



Wildcat Canter

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY AG EQUINE PROGRAMS NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2018



UK Clubs and Teams Come Together for UK Polo Ball- PAGE 5

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Emma Adam named UK equine outreach veterinarian-PAGE 9

Emma Adam has been named the equine outreach veterinarian for the University of Kentucky Department of Veterinary Science. She will begin July 1.

"I am very pleased to welcome Dr. Emma Adam to our program in this very important role. The purpose of this position is to enhance the overall outreach efforts of this department in terms of our teaching, service and research activities," said David Horohov, department chair and Gluck Equine Research Center director.



Other Features

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UK Equine Farm and Facilities Expo to be Held May 31- PAGE 10

UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DEADLINES

- May 4, Graduation
- May 4, ESMA Graduation Reception, 12:30-2 p.m., E.S. Good Barn
- May 31, Farm and Facilities Expo, Knapper Farm

Maximize opportunities in the heart of horse country

It's finally spring!

After what felt like a long, long winter (seriously, January seemed to stretch well into April!), it's finally spring and the very best of the Bluegrass is now on display. Vivid green grass, blooming flowers, foals romping in fields alongside bands of mares...and some of the world's most iconic equine events in full swing.

As the semester draws to a close and we say good-bye to our students, either until the fall, or until we see them again as alums making their mark on the world, it's easy to get wrapped up in the day-to-day craziness of it all. Projects, finals, grades, graduation, final paperwork and preparations for summer internships or that very first job out of school. All of those things necessarily hold our attention as April slips into May, which seems to evaporate into June before we know it.

But we live HERE and spring and summer in the Bluegrass are uniquely special, especially if you are a horse person. That's when the world's marquee events celebrating the equine athlete occur one after the other, each offering so much to learn from and see and experience.

From the Keeneland Spring Meet and the Land Rover Kentucky Three Day Event in April to the Kentucky Oaks and Derby in May, there is so much to experience it's almost decadent. Add in all the equine-themed parties and events in between, and you can literally attend a horse event (or several) every single day. Then comes the end of June through the summer, and you can catch horse shows, rodeos, live racing and so much more across the state. At just the Kentucky Horse Park alone, there are multiple big shows every weekend, notably including the Junior League Saddlebred Horse Show being held there for the first time this year after being at the Red Mile for many many years.

Really, here, the whole year is a celebration of the horse. I encourage you to join in that celebration. It's easy to get complacent about the riches we experience here in Lexington and take for granted the many opportunities we have to experience the horse in Kentucky.

So especially to our students who are leaving us for the summer or for a much longer period as newly minted alums moving into that first job, I urge you to pause for a second, take in some of the sights and experience the gloriousness of springtime in Kentucky. It's a set of experiences you can have nowhere else than in the Horse Capital of the World.

*Holly Wiemers,
Communications and Managing Director
UK Ag Equine Programs*





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UK Equine Clubs and Teams Come Together for UK Polo Ball

By Maddie Regis

At the University of Kentucky, there are several equine clubs and teams. They each boast different benefits for students with all interests, from horse racing to research to saddle seat and western riding. Most clubs and teams, however, do not get an opportunity to interact with the others due to their busy schedules of activities during the semester. A few weeks ago, the UK Polo Team held an event that changed that: its inaugural UK Polo Ball.

Olivia Graham, a UK psychology and sociology major with a double minor in criminology and gender and women's studies on a pre-law track, is the fundraising chair for the Polo Team. She saw that the United States Polo Association (USPA) was offering a fundraising scholarship, and decided to apply for the scholarship. She then came up with the fundraising idea for the Polo Ball.

"Newport Polo, which I practiced out of in high school, hosts a similar event every summer, which is where I got the initial idea. It was a long process getting the Polo Ball approved from the USPA because I had to have all of the details worked out in order for them to approve it," Graham said.

Graham recognized that the clubs and teams were often isolated from each other, so she thought the ball would be a good way to bring them together.

"I contacted the other equine clubs to see if anyone would even be interested in it and the feedback I got was amazing. All of the teams I first contacted were immediately excited about the event and offered to help in any way that they could. Everyone was very excited to attend an event that would bring everyone together," she said.

After coming up with the idea to host a ball for all the clubs and teams, Graham worked with Polo Team members and the Round Barn Stable of Memories, where the event was held.

