

January 2016

Wildcat Canter

University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs Newsletter



ESMA December
Graduation Reception

Wildcat Canter



Program Spotlight-Wayne Centers

Wayne Centers, originally from London, Kentucky, graduated from Berea College in 2005 with a Bachelor of Arts in mathematics and a minor in computer science. He later attended graduate school at the University of Kentucky, where he earned his master's in higher education with a concentration in college student affairs in 2007.



UK Ag Equine Programs unveils new website

The University of Kentucky's Ag Equine Programs unveiled a new website in December. The updated website launch coincides with a year celebrating UK Ag Equine Programs' 10th anniversary and reflects the tremendous progress that's been made in UK's equine programming since it was announced in the spring of 2005.



Congratulations to our 2015 Equine Science and Management Graduates!

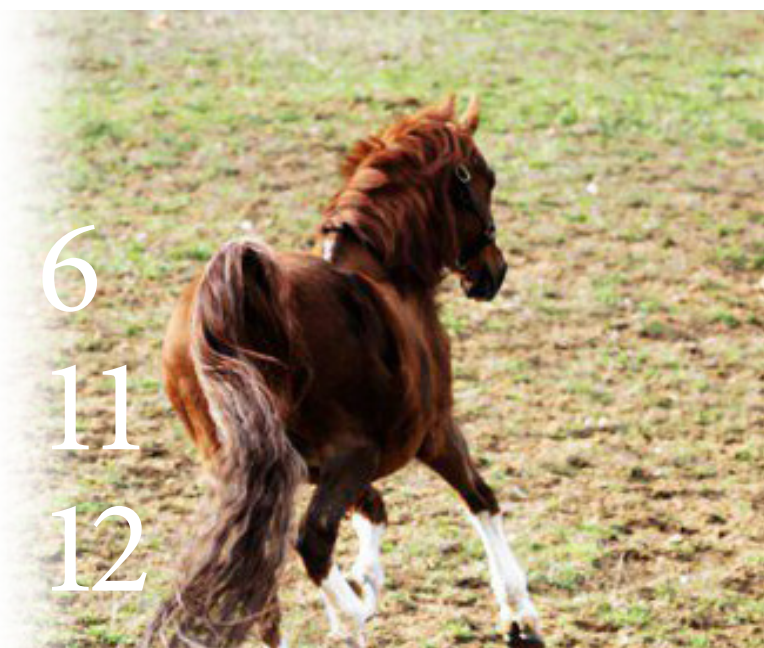
On Friday, Dec. 18, UK Ag Equine Programs had the privilege of hosting a graduation reception for our 15 Equine Science and Management graduates. Nearly 80 family members, graduates and faculty and staff joined graduates and their families at E.S. Good Barn to celebrate this enormous accomplishment.

Other features:

Temporary ban on hoverboards issued by UK

Two UK Venture Studio Bootcamp teams with an equine focus earn top honors

Kentucky ag economy slumps in 2015, but cash receipts still in top three



Welcome

I came to the University of Kentucky in 2003 when I accepted the position of Robert Mills Chair and Professor in the Department of Veterinary Science at the Maxwell Gluck Equine Research Center. I joined an internationally-recognized group of faculty, staff and students who have a primary focus on the health and well-being of horses. What attracted me to this position was the diversity of research programs within the Gluck Center. These various areas included infectious disease, reproduction, parasitology, genetics, toxicology and musculoskeletal disease. Being trained as an immunologist, I was eager to collaborate with fellow equine researchers working in these important fields.

In 2014, I was asked to serve as the interim chair of the department and in September of 2015, I was named chair of the department and director of the Gluck Equine Research Center. In this capacity, I am responsible for the administrative oversight of this program. I am also responsible for assisting and enhancing the scientific and academic missions of this department. One of my goals as director is to expand the research capabilities of our department.

The greatest challenge we will face in this endeavor is funding. The cost of doing research has risen dramatically, while at the same time the amount of funding available for equine research remains stagnant. This situation is further confounded by declines in state and federal support, resulting in increased competition for those limited funds that are available. In order to successfully compete for these funds, our faculty will have to possess the necessary skills and resources to perform cutting edge research.

We will accomplish this by enhancing current faculty's research programs by purchasing new equipment with enhanced technical capabilities and by expanding the research resources within this department. We will also recruit and hire new faculty who will add new areas of expertise to our program. These efforts will continue our long-term commitment to excellence in equine research.

They will also further our educational goal of providing the next generation of equine scientists with the necessary research skills and technical knowledge to address equine health and welfare issues into the future. This includes providing our graduate students, as well as undergraduate students, the opportunity to perform state-of-the-art research on equine health problems. This will involve both benchtop and horse-side research experiences.

To accomplish this, we will need to expand our endowment base in order to provide our faculty, especially new faculty, with the opportunity to develop competitive research programs by providing them with the necessary equipment, expertise, facilities and environment for their research. Our department, in partnership with the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, will seek to increase gifts and other donations to our program by hiring an executive director of our foundation board who will lead these fundraising efforts. I am excited about the current and future potential of our program and I very much look forward to serving the College, University and the equine community as chair of this department.



