

SEPT/OCT 2022
EDITION

WILDCAT CANTER

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY AG EQUINE PROGRAMS NEWSLETTER

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The University of Kentucky Equestrian Team kicked off their competition season at the University of Louisville on Sept. 24-25.



HIGHLIGHTS

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EQUINE WEEK OF SERVICE HELPS LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

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UPDATES FROM THE UK EQUESTRIAN TEAM

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The University of Kentucky Equestrian Team kicked off their competition season at the University of Louisville on Sept. 24-25. On Sunday, UKET won 11 of 18 classes, leading them to victory as the high point team.



UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DEADLINES

December 6, Equine Science and Management Internship Showcase

December 15, UK Last Day of the Semester, Graduation Open House, UK Commencement

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

WELCOME

Welcome! My name is Emily Pendergest, and I am a senior at the University of Kentucky. I am very excited to have begun my new role as one of the communications and student relations interns in the UK Ag Equine Programs' office.

I was born and raised right here in Lexington, so naturally I had no choice but to develop a strong love for horses and the equine industry.

I grew up on a small horse farm where I rode Tennessee Walking Horses with absolutely no formal training or lessons. That means that sometimes if I was feeling extra lazy, I would use a beach towel for a saddle and be gone for the whole day. Thankfully, I rode Walking Horses, so that wasn't terribly uncomfortable.

Even though I rode with little formal structure in my childhood years, I am pleased to say that since taking classes here and experiencing the jobs and opportunities that exist within the industry, I have greatly expanded my knowledge about horses, riding and the industry as a whole. I even took a riding lesson, which is kind of a big deal for me.

I wasn't initially pursuing a degree at UK and instead transferred here almost halfway through my college career. I truly do have the greatest respect for this school and program. Being able to work towards a degree that feels like it was perfectly designed for me is something special.

This is the program that has given me so many opportunities, so many friends and so much professional and personal development. Because of this program, for the first time, I began to feel truly excited, inspired and confident about my future career endeavors.

Alongside this internship, I will be continuing with my second year as a Wildcat Wrangler, one of our equine student ambassadors, which has been an amazing experience so far. Through this role I have met some incredible students and staff who I get to work with every day to create and implement different initiatives for UK Ag Equine Programs and all who are a part of this unique community. I am very much looking forward to all we have planned so far!

This year I hope to grow in many ways. I hope to strengthen my skills as a professional in writing, in graphic design and communication. I also hope to learn from everything, whether it's through achievement or through mess-ups and then using those lessons to grow into the best version of myself that I can. I hope to give back to the program as much as it has given to me, which may be impossible, but I'll still give it a go.



EMILY PENDERGEST
'23 EQUINE SCIENCE AND
MANAGEMENT

WELCOME

Hello! My name is Brooklyn Shirah and I am a junior at UK. Currently, I am an Equine Science and Management major with a focus on veterinarian medicine. I chose equine science as my major for multiple reasons. The major gives me in-state tuition through the Academic Common Market, the major allows me to gain experience and the correct pre-requisites for veterinary school and because I love horses!

My equine experience started in my hometown in Covington, Georgia, through a high school internship at a large and small combined animal veterinary clinic. While working at this clinic, I learned the positives and negatives of becoming a veterinarian and what the career truly entails. One of the biggest concerns I have about becoming a veterinarian is the salary and paying off student loans. However, I am not going to let this concern push me from this current path I am on.

I developed an interest in becoming a veterinarian when I was a bit older. For years I wanted to be a cardiothoracic surgeon in human medicine but discovered I loved animals just as much. I came to UK with the same major I have currently, but I was also on the Pre-Medicine and Pre-Veterinary Medicine track. Last year, due to the classes and vet experience hours I have accumulated, I decided to go the pre-vet route. The veterinary science world is full of opportunities I am excited to navigate through. I appreciate how well connected the equine industry is and how worldwide it has become.

One of my future goals is to travel abroad for an extended period of time and I hope veterinary medicine can help me accomplish this goal. I am focused on two possible careers, either a combined small and large animal veterinarian or a board-certified veterinary surgery specialist. The avenue of exotics and military animal work also interests me. I do not have a set place in the world where I want to practice, but I prefer to stay in the southern region of the United States.

