 21, June 16, Aug. 18, Oct. 20 and Dec. 15. All gatherings will be held starting at 7 p.m. at Mirror Twin Brewing in Lexington.







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# HORSEY HUSTLE 5K

COLDSTREAM PARK    LEXINGTON, KY  
APRIL 3, 2022 @ 2 P.M.

**SIGN UP BY  
MARCH 15  
FOR EARLY  
BIRD RATE  
OF \$25!**

**GROUP  
DISCOUNT  
FOR 5 OR  
MORE**

**T-SHIRT  
INCLUDED!**



**SIGN UP HERE!**

# SPRING INTO SERVICE FOOD & RESOURCE DRIVE

Spring into Service food and resource drive benefiting Blue Grass Farms Charities, held Feb. 14-28, was a huge success. Run by the Wildcat Wrangler equine student ambassador team, the event resulted in more than 750 items donated to help restock the pantry and put together spring activity packages. Items collected included canned goods, dry goods, toiletries, cleaning items as well as springtime toys and activities for farm worker families.

Clubs and teams each had boxes to collect donations and the one with the most donated items won a pizza party. Our winner was the UK Rodeo Team, collecting close to 220 items. In a close second was the UK MANRRS chapter, followed by UK Equestrian Western team, UK Equestrian Hunt Seat team and UK Saddle Seat team.

During the week of Feb. 28 to March 3, Wildcat Wranglers and UK equine faculty and staff will volunteer with Blue Grass Farms Charities to deliver food, restock the pantry and help with other tasks at the main office. Deliveries will be made to local Thoroughbred farms including Dixiana Farm, Don Alberto Farm, Gainesway Farm and Mill Ridge Farm.

Thank you everyone for making this event such a huge success, especially Blue Grass Farms Charities for partnering with us.



# UK AG EQUINE PROGRAMS ATTENDS AMERICAN SADDLEBRED HORSE & BREEDERS ASSOCIATION (ASHBA) YOUTH CONFERENCE

The ASHBA Youth Conference was held Feb. 18 and 19 in Lexington. UK Ag Equine Programs hosted an informational booth with help from our communications and student relations interns, Sydney Carter and Ryan Smith. The Wildcat Wrangler ambassador team assisted the ASHBA with fun learning activities at Grey Ridge Farm as part of this conference.



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The brochure for this year's conference can be found at this link [https://law.uky.edu/sites/default/files/2021-12/Equine22\\_Brochure\\_1.pdf](https://law.uky.edu/sites/default/files/2021-12/Equine22_Brochure_1.pdf) or by visiting <https://law.uky.edu/continuing-legal-education> and clicking on the "Live CLE Programs" button.

If you have any questions regarding this year's program, or if you wish to register over the phone please contact us at 859-257-2921.

## Internship Spotlight

### MARGARET BABIARZ

*Clerical Intern, American Saddlebred Horse and Breeders Association*

Equine senior Margaret Babiartz has spent her fall semester interning with the American Saddlebred Horse and Breeders Association as a registry clerk.

The association has a rich history based in Kentucky, originally established in 1891 as the National Saddle Horse Breeders Association in Louisville. Babiartz said she wanted to work with the organization to gain a better understanding of the breed and to experience how a breed association operates.

"The staff at ASHBA is a close-knit group that have been very welcoming and supportive when teaching me about the breed and how the association operates," she said.

In her time working at the office, Barbiartz has gotten to experience much of the "behind the scenes" paperwork such as registration of new horses, transferring ownership of horses and recording stallion service reports.

Additionally, she worked with database entries and contributing to organization of paperwork.

Babiartz said she hopes to continue to gain a knowledge and understanding of the American Saddlebred breed. A goal that she has is to learn more about the membership process and how that portion of the association operates with the members.

Her advice to students aiming to put themselves in a similar position, "Don't be afraid to reach out and see if there is an opportunity for you to help and make sure to be willing to learn all that you can from working there. What started out as an unpaid internship for a couple of months has turned into about a six-month paid intern position with plenty of opportunities for networking with other organizations and people within the equine industry."

[Sydney Carter, a senior studying Equine Science and Management with a minor in journalism, is a communications and student relations intern with UK Ag Equine Programs.



### **UK AG Equine Teams With BGFC**

*Source: TDN, February 14, 2022*

The University of Kentucky Ag Equine Program's Wildcat Wrangler equine student ambassador team has selected Blue Grass Farms Charities (BGFC) as their agency of choice for the semester for community service.

Club members will host a 'canned food, cleaning and hygiene' drive from Feb. 14-25 and will be collecting 'springtime' toys for farm children to play with outside on sunny days.

"We cannot wait to start collecting donations and distributing them to the community while connecting with the equine industry," said sophomore Jen Zimmerman, a 'Wildcat Wrangler' in the UK equine science and management program.

From Feb. 28 through Mar. 3, the Wildcat Wranglers will meet at the charity to deliver food from Lexington's 'God's Pantry' distribution center to area farms and plan on restocking and organizing the pantry. Farms participating include Mill Ridge, Dixiana Farm and Don Alberto.

"There are days when you just can't reach everyone," said Julie Kwasniewski, director of BGFC. "But then there's outreach of love and support like this, which brings hope to our farm families who work so hard keeping the horse and land healthy and safe." The mission of the BGFC is to provide health and human services to those working in the Thoroughbred industry in Central Kentucky. The BGFC pantry is open Tuesday through Thursday.

<https://www.thoroughbreddailynews.com/uk-ag-equine-teams-with-bgfc/>

### **Hallie Hardy named Executive Director of Horse Country**

*Source: Lane Report, February 21, 2022*

Hallie Hardy has been named executive director of Horse Country, Inc., replacing Anne Sabatino Hardy who has led the nonprofit since its founding in 2015.

Departing executive director, Sabatino Hardy agreed. "I have appreciated the opportunity to be a part of this effort and am grateful for the relationships and shared accomplishments – I can't wait to see what's next," said Hardy. "Hallie brings a unique set of skills and experiences that make her ideal to lead the organization. Having worked for Horse Country member locations she's seen firsthand the impact experiences have on fan development. Her relationships, vision and passion for the mission will inspire the next phase."

Hallie Hardy, a native of Frankfort, Kentucky and who is unrelated to the former executive director, brings to Horse Country a wealth of experience ranging from tour intern to client relations and marketing, to nomination sales. Throughout her career, she has focused on broadening her overall knowledge of the Thoroughbred industry and sharpening her long-term desire to market and promote it.

As an undergraduate in the University of Kentucky's Equine Program, she held an internship at WinStar Farm, leading its public and private tours. Following graduation, she joined America's Best Racing (ABR) as one of six brand ambassadors who traveled the country to promote the sport's biggest race days. After ABR, Hardy was accepted to the Irish National Stud Breeding Course and then Godolphin Flying Start.

Since completing Flying Start, Hardy has worked for trainer Graham Motion and again at WinStar Farm. She most recently worked for Godolphin as part of the nomination sales and marketing teams, as well as assisting with several charitable initiatives and Godolphin's tour experience.

<https://www.lanereport.com/152798/2022/02/hallie-hardy-named-executive-director-of-horse-country/>



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