*David Horohov, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Veterinary Science
Director, Maxwell H. Gluck Equine Research Center*

Upcoming events/deadlines:

February 3

Last day to drop a class without appearing on transcript

February 26

Last day to change majors

February 28

Last day to apply for August 2016 degree online

March 1

UK Equine Career & Opportunities Fair, 4:30 p.m., Spindletop Hall

March 7

Midterm

March 7- April 15

Advising for Summer & Fall 2016

March 14-19

Spring Break



MASTHEAD

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Program Spotlight-Wayne Centers

Alexandra Harper

Wayne Centers, originally from London, Kentucky, graduated from Berea College in 2005 with a Bachelor of Arts in mathematics and a minor in computer science. He later attended graduate school at the University of Kentucky, where he earned his master's in higher education with a concentration in college student affairs in 2007.

Centers is now the Director of Student Relations in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. He is responsible for managing the recruitment initiatives of the college that target high-quality, diverse and motivated students. Centers is responsible for crafting an experience for prospective students that best represents the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

Centers also oversees the Student Ambassador program. He works with 25 student leaders representing a diverse selection of majors. Each ambassador is extremely passionate about serving and helping pave the way for future cohorts of students. The Student Ambassador group supports initiatives around recruitment, service, development and other special events for the College.

In addition, Centers provides support to admissions processes, alumni initiatives, public relations and marketing of the College. He also works to support youth programs, such as 4-H, FFA and Family, Career and Community Leaders of America.

When asked why he decided to come to UK, Centers said, “my love for the university began when I was very young, growing up in Southeastern Kentucky. The brand influence of UK, even then, was quite prominent and impressionable, particularly related to athletics.”

During college, Centers had a mentor who was a UK graduate student who helped him realize all the university had to offer, especially to someone committing their life to serving in higher education.

“Realizing campus as a graduate student and working in Residence Life, I fell in love with the mission, people and opportunities provided by our flagship,” Centers said. “Years later, away from UK, I found myself reminiscing about my experience and decided to return.”

Centers said he remembers the stress around applying to college, picking the right school, a major, living away from home, the finances, etc., He seeks a relationship with his prospective students, their families and the decisions around college, to help them feel comfortable and secure about their considerations and to be an honest and timely resource that addresses their questions and concerns.

“I love working with the student leaders and cultivating their development,” Centers said. “The Student Ambassador program gives me opportunities to teach and collaborate with some of the best and brightest students on UK’s campus.”

When Centers isn’t at the office or traveling for work, he enjoys running and listening to music. Most importantly, he enjoys spending as much time as he can with his family. His wife Hannah is also a UK alum, and they are the very proud parents of a 3-year-old son, Brayden and a Schnoodle, Klaus.



UK Ag Equine Programs unveils new website

Holly Wiemers

The University of Kentucky's Ag Equine Programs unveiled a new website in December. The updated website launch coincides with a year celebrating UK Ag Equine Programs' 10th anniversary and reflects the tremendous progress that's been made in UK's equine programming since it was announced in the spring of 2005.

The site, <http://www.ca.uky.edu/equine>, features updated information about UK's equine programs, including undergraduate and graduate course information as well as information about research, outreach, facilities and events. The updated site also includes the latest equine news and announcements from UK, a monthly student-focused newsletter, the Wildcat Canter and the Bluegrass Equine Digest.

Temporary ban on hoverboards issued by UK

From a January 13 campus email:

Nothing is more important to us than the safety of our community—our students, faculty, staff, alumni, patients, visitors and fans.

Over the past several months, a national dialogue has developed around hoverboards in light of safety concerns raised by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). The CPSC has issued a strong warning about hoverboards after batteries within the devices were reported to burst into flames — especially while being charged — resulting in a metal fire that can burn with intense heat.

Based upon recent fire incidents across the country, the warning from the CPSC, and University of Kentucky safety standards, all hoverboards and similar devices are temporarily banned on campus, effective immediately.

This ban prohibits the use, possession, or storage in residence halls, university apartments, Greek houses, academic buildings, all other campus buildings, campus grounds and other off-campus properties controlled by the university.

All members of the UK community — students, faculty, staff, alumni, patients, visitors and fans — must leave these devices at an off-campus location.

This ban represents a trend across the country. Several Southeastern Conference schools — including Arkansas, LSU and Vanderbilt — have banned the devices. Numerous other campuses have also banned these devices, as discussed in a recent article in Inside Higher Ed. Major U.S. airlines have banned hoverboards on flights due to safety concerns as well. And on Dec. 14, 2015, Amazon.com stopped selling hoverboards due to emerging safety concerns.

The ban will remain in effect until more information and better safety standards for all models of the equipment are in place to protect the UK community from the potential threat of fire.

For students who already have hoverboards on campus and cannot get them home safely, UK has made arrangements to provide temporary storage. Contact the UK Fire Marshal's office at (859) 257-6326.