I currently serve as the Points Keeper for the UK Equestrian Western Team. I did not have riding experience growing up, which is unlike most equine students here. Due to this, everything I have learned about riding has originated from classes here at UK and the team. I have been a part of the team since I was a freshman and have enjoyed learning what the western industry has to offer. I want to own my own horses one day and continue to ride outside of college.

In my free time, I enjoy traveling and trying new things. One of my favorite activities is to eat different foods. I love exploring different cuisines within Lexington. I also enjoy watching movies and TV shows. I also enjoy swimming, cooking and playing games with friends.

My position in the UK Ag Equine Programs office is as a communications and student relations intern. Some of the responsibilities I have are to design flyers for different events the program hosts, relay information from the equine office to students in different forms and to complete other tasks given to me by faculty and staff. I am looking forward to learning skills in this position that can be applied to my future positions in life.

Working in a professional setting will help me for the future as well. In addition, I will be able to improve my communications skills within different mediums. This internship gives me the chance to work with amazing mentors that are open to teaching me their valuable skills. I am excited to have been chosen for this opportunity and cannot wait to be a part of this team!



BROOKLYN SHIRAH '24 EQUINE SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT



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UK SIGNATURE INDUSTRIES CAREER FAIR SUCCESSFULLY MATCHES JOB SEEKERS WITH OPPORTUNITIES

By Holly Wiemers

Photos by Matt Barton

For the first time, the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment hosted a reimagined career fair featuring two of the state's most iconic industries: equine and bourbon. The update was a popular one.

The 2022 UK Signature Industries Career Fair on Sept. 29 was open to job seekers both inside and outside of UK and more than 400 participants took advantage of the opportunity. The fair saw participation from 15 different regional colleges and universities and more than 150 recruiters representing 60 employers from the equine and distilling industries.

"I was struck by how many of our students benefited from these programs working together in creative ways and by the support our most iconic Kentucky industries give to our college and its students. It is gratifying to know we are providing opportunities that benefit Kentucky's equine and bourbon industries well into the future," said Nancy Cox, Vice President for Land-Grant Engagement and dean for the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

Both the equine and distilling programs have held separate, well-attended career fairs in past years, but this year was the first time the two industry-focused programs combined forces. In addition to students from outside UK, students from 10 different UK colleges were present, representing 53 different undergraduate and professional majors.

"We are so excited to see the combination of Kentucky's signature industries come to life in efforts to recruit job seekers and highlight career opportunities within each industry," said Savannah Robin, internship coordinator within the equine science and management undergraduate degree program and event co-organizer. "It was a natural fit and we are excited to see how highlighting these industries can continue to shine a light onto the opportunities available.

Robin said developing the professional capacity of undergraduate students is essential to their future career success.





"One of the important skills to develop is networking and relationship building," she said. "This career fair is a way to allow students the opportunity to not only practice their skills in real life but truly start building relationships with future employers early on. Watching our students shine as they engaged with stakeholders at the event was one of the highlights of my own career."



"We are excited to have hosted the distillation, wine and brewing portion of the Kentucky Signature Industries Career Fair for the first time since the start of the COVID pandemic," said Ilka Balk, associate director of the James B. Beam Institute for Kentucky Spirits and event co-organizer. "The strong employer participation shows that there is a great need for talent in the distillation, wine and brewing industry."



Balk said students are well-prepared through the UK Distillation, Wine and Brewing Certificate program to fill the industry's need for talent, and this fair gave many attendees them the first opportunity to show employers their abilities.



Students and alumni from all Kentucky schools who are interested in the industry were able to meet with employers and market their skill sets as well. The industry is growing exponentially, and there is room for many disciplines and backgrounds. We thank the Kentucky Distillers' Association for their support for this fair and their investment in the distilling talent of the future."

"Kentucky's important cultural heritage in both areas reflects a long and deep history. Horses and distilled spirits truly are signature industries for the Commonwealth," said James MacLeod, UK Ag Equine Programs' director and professor in the Department of Veterinary Science. "Yet something very evident from this event is the growth and diversity of career opportunities across multiple STEM, social and business disciplines. In addition to their historical and cultural significance, it is clear that these two industries will continue to provide valuable economic opportunities for Kentucky citizens going forward."