"I definitely could not have put the Polo Ball on without the support of my team, especially our women's team, and the event coordinator of the Round Barn, Shanna Johnson. Once I got in touch with her, it was like everything came together," Graham said. "She helped with set up, decorations, catering, everything. My women's team was a huge help as well with contacting the other teams, creating booklets, getting donations and utilizing our social media to sell tickets for the event. I definitely need to acknowledge Anastasia Vialov, Anne Kaberna, Cynthia Legelis, Eva Crossman and Maggie Holloway, all members of our UK Women's Polo Team, who helped me through the entire process."

After a lot of hard work and planning, the ball was a success, with members from nearly all the teams attending. "The event was everything I hoped it would be. I was stressed, to say the least, the day of the event, especially because the big UK basketball game was on the same night and I was nervous that we would have a small turnout," Graham said. "Thankfully, I was able to borrow a projector from a girl in my sorority, so we were able to stream the game during the Polo Ball.

"We had great music from our DJ, a friend of the team, Jose Rivera. Everyone was dancing together and having a great time. When the game started, we had a huge crowd watching the game together," Graham said. "Everyone arrived looking so beautiful and it was so much fun seeing all of the teams interact with each other. We did not have assigned seating for the dinner so we had different teams sitting together."

Graham said that the Polo Team would love to host the ball again next year.

For more information on the UK Polo Team, click [here](#) or find the team on Facebook (U of Kentucky Polo) or Instagram (@uk_polo).





Ashley Gerritsen, '15
Lab Technician Senior,
University of Kentucky

By Maddie Regis

Where is home for you?

I am originally from the Chicago suburbs, Hampshire, specifically. However, I have lived in Lexington since 2012 and I'm not leaving the Bluegrass anytime soon! I call Lexington "home" now. (And home is where your horse is, right?)

How did you first become involved in the horse industry?

I fell in love with horses as a small child. My parents (both, unfortunately, allergic) finally caved in and let me start riding when I was 11 years old at a Saddleseat barn with one of my friends from school. I wanted to jump, so I moved along from there to a hunter/jumper barn. From there, I worked in tack shops and rode whatever horses were available while I worked to get to Lexington so that I could get a four year equine degree and find my place in the industry.

What were your career goals before graduation?

Before graduation, my goal was to continue on to graduate school. I was most interested in nutrition and genetics at that time, both of which still interest me. I do have intentions to pursue a graduate degree at UK. I am particularly interested in entomology and studying equine parasites. I love learning and I love research, so grad school makes sense for me.

Where are you currently employed?

I am employed here at UK!

What are your current job responsibilities?

I manage Dr. Kristine Urschel's lab in the WP Garrigus

Building, where I am primarily located. My job duties vary greatly and I enjoy that. One day I might be managing inventories and processing samples in the lab (math and chemistry in real life!) and, maybe even later that day, I might be buying horse supplies at KBC and helping muck stalls. I manage undergraduate students in the lab and at Maine Chance. When we are conducting research at Maine Chance Farm, I share responsibility for caring for our horses and taking samples. We study protein and amino acid requirements and metabolism in horses. I am involved in every part of the process. I also work for Dr. Mary Rossano, helping her with classes as a TA as well as assisting in her lab.

What led you to this position?

My path to this position was surprisingly straightforward! I started out in READ (Research in Equine and Agricultural Disciplines) Club, where I learned about Dr. Urschel's lab that led me to doing my required internship there. From that spring internship, I was hired as a student worker and allowed to manage the research horses for a study over the summer. I took a detour to Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital after that and developed more knowledge and skills. When my current position became available, I was already familiar with a lot of the procedures and horsemanship requirements necessary for the job.

How are you currently involved in the horse industry?

I am involved just about all day, every day! I love to volunteer at events and I do so regularly. I became involved in the industry as a horse owner in 2014, so I contribute to the local equine economy. I am an advocate and a student, always, of horses. On one side, I work hands-on as a caretaker for many horses at the facility where my gelding is boarded. On the other, I am on campus contributing to research here at UK to better the lives of our beloved equids.

What advice do you have for current equine students?

Get out there, put your head down, and put in your best work – work that makes you proud. Try new things with an open mind, including some things that scare you! You may find incredible opportunities that you didn't even know existed and find that you are capable of more than you thought. We are so lucky to be surrounded by horsemen and women with a wealth of knowledge around here and the opportunities to learn from them. Take advantage of that!