As members of the UK family return to campus after the holiday season, I encourage all to remember that campus safety is a community responsibility. Everyone is asked to be aware of the fire risks and be mindful of the safety of others by not introducing potential hazards to our community.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Eric N. Monday
Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration

Student Professionalism Series

Elizabeth A. LaBonty

The University of Kentucky Equine Science and Management Undergraduate Degree Program strives to not only educate you about equine science, but also to prepare you for your future career. Part of this preparation includes classroom guest lectures, hands on labs, requiring an internship before you graduate, exposing you to numerous industry related careers and, most recently, we have added a series called the Student Professionalism Series to the Wildcat Canter. The Student Professionalism Series will offer insights and tips to help you effectively prepare for, find, apply to and obtain the career of your choice. This month we will discuss the importance of being thankful.

Thankfulness

As I write this article, the University of Kentucky is closed for the day. Thankfully, we are blessed to be safe and sound in our warm homes as winter storm Jonas whirls away outside. I can't help but think on days like today how important it is to be thankful. Thankfulness comes easily when dealing with the people and things we love, but what does thankfulness look like when we apply it to the parts of our lives that aren't always easy, like our jobs or our careers?

Today I am thankful for a warm house, for the resources to be able to care for and feed my animals, for comfort food (aka: greasy deliciousness), for good friends and for loving family. Like many of you I am especially thankful for the gift of extra sleep and opportunity for uninterrupted work on my classes that snow days bring. But Monday morning the sun will come up (hopefully), the streets will be cleared and we will all brave the cold to start another week. Will I be able to be thankful then or will I be like most people and begrudge complain about Mondays and work?

The truth is I love my job. I am very rarely not excited about going to work each day. I love my students and the people I get to work with. But that wasn't always the case. Thankfulness is a learned skill. One I would challenge you to nurture and develop. One that will set you apart from almost 90% of today's workforce and all but 99% of your generation.

Early on, I spent many years mucking stalls. I cared for broodmares and foals, sale prepped yearlings and took care of sick horses. I did not love mucking stalls – I won't lie. But I found that a negative attitude was getting in the way of a career I truly loved, so something had to change. I worked hard to change, to be thankful for every learning opportunity, for the chance to care for such a high caliber of horses, for being healthy and fit enough to be able to do physical labor. As my attitude changed so did my work experience.

When I stopped focusing on the bad or annoying things about my coworkers, I found how fun and easy to work with they were. When I stopped focusing on how mean and unfair my boss was, I realized how much I could learn from him and how much he was investing in me and my future career. In reality, they hadn't changed at all, only my attitude had.

When I stopped resenting every dirty stall I walked into, I started appreciating the quiet moments spent grooming horses. To this day I miss having that peaceful time with horses every day. Soon I felt thankful for the job I had been given, the people I got to work with and the ones I got to learn from. I was thankful to be responsible for these awesome animals and the more responsibility I felt, the harder I worked and the better I did.

Thankfulness is like everything else; it's something you have to work at being and fight to not lose. But everyone can do it. Thankfulness comes second nature to me today. I look back on the hard, messy, cold, hot, dirty, unappreciated jobs I've had, and I laugh. Sure they made me a better person, sure they taught me something but, most of all, without them I wouldn't be able to appreciate the amazing job I have today. If I could share one thing with you on this cold and wintry day, it would be to learn to be thankful. In all things, under all circumstances, at all times. You will be glad you did.



Crowdfunding studies instrumental in securing five-year USDA grant

Jenny Evans

The first research crowdfunding project launched at the University of Kentucky helped secure an approximate \$2.1 million, five-year, multiple species grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In January 2014, Martin Nielsen, an equine parasitologist, veterinarian and assistant professor at the UK Gluck Equine Research Center, launched the crowdfunding project, "Let the germs get the worms: Testing a novel probiotic compound for treatment of equine parasites." The project generated more than \$12,000. Crowdfunding is a relatively new term that describes reaching out to the general public to meet a fundraising goal. Success in attaining the goal often depends on many individuals making smaller donations through a website.

As the name of the crowdfunding campaign implies, Nielsen's research project focused on developing a novel bacterial agent for parasite control. Parasite populations are becoming widely resistant to commercially available dewormers, and there is a critical need for new and alternative treatments. The money raised in the campaign allowed Nielsen and his collaborators to conduct a number of laboratory tests with the bacterial products and equine strongyle parasites; results were very promising. The data was included in the proposal for the USDA grant and helped make an appealing case for an expanded research project.

"This shows exactly how crowdfunding can play a significant role in getting research funding. In addition to the publicity generated during the active campaign, crowdfunding provided a stepping stone for getting a larger grant," Nielsen said. "With the limited amount of grants available for equine research, we need to be more entrepreneurial in our fundraising efforts. Crowdfunding represents one such strategy."

David Horohov, chair of the Department of Veterinary Science, director of the Gluck Equine Research Center and Jes E. and Clementine M. Schlaikjer Endowed Chair, commended Nielsen for his initiative and efforts.

"It is gratifying to see how the novel initiative by one of our younger faculty members to use crowdfunding as a means of generating preliminary data has resulted in a significant award from the USDA for his research program. Dr. Nielsen should be credited not only for this accomplishment, but for the initiative and entrepreneurship he showed in procuring these funds," Horohov said.

Raffi Aroian, professor at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, is the principal investigator of the USDA grant. Nielsen, along with researchers from Virginia Tech University and USDA, Beltsville, are co-principal investigators. The aim of the research project is to develop and evaluate a new bacterial agent for parasite control of farm animals (sheep/goats, horses, cattle and pigs) as well as humans. Nielsen's laboratory will evaluate this treatment modality in the horse, while other collaborators will evaluate it for the other animals.

