

# *Wildcat Canter*

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY AG EQUINE PROGRAMS NEWSLETTER



SUMMER 2018



## **UK Video Highlights the Beauty and Importance of the Saddlebred- PAGE 5**

The Equine Science and Management program at the University of Kentucky provides students with a well-rounded education to prepare them to enter the equine industry. Here at UK, Saddlebred enthusiasts or a horse enthusiasts in general can receive a top-notch education, have access to world class research, including the Gluck Equine Research Center, and be at the center of all the action the Horse Capital of the World has to offer.



## **Summer 2018 Equine Education Abroad Experience: Vive La France, Horses and History- PAGE 8**

In January 2018, a group of 14 Equine Science and Management and Animal Sciences students began weekly meetings to prepare for a two-week education abroad experience to France in May 2018. Students spent class time learning basic French words and phrases, and also presented about topics important to the French horse industry and French history and culture.



## **A Student's Perspective on Visiting the Fasig-Tipton Horses of Racing Age and Yearling Sale- PAGE 15**

A Thoroughbred sale is like no other event in the world. The gleaming coats of the impeccably groomed horses glisten in the sunlight as they are shown off to prospective buyers, who are eager to find that special horse that will have just the right combination of heart, try and speed.



## **Other Features**

Religion and Horses?- PAGE 7

'The Next Set of Hands In The Industry': College Students Learn On The Job At Maine Chance -PAGE 16

## **UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DEADLINES**

- August 6, UK Equine Farm & Facilities Expo, 3:30-8 p.m., Knapper Farm
- August 8, Kentucky Summer Classic, \$25,000 Hagyard Lexington Classic, Rolex Arena
- August 17, Bluegrass Festival Horse Show, \$25,000 Hagyard Lexington Classic, Rolex Arena
- August 18-25, Saddlebred World's Championship Horse Show, Freedom Hall
- August 22, First day of classes
- August 23, KHJA Horse Show, \$10,000 Hagyard Lexington Classic
- August 28, Last day to add a class

## Welcome

Welcome to the July edition of the Wildcat Canter. With the summer solstice now behind us, it's officially summer – time to take advantage of glorious weather, time to ride and time to get your mojo going for the fall semester.

My name is Emma Adam, and I'm both new and old to the University of Kentucky. This month will be my first month in a new position as Equine Veterinary Science and Outreach faculty. The position is focused on building upon existing relationships as well as creating new relationships and opportunities between our university and the equine industry around us and at large. At large actually sounds quite strange – it's really a global village and at times feels almost parochial. As a veterinarian involved in the equine industry for 'a few decades' it never ceases to amaze me how people with a horse interest are connected through alumni contacts or friends of friends. You don't have to be brought up in the industry to capitalize on connections, especially with the resources at UK. Simply being at UK gives you direct and directed contact to the industry if you so choose.

I came to Lexington at 19 from my native Newmarket, England, working as a 'gofor' for the breeding season for Dr. Walter Zent. A 'gofor' is just that – 'go for this' or 'go for that.' I wrote a letter to a Gluck Equine Research Center faculty member who had worked on an infectious outbreak where I grew up and told him I wanted to "visit America" before returning to England to attend veterinary school. He put me in touch with Dr. Zent. In those days, going to veterinary school was just what you did to work in the industry. That was many moons' ago and much has changed since then – but changed for the better. Currently, the equine world is more diverse and offers opportunities to anyone and everyone with the desire and drive to contribute. Harnessing your skills and passion to make a career are the hallmarks of a life worth living.

For my part, I just wanted to work with horses and improve their health and welfare. That still remains my passion and has led me on a very merry dance. Since my first trip to Lexington, I've worked in four countries on three continents and in five U.S. states. Along the way, I have worked on all kinds of horses and disciplines, in private practice and academia, and trained for two veterinary specialties (internal medicine at Texas A&M and surgery at the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center).

One of the most admirable qualities of our educational system is its flexibility. Its latitude and depth offer the flexibility to adapt our academic skills to our passion: the horse. Anywhere else in the world, it would have been near impossible to undertake and get funding for a PhD after 20 years as a clinician. However, those skills and experiences offered insights previously unimagined to my graduate education. As such, I found considerable leverage with my clinical skills while working on my PhD in Dr. Jamie MacLeod's Musculoskeletal Research Lab at the Gluck Center.