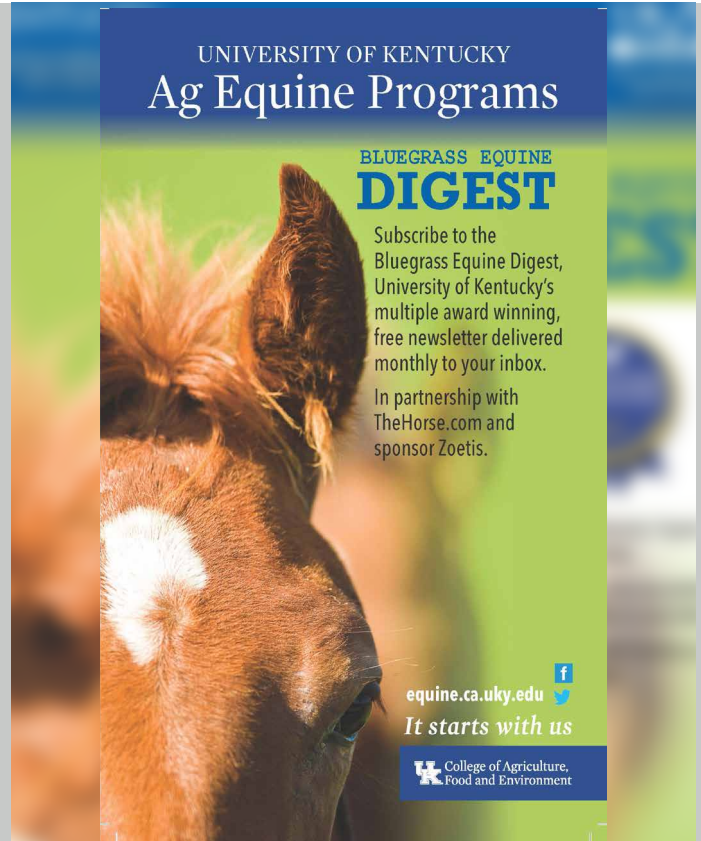
Ag Equine Programs
 College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

Bluegrass Equine Digest

Check out the April issue of the Bluegrass Equine Digest, a free, monthly electronic newsletter dedicated to providing up-to-date information on equine research from the University of Kentucky's College of Agriculture, Food and Environment in collaboration with TheHorse.com and sponsored by Zoetis.

Click [here](#) to see this month's stories.

- All About Alfalfa
- Equine Research Hall of Fame Seeking Nominations
- New Strangles Guidelines
- Mineral of the Month: Iodine



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Ag Equine Programs

BLUEGRASS EQUINE DIGEST

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equine.ca.uky.edu

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[Click here to access contact information for these clubs.](#)

Keeneland is back in full swing!

By Hailee Adams

Keeneland was back in full swing with College Scholarship Day opening up this year's spring meet on April 6. College Scholarship day is one of the many great things about Keeneland. It has a huge commitment to higher education and the equine industry as a whole.

The concept was created in October 2002, in partnership with the Kentucky Thoroughbred Association. The event has awarded more than \$600,000 to students in Kentucky and more than half of that money has been awarded at Keeneland alone.

This year, there were two \$10,000 scholarships and 10 \$1,000 scholarships, along with 36 prize packages up for grabs. The first 2,000 students also received free merchandise from Southern Proper and free food was also provided from five local restaurants in Lexington.

One of the \$10,000 scholarships was provided by Jim and Linda McIngvale, owners of Runhappy, a Keeneland Sales graduate. The McIngvales wanted to help students in Kentucky continue their education while commemorating Runhappy's career at Keeneland.

College Day is not just about the free stuff, it is also about the tradition of horse racing that is so deeply embedded into Central Kentucky's history. Keeneland has been open since 1932 and holds a fall and spring meet every year along with the sales that run from September through January.



photo by Michelle Baker

Adam named UK equine outreach veterinarian

By Jenny Evans

Emma Adam has been named the equine outreach veterinarian for the University of Kentucky Department of Veterinary Science. She will begin July 1.