Intestinal parasites cause significant loss of health, productivity, reproduction, life and profits associated with large farm animals. In addition, more than 1.5 billion people are infected by parasites. Consequences in children include malnutrition, stunted growth, lower cognitive skills and immune defects; impact on adults can include poor pregnancy outcomes, lethargy and lower productivity.

The mission of the Gluck Center, a UK Ag Equine program in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, is scientific discovery, education and dissemination of knowledge for the benefit of the health and well-being of horses. The Gluck Center faculty conducts equine research in seven targeted areas: genetics and genomics, infectious diseases, immunology, musculoskeletal science, parasitology, pharmacology/toxicology and reproductive health.

For more information on the Gluck Center, visit <http://www.ca.uky.edu/gluck>.

Equine Science and Management Alumni Profile

Colton Woods, '15

Double Dan Horsemanship USA

by Hannah Forte



Colton Woods

Where is home for you?

I am originally from High Point, North Carolina

How did you first become involved in the horse industry?

I have always had a passion for horses, cattle and livestock, and I knew that I never wanted a typical office job. I got my first job on a local hunter/jumper horse farm when I turned 16, and about nine months later, I began volunteering at a local equine rescue, Safe Haven Equine Rescue and Retirement. There I found my passion for educating and re-training horses.

What were your career goals before graduation?

Throughout my collegiate career, I was on a mission to further my horsemanship skills on an academic and more practical level. I wanted to earn a living on horseback, educating horses and people.

Where are you currently employed?

Double Dan Horsemanship, USA.

What led you to this position?

I had the opportunity to meet Dan James through a Thoroughbred yearling sales prep internship during August 2012 just before my freshman year. Over the next three years, I kept in touch with Dan and we regularly ran into one another around Lexington, Kentucky, events such as the Road to the Horse. As graduation approached, we reconnected and discussed potential opportunities with Double Dan Horsemanship. While many professors played a role in my academic career, Dr. Coleman and Ms. LaBonty were instrumental in every facet, from planning courses to career advice.

What are your current job responsibilities?

I am currently the Assistant Horse Trainer for Double Dan Horsemanship USA. I tend to the daily care of the horses by cleaning stalls, feeding, administering medication and grooming, as well as educating horses, assisting in teaching clinics, processing product orders, working the booth at expos and coordinating the 2016 schedule. There are a whole realm of responsibilities I have had in the first six months on the job that have been incredible learning experiences.

How are you currently involved in the horse industry?

I am fortunate enough to work with a company that touches the lives of many horses and people across the globe every year. Through equine expositions, entertainment, clinics and competitive shows, we are able to work directly with horses and their owners to provide educational experiences.

What advice do you have for current equine students?

First and foremost, chase your dreams; follow your heart and passion. Go outside of the classroom and learn practical skills that will be important in your future endeavors, whether it may be learning how to shoe/trim horses, how to run an IV or even how to effectively market yourself within the industry. Be bold and stand up for your beliefs, take pride in who you are and what you stand for.

The UK Strategic Plan: Undergraduate Student Success

Timothy S. Tracy, Source: UKNow

January 8, WUKY's "UK Perspectives" featured a conversation on a vital element of who we are, why we're here, and where we're going as an institution. Focusing on the UK Strategic Plan, Tom Godell and I discussed an essential truth in higher education: all great institutions, without fail, provide excellent undergraduate experiences.

My conversation with Tom is the first of a several part series on WUKY, where we will focus on the major pillars of the strategic plan.

The first objective of our 2015-2020 Strategic Plan provides a road map for cultivating an environment in undergraduate excellence. We must be a community in which commitments to academic excellence, collaboration, inclusivity and belonging are deeply embedded in our culture.

Such commitment begins by recognizing the obstacles that our students face, and by understanding how best to address those challenges.

I'm fortunate to see and talk with students almost every day. Almost invariably, I've found that their concerns span across three primary areas:

1. Doing well academically and what that means for the future
2. Financial difficulties, related to work or concern about paying for school
3. A feeling of being alone, the result of either being away from home for the first time or the challenge of finding their place, that sense of community we all want

We know that whether a student returns to school after one semester, and whether they ultimately graduate, depends a great deal on successfully navigating and coping with these issues. That's why much of the nearly \$2 billion transformation occurring on our campus right now is focused on improving the student experience and instilling an even greater sense of community throughout our campus. Thousands of new residence hall beds, with dozens of innovative classroom and gathering spaces, are designed to foster enhanced living and learning experiences for our students.

We know when students live on campus, particularly their first year, they are more likely to be retained, to do well academically, and to become involved in organizations and initiatives that give them a sense of social support and well-being. Our goal is to nurture and enhance that sense of belonging, to better ensure their success.

And, increasingly, financial concerns— particularly what we call unmet financial need— play a predominant role in the question of student success.