In my new role as industry liaison and researcher, I relish the opportunities ahead. As students enjoying the summer break, yet contemplating the return to college, I urge you to follow your passion and work diligently toward that end. Finding and working hard at internships, classes, and using the skills you are developing is critical to creating a career that is both satisfying and rewarding.

It's not where you start, it's where you finish that counts.

*Emma Adams*  
*Equine Veterinary Science and Outreach faculty*





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## UK Video Highlights the Beauty and Importance of the Saddlebred

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*photo by Matt Barton, UK Agricultural Communications*

## UK Equine Farm and Facilities Expo Rescheduled to Aug. 6

University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs' annual Farm and Facilities Expo was rescheduled due to rain. The new date for the event will be Aug. 6 from 3:30 - 8 p.m. EDT 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.

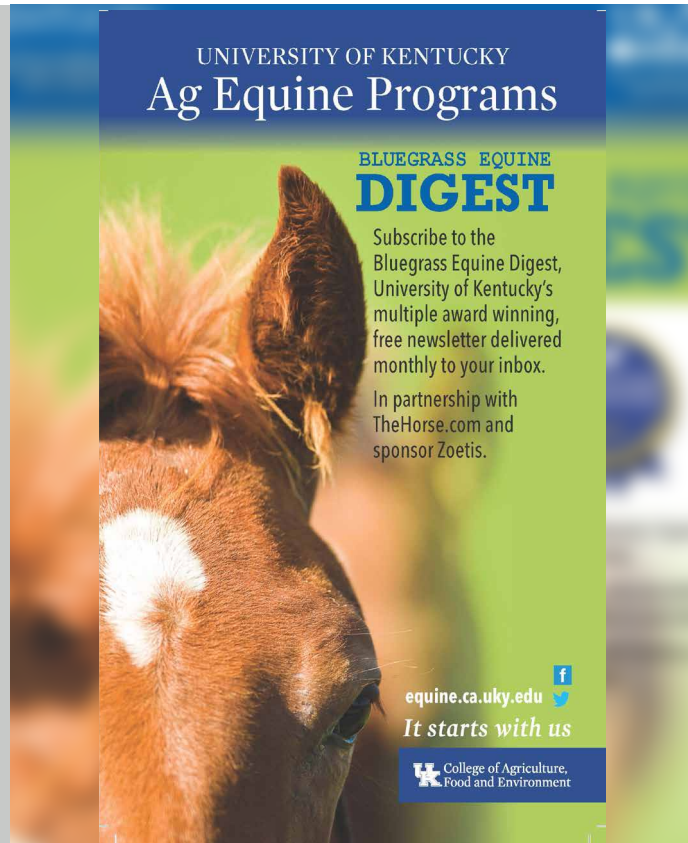
While not required, an RSVP is appreciated for food planning purposes. Please email [equine@uky.edu](mailto:equine@uky.edu) to RSVP. For more information about this or future UK Ag Equine Programs' events, please visit <http://www.ca.uky.edu/equine>.

### *Bluegrass Equine Digest*

Check out the July 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.

- Poison Hemlock: Toxic to Horses, Livestock
- Strongyle Egg Shedding in U.S. Horses
- Immunotherapies for IBH
- New UKVDL Fees and Tests
- Racehorse Safety Summit Highlights Injury Rates, Integrity



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY  
**Ag Equine Programs**

**BLUEGRASS EQUINE DIGEST**

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## Religion and Horses?

By Amy Lawyer

I am going to go out on a limb and assume most people would not lump subject matters of religion and the horse industry together. Forgive me if you are a person that believes the two go hand-in-hand. I know many people in the horse industry that would consider themselves very religious, I know many people that would consider themselves "blessed" by the opportunity to work with horses; but still, there have been very few occasions where I have heard anyone say, "You know the horse industry is a lot like various segments of religion." So, allow me to attempt to break new ground on this topic.