"I am very pleased to welcome Dr. Emma Adam to our program in this very important role. The purpose of this position is to enhance the overall outreach efforts of this department in terms of our teaching, service and research activities," said David Horohov, department chair and Gluck Equine Research Center director. "Dr. Adam is uniquely qualified for this position given her exceptional expertise in equine surgery and medicine as well as her research background."

The position was created to provide a better link between the research and diagnostic laboratories and those we serve, said Nancy Cox, dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

"We expect a lot from this new position, and we have the perfect person in place to accomplish a new era of service to the veterinary and horseman community. We could not be more fortunate to have such a person as Dr. Emma Adam taking on this transformative position," Cox said.

A native of Newmarket, England, Adam grew up on a commercial breeding farm and later worked for 10-time champion trainer Sir Michael Stoute. Adam has experience with many equine disciplines. She has worked on breeding, racing and athletic stock around the globe in Newmarket, England; Normandy, France; Melbourne, Australia and several locations in the United States.

"I'm very excited about the scope and possibilities of this position. This position is about forging links between the equine industry and the university, so everyone can leverage our combined resources and share knowledge," Adam said. "As a clinician with firsthand experience of the demands of our profession and industry, I plan to be accessible and engaged in serving the industry and veterinary professionals."

Adam earned her doctoral degree in UK's Department of Veterinary Science. Her research in James MacLeod's musculoskeletal science laboratory at the Gluck Center examined articular cartilage and asked fundamental questions about what gene expression patterns make articular cartilage so unique. She also compared the pattern with cells currently used in regenerative medicine. She earned her bachelor of veterinary medicine degree from Royal Veterinary College and her bachelor of science from King's College.

She also did an internship at Colorado State University followed by an internal medicine residency at Texas A&M University and a surgery residency at University of Pennsylvania, New Bolton Center. At the New Bolton Center she looked after 2006 Kentucky Derby winner Barbaro and was involved with many of his surgeries following the Preakness Stakes where he shattered his leg.

Adam is a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, American College of Veterinary Surgeons, American Association of Equine Practitioners and American Veterinary Medical Association.

The mission of the Department of Veterinary Science, a UK Ag Equine program in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, is to assure the health and viability of animal agriculture through teaching, discovery, research and service. For more information on the department, click [here](#).



UK Equine Farm and Facilities Expo to be held May 31

By Hailee Adams

University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs will host its annual Farm and Facilities Expo from 3:30 - 8 p.m. EDT Thursday, May 31th, at Knapper Farm, 485 Chatham Ln in Harrodsburg, Kentucky. The event is free and open to the public. A meal will be provided for those in attendance.