For this reason, this year we announced changes to our scholarship programs for the 2016-2017 school year. We've modified eligibility requirements for some scholarships, such as the Singletary and full-tuition scholarships as we seek to target more successfully students with financial and other needs. Our goal is—and has always been—to find ways to better balance the academic merit scholarships we provide with need-based scholarships and aid. Under the leadership of President Eli Capilouto and our Board of Trustees, we've devoted more and more resources toward scholarships and aid at UK. This year alone, we are investing more than \$100 million in institutional scholarships and aid, up from \$75 million just a few years ago.

In addition, this past fall we announced a number of initiatives— in addition to our scholarship offerings— aimed at addressing financial need and the challenges that confront many of our students. Among those initiatives is a financial wellness center, which provides guidance and mentoring opportunities for students to enhance their financial literacy.

These initiatives align with the Strategic Plan; they are part of a focus we place at UK on the student experience, the idea of putting students first in everything that we do.

Under the leadership of President Capilouto and our Board of Trustees, we aim to be the University of choice for aspiring undergraduate students, within the Commonwealth and beyond, seeking a transformational education that promotes self-discovery, experiential learning, and life-long achievement. Our Strategic Plan will guide us as we pursue this vision, as the University for Kentucky.

Two UK Venture Studio Bootcamp teams with an equine focus earn top honors

Holly Wiemers

Two University of Kentucky teams with an equine focus both recently earned top spots in their respective divisions during a local contest for start-up pitches.

The teams – Team Race Assure and Team Serandu – competed as part of the Venture Studio Bootcamp, launched this fall by the Von Allmen Center for Entrepreneurship at UK. Venture Studio is an innovative learning space located in the new UK Gatton College of Business & Economics and is focused on immersive training for student entrepreneurs. The Bootcamp is dedicated towards learning, team building and developing a business model for a new start-up. Throughout each weekly session, students gained hands-on experience with a real world project. For all projects, students had to apply to compete for a spot on a project team. Each project required a variety of skill sets to ensure a cross-discipline approach.

A project called “Helping Horses Improve Health & Performance” took top honors against 14 other teams Nov. 20 during a Lexington, Kentucky, “Stand Up for your Start Up” pitch competition, then again at a Dec. 4 University of Kentucky competition. Team Race Assure worked on this project.

Team Race Assure members, from left to right in the photo, include Stefanie Pagano, graduate student in BioMedical Engineering; Kimberly Cecere, an Equine Science and Management undergraduate student; and Julia Fabiani, an undergraduate in both Equine Science and Management and Applied Physiology.

In addition to top honors Nov. 20, the Race Assure team also pocketed the \$1,000 prize.

Their project inventor is David Horohov, chair of the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment’s Department of Veterinary Science, director of the Gluck Equine Research Center and Jes E. and Clementine M. Schlaikjer Endowed Chair at the Gluck Center.

According to the team’s synopsis, their marketing of Horhov’s invention addresses the problem that successful athletic training is associated with the induction of an anti-inflammatory state characterized by reduced production of inflammatory mediators. By contrast, an increase in inflammatory mediators during training is associated with a failure to adapt to exercise, leading to reduced athletic performance and increased risk for injury.

The second UK equine-focused team to come out on top in its division Dec. 4, Team Serandu, marketed an Ultimate Fit Riding Boot and worked under UK faculty members Janet Kurzynske and Scarlett Wesley, both in the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment’s School of Human Environmental Sciences.



Caitlin Halliwell and Allison Burke

Their team addressed the dilemma that standard sizes do not fit all when it comes to clothes and shoes. The drive to produce clothes and shoes economically has forced manufacturers to reduce the variety of size options. This trend is particularly evident in the shoe industry. It is known that humans have great variety of foot anatomical structure from individual to individual but also from right to left feet in the same individual. When you look at a boot, variations are multiplied by ankle to the knee anatomical differences. Layer this on top of the need for functionality for the many types of equestrian riding boots. Many equestrian riders settle for less than an ideal fitting boot which may reduce comfort, functionality and safety.

Using 3-D imaging and a personalized manufacturing process, their idea was to create “made to fit” and competitively-priced equestrian boots that provide comfort, functionality and safety.

Team Serandu is comprised of Allison Burke, an undergraduate in Merchandising, Apparel and Textiles, and Caitlin Halliwell, an undergraduate in Equine Science and Management.

Moving forward, both teams will continue to compete in business plan competitions in the spring of 2016.



Stefanie Pagano, Kimberly Cecere and Julia Fabiani

Kentucky ag economy slumps in 2015, but cash receipts still in top three

Source: UK Ag Communication Services news release by Carol Spence

Kentucky agricultural cash receipts in 2015 are projected to be off 8 percent from last year's record high, falling to \$6 billion—still the third highest on record. On the national front, the U.S. Department of Agriculture projects cash receipts are down 10 percent from 2014. The outlook for 2016 remains depressed.

“One of the major contributing factors to a slumping U.S./Kentucky ag economy is the decline in ag exports responding to the strengthening U.S. dollar, weak overseas economies, and mounting crop and livestock supplies,” said Will Snell, extension professor in the University of Kentucky Department of Agricultural Economics.

Snell and other UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment faculty, including Kenny Burdine, Todd Davis and Tim Woods, all from UK's Department of Agricultural Economics, Jeff Stringer, from the Department of Forestry, and Kentucky Farm Business Management Program coordinator Jerry Pierce, shared their agricultural economic outlook for 2016 and an overview of 2015 during the Kentucky Farm Bureau 96th annual meeting Dec. 3 in Louisville.