Equine industry sponsors included Kentucky Thoroughbred Association/Kentucky Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders and Kentucky Equine Education Project (KEEP) Alliance. Distilled spirits industry sponsors included the Kentucky Distillers' Association, Beam Suntory, Joseph & Joseph Architects, Wild Turkey, C&I Engineering, Michter's Distillery, River City Distributing and Southern Distillers.

Equine employers present included Ardent Animal Health, Avanti Equine, Central Kentucky Riding for Hope, Claiborne Farm, Ed Brown Society, Equine Land Conservation Resource, Gluck Equine Research Center, Hallway

Feeds, Hagyard Equine Medical Institute, Hooves of Hope, Horse Country Tours, Justin's Place, KEEP Foundation, Lincoln Memorial University, Keeneland Association, Kentucky Equine Management Internship, Kentucky Equine Research, Kentucky Horse Park, Lanes End Farm, McMahon & Hill, Midway University, Morehead State University, New Vocations, Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital, SKIPPED, Spy Coast Farm, Taylor Made Sales Agency, Three Chimneys Farm, UK Ag Equine Programs, UK Experiential Learning, UK Cooperative Extension, UK MBA Program, UK Horse Pasture Evaluation Program, University of Louisville Equine Industry Program, U.S. Department of Agriculture - National Ag Statistics Service, U.S. Hunter Jumper Association and Wildcat Network.

Distilling employers present included Augusta Distillery, Bardstown Bourbon Company, Beam Suntory Inc., Bluegrass Distillers, Brown-Forman Corporation, C&I Engineering, Independent Stave Company, Jephtha Creed, Joseph & Joseph Architects, Lexington Brewing & Distilling Co., Louisville Distilling Co. LLC, MGP Ingredients, Inc., MGP Ingredients, Inc., Michter's Distillery, LLC, Ponfeigh Distillery, LLC, River City Distributing, Inc., Sazerac Company, Southern Distilling Company, West Sixth, Wild Turkey Distilling Co. and Willett Distillery.



EQUINE WEEK OF SERVICE HELPS LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

By Oliva Bryant, Equine Science and Management undergraduate senior and Wildcat Wrangler

Photos by Matt Barton

UK Ag Equine Programs wrapped up the third annual UK Equine Week of Service Oct. 2-8. Students, faculty, alumni and other volunteers served our local equine community at multiple locations, including Blue Grass 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. Close to 150 volunteers served almost 400 hours during the week. By volunteering at these seven organizations, students were also able to get additional hands-on experience while also giving back to the community.

UK Equine Week of Service is planned and executed by the Wildcat Wrangler student ambassador team and advisor Kristen Wilson, senior academic coordinator within the UK Equine Science and Management undergraduate degree program. The Wildcat Wrangler team is comprised of select sophomores, juniors and seniors within the equine program who are passionate about UK Ag Equine Programs and giving back to our local equine community. Supporting local equine non-profits is immensely important to the student team, as well as UK Ag Equine Programs as a whole because giving back not only supports the future of the equine industry, but also the future of the organizations themselves.

Each year during the designated week, one of the partner organizations also receives a monetary grant to help support a special project at that location. This year, the Secretariat Center was awarded that grant by UK Ag Equine Programs. Volunteers repainted jumps in need of a touch-up.

"Awesome is an understatement when it comes to this hardworking, happy group who are committed to a week of service that rivals all volunteer efforts. They come armed with good spirits, a can-do attitude and plenty of muscle. The Secretariat Center was even the lucky recipient of a grant to provide paint and supplies to help spruce up our jumps and obstacles. These awesome students cleaned, scraped, painted, organized and groomed their way to set the gold standard on our campus and theirs," read a Secretariat Center social media post.

Reflecting on the successful UK Equine Week of Service, Emily Pendergest, a senior Wildcat Wrangler, said, "The week of service was such a great time. I really enjoyed working with new people and a lot of students outside the equine program who were really great to get to know."

Community is one of the overarching takeaways that many said they felt during the Equine Week of Service. Students working with faculty, upperclassmen working with underclassmen and students in different majors all came together to give back in a positive way.