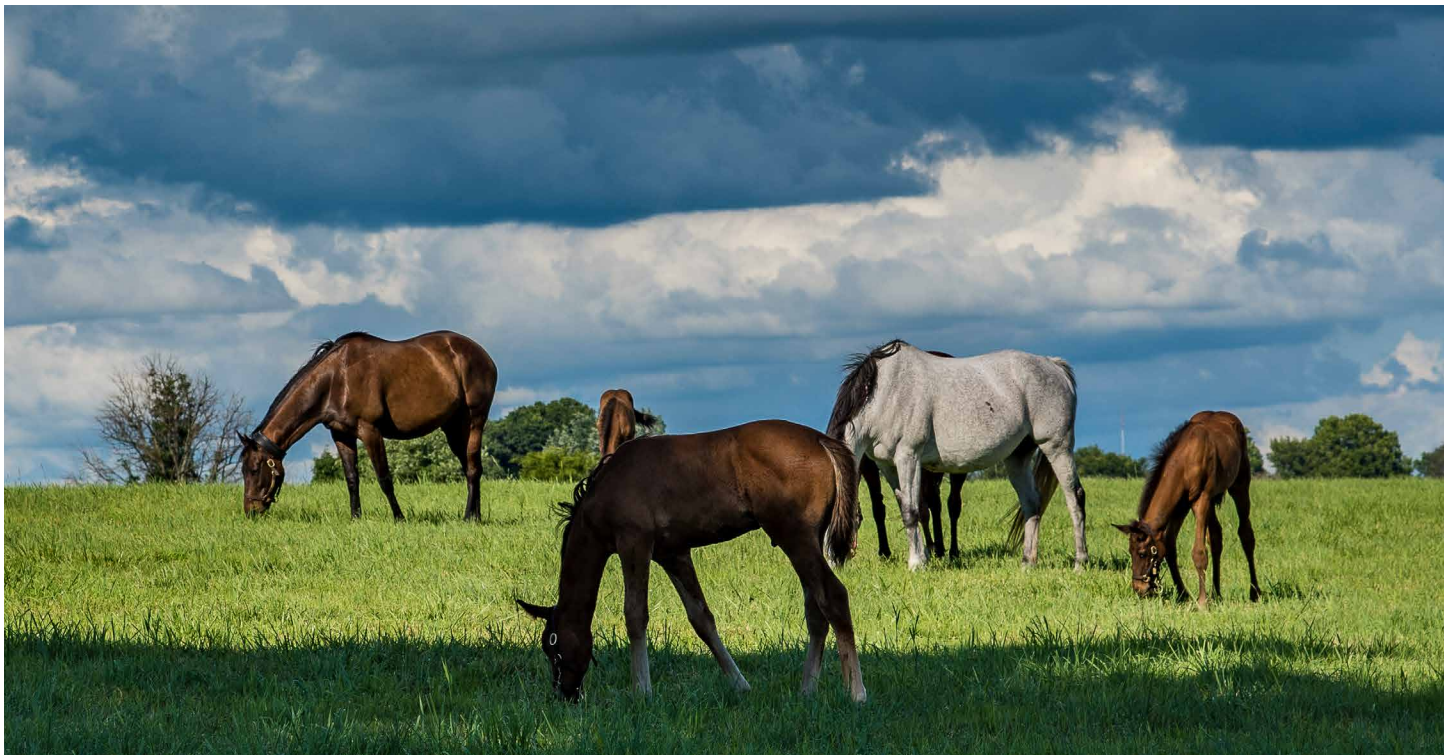
Farm managers and horse owners alike will have the opportunity explore visitor booths and see displays for every aspect of horse farm management. Speakers will provide educational talks about utilizing cost sharing, weed control, rotational grazing, ryegrass and maintaining healthy horses.

"This event helps people to work with stakeholders and put new research into action," said. Mick Peterson, director of UK Ag Equine programs.

"The Equine Farm and Facilities Expo targets small and mid-sized operations with the aim of improving pasture and facility management. We try to provide relevant information and practices that can be implemented on any farm," said Krista Lea, research analyst and coordinator of the UK Horse Pasture Evaluation.

"This year's focus will be on cost share opportunities, many of which are only recently available to horse operations. These programs aim to improve the economic sustainability of the operation while protecting its natural resources. The Knappers are a great example of a small farm utilizing these funds to improve their business while protecting the land," she said.

While not required, an RSVP is appreciated for food planning purposes. Please email equine@uky.edu to RSVP. For more information about this or future UK Ag Equine Programs' events, please click [here](#).



UK Horse Pasture Evaluations Program 2018 Enrollment Open

By Krista Lea

The University of Kentucky Horse Pasture Evaluation Program is entering its 14th sampling year and continues to assist farms across the state in improved pasture management.

Participating farms receive detailed pasture assessments, including species composition and tall fescue analysis. The program also provides recommendations for each pasture based on the data collected. All of the findings are compiled in a notebook and presented to participants by a program specialist.

This work aims to improve farm owners' understanding of pasture and grazing management, reduce the need for stored feeds and reduce the impact of the horses on our natural resources.

The program also has an educational component. Undergraduates hired by the program are taught plant identification and research principles while gaining valuable experience and exposure to agriculture.

Since its start in 2005, this program has completed more than 200 evaluations representing more than 17,000 acres in 23 different Kentucky counties. Evaluations are open for Kentucky horse farms of all sizes. For more information on the program, pricing or to enroll, click [here](#).



UK Ag Equine Programs Tailgate Wins at Land Rover Kentucky-Three Day Event

The UK Equine Alumni had their annual tailgate Saturday at the 2018 Land Rover Kentucky Three Day Event. This tailgate is planned each year by alumni, for alumni.

The theme this year was safari, which included jungle decorations and an assortment of animal costumes. Over great food and drinks, alumni reconnected at one of the greatest equestrian competitions, seeing top-notch cross country horses and riders only a few feet away.

To top off the day, the UK Ag Equine Programs' tailgate was named best tailgate and the grand prize was a free tailgate spot at next year's event.



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