Though Kentucky crop and livestock receipts are expected to decline 16 and 3 percent, respectively, in 2015, other factors managed to slightly counterbalance the weakened markets.

“Record high grain yields and strong spring/summer cattle prices, coupled with solid poultry and equine sector figures, helped partially offset depressed fall cattle and grain prices, as well as falling tobacco revenues,” Snell said. Though the cash receipts are often touted, Snell said net income levels are a more accurate reflection of the commonwealth's agricultural economy.

According to UK's estimates, Kentucky net cash income likely will dip below \$2 billion in 2015 and approach the 2010-2012 average of \$1.4 billion in 2016. The state's net cash income peaked at \$2.75 billion in 2013, before slipping to \$2.5 billion in 2014. Declining cash receipts coupled with the end of tobacco buyout payments are the major cause for the projected decline this year and next.

“The bottom line is, after several great, great years, 2015 and 2016 will be a challenge with net income plummeting,” Snell said. “Hopefully, farmers put away some of their profits from previous years to weather the current downturn in the ag economy.”

Kentucky continues to be livestock-dependent. Poultry remains the top agriculture enterprise with 22 percent of projected 2015 sales, followed by equine and cattle, each with 16 percent projected sales, and soybeans and corn at 13 percent sales.

The equine market held the gains it made the last few years, with the 2015 September yearling and November breeding stock sales slightly higher. There are indications that stud fees will increase in 2016.

A copy of the outlook publication including information on individual farm sectors can be found at <http://www.uky.edu/ag/agecon/pubs/extoutlook151601.pdf>.



Congratulations to our 2015 Equine Science and Management Graduates!

Kristen Wilson

Dr. Seuss once said, "Today is your day. You're off to great places! You're off and away!"

On Friday, Dec. 18, UK Ag Equine Programs had the privilege of hosting a graduation reception for our 15 Equine Science and Management graduates. Nearly 80 family members, graduates and faculty and staff joined graduates and their families at E.S. Good Barn to celebrate this enormous accomplishment.

After refreshments and networking, each graduate was individually recognized by Bob Coleman, Director of Undergraduate Studies for the Equine Science and Management program, during a formal program. In addition, each graduate received a gift – alumni swag and an UK Ag Equine Program pin - as well as a note from their academic advisor.

Congratulations graduates!

As you can see from the following profiles, each of the program's graduates is unique, and each will go out and contribute to the equine industry in many ways. We wish each of them well as they start this next chapter in their lives.

Meredith Davis

*Favorite memory?
"Helping charter the
Beta Omicron chap-
ter of Sigma Alpha
sorority, and having
a hand in growing it
into the largest chap-
ter in the nation."*



Davis is originally from Ringgold, Georgia. She chose UK for the Equine Science and Management program and to be closer proximity to industry leaders.

Her favorite memory from UK was helping charter the Beta Omicron chapter of Sigma Alpha sorority, and having a hand in growing it into the largest chapter in the nation.

After graduation, Davis will be working as marketing assistant for Exchange Hunter Jumper and launching her freelance graphic design company, Meredith Davis Design, specializing in branding, web design and stationary.

Kaitlin Farmer

*Favorite memory?
"Attending the foot-
ball games, espe-
cially last year when
we rushed the field
against South Caro-
lina."*



Kaitlin Farmer is originally from Lafayette, Louisiana. She chose the University of Kentucky for the Equine Science and Management program, along with wanting to be in the middle of the equine industry.

Farmer's favorite memory while at UK was hanging out with friends at the football games, especially last year when they rushed the field against South Carolina.

After graduation, Farmer will be working in the show offices for HITS (Horse Shows in the Sun).

Paige Gott

Favorite memory?
“Fulfilling my internship requirements at the Life Adventure Center. It was so much fun getting to work with horses and children!”

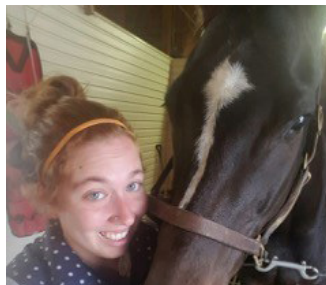


Gott is originally from Lawrenceburg, Kentucky. She chose to come to UK because it was close to home and for the equine program.

Gott’s favorite memory while at UK was fulfilling her internship requirements at the Life Adventure Center. “It was so much fun getting to work with horses and children,” Gott said.

After graduation, she plans to find a job in sales or marketing within the equine industry.

Brynn Jones



“I went to a UK vs. Auburn football game for the first time and loved the atmosphere.”

Jones is originally from Wilmington, Delaware. She had a friend at UK and went to a UK vs. Auburn football game while visiting.

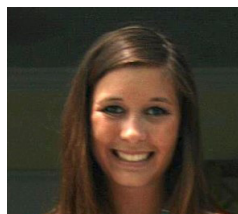
“I loved the atmosphere,” Jones said. “It was great how a school so big could feel so small. Not once did I feel like I was just another body at UK.”

Jones’ favorite memory while at UK was living in B-Tower her freshman year. She ended up meeting her best friends and learned to meet new people.