Madelyn Leahey, a junior in the Equine Science and Management program and Wildcat Wrangler, said, "Equine Week of Service is always one of my favorite events. It is so fulfilling to give back to a community that has such a positive impact on our program."

Making an impact and giving back are concepts synonymous with UK Ag Equine Programs and the Wildcat Wranglers take that philosophy to new heights. As we look back on the 2022 event, the team is grateful for faculty and students who are empowered to serve and promote the local equine community in Lexington.



UPDATES FROM THE UK EQUESTRIAN TEAM

By Gabby DiLemme

Photos courtesy UK Equestrian Team

The University of Kentucky Equestrian Team kicked off their competition season at the University of Louisville on Sept. 24-25. On Sunday, UKET won 11 of 18 classes, leading them to victory as the high point team.

Georgia Murray won high point rider and Kendall Carlson reserve.

This year's team consists of 43 members, led by trainer and UKET alum, Joyce Brinsfield (Ballyhigh Show Stables).

President Grace Bieghler leads an executive team that said it is excited for the 2022-2023 season.

Currently, UKET is winning the region with 66 points.

These members have pointed out for the season and qualified for Regionals

- Novice: Madi Guenter
- Limit Flat: Grace Bieghler, Monica Egnezzo, Elly Smith and Mallory Wetherby
- Intermediate Flat: Maegan Fitzgerald

Several team members are very close to joining this group at the next shows:

- October 28-30 Home @Ballyhigh Stables
- November 11-13 Midway
- February 10-12 Morehead
- February 24-26 Miami of Ohio
- March 3-6 Regionals

"I'm already incredibly proud of this team. In a short time, they came together to be super supportive of one another, which will only make the team stronger," Brinsfield said. "I feel like our executive committee works well with each other and the captains, which sets a good example for the rest of the team.

"My goal is to have more than one national champion, as we did this past spring. I would like to see the team as national champions. With this in mind, sportsmanship is a priority goal for the team," she said.

UKET is thankful for the support from their amazing sponsors: Tribute Feed, KBC Horse Supplies, Ariat and Muirfield Insurance.



Over the weekend of Oct. 8 and 9, the University's Western Equestrian team competed at Morehead State University in an Intercollegiate Horse Show Association competition. This was the first show of the season, so the first time showing for a lot of the team. Despite having lots of new members, the team took reserve high point team on the 9th. Our president Emily Carstens, junior, got high point rider on Sunday.

We had two riders point out of their classes over the weekend. On the 8th, Loralye Page, sophomore, pointed out of Beginner Western Horsemanship to Rookie A Western Horsemanship. Emily also pointed out on Saturday. She went from Level 2 Western Horsemanship to Open Western Horsemanship. Being in Level 2 meant that Emily was also in the Level 2 Ranch Riding class. She pointed out of this class on Sunday. She will be eligible for the Reining class once she has completed six months of professional training. Reining is the highest level in IHSA, so by her senior year, Emily will have made it the farthest a student can in western riding at the collegiate level. Once she completes her training, the team will have at least one rider in each level making it possible for the team to get high point team. Both of these riders along with any others that point up this year will be going to regionals in March.

The team hopes to do even better at our next show on Nov. 5-6 at Miami University of Ohio. These are the only two shows of the semester, but there will be more in the spring. The team thanks coach Bennie Sargent for all his efforts in helping the members become better riders but also better horsemen and women.

EXPERIENCE EQUINE HELD OCT. 21



On Friday, Oct. 21, UK Ag Equine Programs welcomed 30 families to campus to experience all things equine at the University of Kentucky and in the local equine industry surrounding us. Offered as a fully day session for the first time in two years, Experience Equine Day was a great success.

Families started their day with a meet-and-greet with equine-related clubs and teams, took on-campus tours of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment campus and laboratories in the Gluck Equine Research Center. Participants also learned about admissions and scholarships.

Over lunch, equine alums shared their stories with visiting families. During the afternoon, the students and parents split into separate groups. The students took industry tours to Hagyard Equine Medical Institute and Spendthrift Farm while the parents attended various information sessions, including learning more about equine-related careers and internships.