After graduation, Jones plans to stay in Lexington and work during the horse sales. She also plans to continue working on her eventing with her new horse and continue to work at the racetrack a couple days a week.

Isabelle Kunz

Favorite memory?
“Beating Louisville in the Final Four my sophomore year.”



Kunz is originally from Raleigh, North Carolina. She chose UK because she loved the idea of being able to focus her studies on horses but also because there is such a strong equine presence across Lexington in many different industries.

Her favorite memory while at UK was beating Louisville in the Final Four her sophomore year.

After graduation, Kunz plans to pursue a doctorate in equine genetics.

Jessica Lynn



Favorite memory?
“Having the honor of being Drum Major for the Wildcat Marching Band for two years.”

Lynn, originally from Nicholasville, Kentucky, chose UK because her father is a faculty member in the chemistry department. But a close second reason was to pursue a career in pharmacy and attend UK’s pharmacy school. However, Lynn’s plans quickly changed and she decided to follow her heart and study Equine Science and Management.

“Switching majors was the best decision I ever made and I have not regretted it one day,” Lynn said.

Lynn’s favorite memory while at UK was having the honor of being Drum Major for the Wildcat Marching Band (WMB) for two years.

After graduation, Lynn will work with Equestrian Events, Inc. as its volunteer coordinator. Beyond the 2016 Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event, she plans to pursue a career in marketing and do freelance word designing and managing websites, as well as social media for the horse industry. During her time at UK, Lynn created her own lifestyle blog, Southern Bell Equestrian, and will continue to blog on the side as well.

Griffin Patterson

*Favorite memory?
“Taking the equine behavior and handling class with Dr. Rossano at Main Chance Farm.”*



Griffin Patterson, a Lexingtonian, spent a year at Centre College and decided to come back to Lexington, Kentucky, to pursue a degree in Equine Science and Management at UK.

Patterson’s favorite memory while at UK was taking the equine behavior and handling class with Mary Rossano, professor in the program, at Main Chance Farm, and being able to see what great things the farm is doing for the University, but also the equine industry in general.

After graduation, Patterson hopes to be working for a large commercial breeding operation in the area.

Cate Thomas



“I always dreamed of going to school at UK and getting to live, work and ride in such a beautiful city.”

Thomas, originally from Nashville, Tennessee, chose UK because she absolutely fell in love with Lexington.

“I always dreamed of going to school at UK and getting to live, work and ride in such a beautiful city,” Thomas said.

Thomas’ favorite memory while at UK was Dr. Sylvia’s class freshman year.

“From holding baby sheep to dissecting the reproductive tract of a pig, I thought the entire class was pretty awesome,” Thomas said.

After graduation, Thomas will be taking over as head trainer at a farm in Thompson’s Station, Tennessee. She will be starting 2-year-olds and running a full training barn.

“I’ll be doing everything from fox hunting, restarting Off-The-Track Thoroughbreds and team roping,” Thomas said.

Jessica Whitaker

“Attending a university in the heart of a thriving horse industry has been beneficial to my growth as a student and as a horseman.”



Whitaker, originally from Danville, Kentucky, chose to attend UK because of its location.

“Attending a university in the heart of a thriving horse industry has been beneficial to my growth as a student and as a horseman,” Whitaker said.

After graduation Whitaker will begin working full time as a nursing staff technician at Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital. Eventually, she would like to either operate or own a facility that specializes in hippotherapy.

Her favorite memory while at UK was joining her sorority.

“These women have been so influential in my growth as an adult and preparing me for the next stage of life after graduation, Whitaker said.

Congratulations to our other graduates as well...

- ~ Laura Cooper
- ~ Anne Grove
- ~ Crystal Harrell
- ~ Sydney Pitman
- ~ Jennifer Ronczkowski
- ~ Hagan Southworth

Bluegrass Equine Digest



Check out the December 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. This month's stories can be found at http://www.thehorse.com/enews/bluegrass-equine-digest/PDF/BED-Dec2015.pdf?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=bluegrass-equine-digest&utm_campaign=12-27-2015.

- Understanding the Equine Immune System
- Maximizing Cooled and Frozen Semen's Fertility
- The Grass Guide: Smooth Bromegrass
- Kentucky Ag Economy Slumps in 2015

Stay connected with your fellow alums. Find and join the new alumni Facebook page:
University of Kentucky Equine Alumni

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Clubs and teams

Polo Team

UK Polo had a great first semester and is looking forward to this semester. This past semester, the women's team played Virginia Tech at home, traveled to the University of Virginia and also drove to Maryland to play Garrison Ford.

The men's team played Colorado State University in a close home game, traveled to the University of Virginia for another close game and also traveled to the University of Connecticut.

The first game of the semester will be at West Wind Stables on Feb. 5 and 6. Come cheer on the women's team. Go Cats!

Congratulations to Emily Meyer and Emma Oakley, the team's graduating seniors this past December.

Reminder: UK Polo has its t-shirt sales going on now for a minimum donation of \$20 (\$22 if shipped). Contact Bennett at bennett.baughman@uky.edu if you'd like to place an order.



CLUBS AND TEAMS DIRECTORY

DRESSAGE AND EVENTING TEAM

Advisor: Dr. Jill Stowe, jill.stowe@uky.edu
 President: Elizabeth Lampert, eala229@g.uky.edu
 Facebook: UK Dressage and Eventing

HORSE RACING CLUB

Advisor: Dr. Laurie Lawrence, laurenc@email.uky.edu
 President: Madison Scott, ukhorseracingclub@gmail.com
 Facebook: University of Kentucky Horse Racing Club

EQUESTRIAN TEAM

Advisor: Dr. Bob Coleman, rcoleman@email.uky.edu

HUNT SEAT TEAM

President: Haley Dowty, uk.equestrianteam@gmail.com
 Facebook: University of Kentucky Equestrian Team

WESTERN TEAM

President: AnnMarie Kadnar, annmariekadnar@uky.edu
 Facebook: University of Kentucky Western IHSA Team

POLO TEAM

Advisor: Dr. Roger Brown, rogerbrown@uky.edu
 President: Bennett Baughman, baba239@g.uky.edu
 Facebook: U of Kentucky Polo

R.E.A.D. CLUB

Advisor: Dr. Kristine Urschel, klur222@uky.edu
 President: Sarah Sivinski, ukyreadclub@gmail.com
 Facebook: READ Club

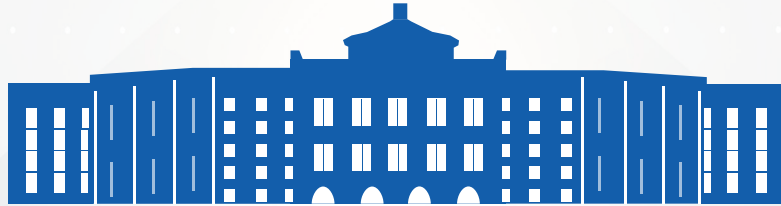
RODEO TEAM

Advisor: Dr. Kristine Urschel, klur222@uky.edu
 President: Allison Barkley, ukrodeoteam@gmail.com
 Facebook: University of Kentucky Rodeo Team/Club

SADDLE SEAT TEAM

Advisor: Dr. Mary Rossano, mary.rossano@uky.edu
 President: Andrew Slater, UkSaddleSeatTeam@gmail.com
 Facebook: UK Saddleseat Team 2014-2015Group)

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THE STUDY

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PASTURES PLEASE !!

PASTURE MANAGEMENT FOR THE HORSE OWNER

Please contact your county extension agent to reserve a spot at the meeting.

The 2016 Pastures Please meeting is sponsored by the UK Cooperative Extension Service and the UK Ag Equine Programs.

**PASTURES PLEASE!!
PLANNING
COMMITTEE:**

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ROB AMBURGEY
ADAM PROBST
LINDA McCLANAHAN
MICHELLE SIMON
DAVID DAVIS
NICK CARTER
KRISTA LEA
DR. BOB COLEMAN
DR. RAY SMITH

The Cooperative Extension Service of Jessamine, Woodford, Clark, Mercer, Scott, Fayette and Bourbon Counties invite you to attend an informative meeting on the management of horse pastures. Through this program, we try to present some of the latest information geared specifically toward the horse owner/manager. We have some of the top experts in the area lined up for this meeting.



February 11, 2016 - 6:00 p.m.
KCTCS System Office
300 North Main Street
Versailles, KY 40383

6:00pm - Refreshments
Sponsored by McCauley's

6:30pm - Program Begins
Dr. Laurie Lawrence
Understanding the Nutritional Value of Pasture

Dr. Kenny Burdine
Grazing vs Haying for the Horse Operation

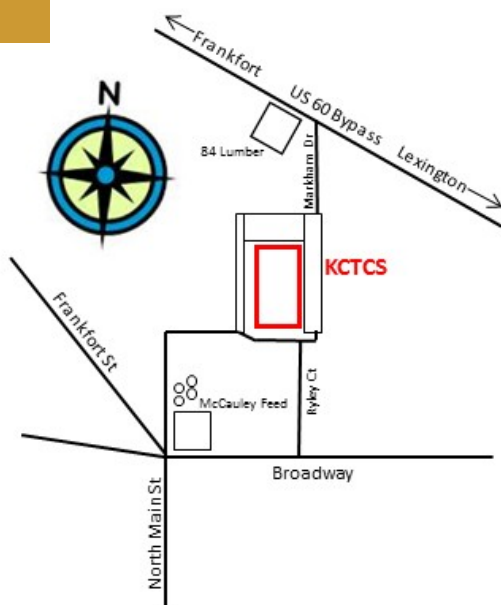
Dr. Martin Nielsen
Integrated Parasite Control

Dr. Karen McDowell
Novel Endophyte Tall Fescue and Broodmares

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:
CONTACT YOUR LOCAL
COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT**

COUNTY OFFICE NUMBERS

ROB AMBURGEY	JESSAMINE	(859) 885-4811
KIMBERLY POE	BOURBON	(859) 987-1895
ADAM PROBST	WOODFORD	(859) 873-4601
LINDA McCLANAHAN	MERCER	(859) 734-4378
MICHELLE SIMON	SCOTT	(502) 863-0984
DAVID DAVIS	CLARK	(859) 744-4682
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