The day wrapped up at UK's Maine Chance Farm for a tour of the facility and a Q&A session with current equine students.

Overall, it was a fantastic day sharing all things equine with Future Wildcats and their families.





UK equine student one of five Awarded USEF Higher Education Equestrian Scholarship

Source: US Equestrian Sep 16

US Equestrian (USEF) is pleased to announce the five recipients of the USEF Higher Education Equestrian Scholarships for graduating high-school seniors. Created to support students who are committed to continuing their involvement in equestrian sport while in college through an equestrian-related degree, volunteerism or internship; riding on an intercollegiate equestrian team or other equestrian-related activity, the scholarship awards a \$1,000 grant to each recipient to be used towards education expenses at their respective college or university.

Christina Spiliotis (Centennial, Colo.) is attending the University of Kentucky in the fall and majoring in Equine Science and Management. She first rode a horse at the age of 4 and has competed in various aspects of equestrian sport, including western pleasure and hunt seat classes at American Saddlebred shows.

Spiliotis was diagnosed with epilepsy at the age of 12 with a trigger of in-depth reading, causing her to adjust her learning style with the help of audio textbooks and voice-to-text.

"This will help me continue my horse passion and enhance my equine education. It will allow me to have more funding to put towards my riding activities and allow me to explore my new Kentucky surroundings during my university years," Spiliotis said. "Since most of my competitive horse experiences have been based in Colorado and the West, I will now be able to explore the different circuits in Kentucky, which will further accelerate my education and experience. Since my Kentucky riding experience has centered around the World's Championship Horse Show over the years, I'm looking forward to living in Kentucky and exploring many more Kentucky opportunities. This is one of the main reasons that drew me towards picking UK for college."

UK bred racing news...Howbeit Ends Bad-Luck Streak in SA Sprint Championship

Source: Oct. 1 Blood-Horse

After running into nothing but tough luck earlier in the year, Howbeit needed a break in the Oct. 1 Santa Anita Sprint Championship Stakes (G2) and got it—but only by the slimmest of margins. Howbeit, a 5-year-old by Secret Circle, was making his fourth start of the year in the \$200,500, six-furlong sprint, looking to finally reverse his fortunes with a good trip. With Mike Smith taking the ride for trainer Mark Glatt, he finally got just that.

He also got a nice warm pace to chase as Forbidden Kingdom, making his first start since a sixth-place finish in the Santa Anita Derby (G1), dueled early with longshot Kid Corleone, making his first-ever stakes start. The two 3-year-olds were done by the top of the stretch, just as Smith had

Howbeit cooking.

Ranging up outside, Howbeit took a narrow lead only to have C Z Rocket come shooting up the rail with a late challenge. The photo needed close examination to determine that Howbeit held on for the win. Super Ocho and None Above the Law finished third and fourth as Howbeit got home in 1:10.15.

Bred by the University of Kentucky and owned by It Pays to Dream Racing Stable, Saints or Sinners, Danny Haramoto, Sheldon Kawahara, and Gregory Yamamoto, Howbeit won for the seventh time in his 25th start. For the first 10 months of 2022, his owners probably were wondering whether the fates ever would allow that seventh win.

Read the entire story here: <https://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/articles/263617/howbeit-ends-bad-luck-streak-in-sa-sprint-championship>

New educator joins University of Wyoming Extension

Source: Laramie Live

The University of Wyoming Extension welcomed Dagan Montgomery as the new agriculture and natural resources extension educator for Sublette County.

Montgomery started with UW Extension on August 29, after recently completing his master's degree in animal science, with an emphasis in ruminant nutrition, from Oklahoma State University. Coming from a family of ranchers in West Texas and New Mexico, Montgomery experienced first-hand the value of strong extension programming and looks forward to serving the Sublette County community.

"As scientific research and development continues to expand, it is critical that there are services in place that can effectively communicate these findings to the people and communities who need the real-world applications," he said. "Without properly and effectively communicating these data to solve problems and answer questions posed, agriculture research quickly loses value in the eyes of many producers."

Montgomery earned his B.S. in animal science and a B.S. in equine science and management, both from the University of Kentucky.

Read More here: <https://laramielive.com/new-educator-joins-university-of-wyoming-extension/>





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