In March, I was able to participate in a religious diversity event through the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. Representatives from each department took part in a day-long event that exposed us to different religions and places of worship around Lexington. On our journey, we visited a Sikh Temple, a Mosque, a Jewish Temple and a Unitarian Church. It would be safe to say that most of us on the tour had not ventured outside of our own families' (mostly Christian) church. Where we were at times surprised by cultural or ritualistic differences, the biggest surprise came with the realization of how similar all of the religions actually were. Now don't get me wrong, there are numerous differences in the religions we were introduced to, but if all were boiled down to their basic beliefs and principles, they all seemed to have a common view of humanity. We are all searching for truth, we all should strive to be better people and all of the religions we covered held the belief that you should be kind to others without judgement.

So, what does all of this have to do with the horse industry? I'm glad you asked. While on the tour, and making this self-realization that we are all seeking the same guidance, it occurred to me that the various religious beliefs are in many ways similar to the numerous breed and discipline divides that we see in the horse industry. From English to Western to Racing, and all of the various sections within each, we often times see ourselves as more different than similar. Pointing fingers at other breeds, or casting judgement upon how another disciplines go about training, or performing, is akin to how people treat religions that are different from their own. In many ways, this rivalry, or at the very least, separation between disciplines, often times hurts us more than it helps. When we boil down the horse industry, horses are horses. They all have similar diets, need similar care and are susceptible to similar diseases. We are all passionate about horses, whether they are racing in the slop, cutting a cow from the herd or high-stepping through a show ring. Our rituals may be different, but our motives are the same.

The same is true with religion, if we could focus on our similarities, and not our differences, we might be able to have a bigger impact. Urbanization, legislation, public perception, dwindling participation, affect all of us in the horse industry. By teaming together, and opening lines of communication, we may be able to see the business of horses continue on for many generations; however, if we remain in our silos, there is little we can do. I think this concept could be applied to many aspects of our society. If we could only get past our differences, we would probably have a lot in common.



## Summer 2018 Equine Education Abroad Experience: Vive La France, Horses and History

By Jackie Wahrmund

In January 2018, a group of 14 Equine Science and Management and Animal Sciences students began weekly meetings to prepare for a two-week education abroad experience to France in May 2018. Students spent class time learning basic French words and phrases, and also presented about topics important to the French horse industry and French history and culture.

Horse-focused presentations included topics like French breeds of horses, such as the Percheron, and the French Trotter racing industry. Equally interesting were the history and culture presentations, which focused on topics including wine, cheese, art and France's role in World War II. The semester went by quickly, as they always seem to do, and before we knew it our trip was upon us. Even after spending a semester preparing for the trip, most of our learning occurred during our experiences traveling through France.

Upon arrival in Paris, we traveled via train to the town of Dijon, home to AgroSup Dijon, which is an agricultural and technical higher education institution that has worked with the University of Kentucky for a number of years. After settling in our new surroundings, we began our tours the following day with a visit southwest of Dijon to a breeding farm in the town of Villers-sous-Chalamont where Comtois draft horses are raised. This beautiful breed is known for its unique bay color with a silver gene adding a glow to their manes and tails. The following day we traveled east to visit the AgroSup equine research facility in Pouilly-en-Auxois. We then stopped in the lovely medieval town of Semur-en-Auxois.



photo by Megan Zywicki

As Animal Sciences student Megan Zwicki described it, "The town seemed like something out of a Disney movie with its large church, cobblestone streets and river running through the town. The views of the town and the river were probably the most beautiful thing I've ever seen and my pictures don't even do it justice."

Afterward, we visited a sport horse breeding and training facility, Haras de Vulsain, which was a favorite among many of the students. There we were able to watch a 3-year-old Selle Français free jump for the first time.

During our week-long stay in Dijon, other equine-focused day trips included Haras de Saint-Voir, a steeplechase breeding and training facility and Haras de Cercy, a stallion station for breeding AQPS ("Other-Than Thoroughbred") horses. We also had the opportunity for some cultural trips, including a visit to the town of Beaune to see its ancient hospital, and a tour of a vineyard in the nearby town of Pommard, ending with a tasting. Before leaving Dijon, we explored the town during a free day. Students had the opportunity to visit museums, the Palace of the Dukes, shop for souvenirs and mustard or all of the above. Dijon was a wonderful city, and the individuals at AgroSup were very welcoming and helpful during our first week of the overall experience.

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photo by Damon Parmenter



photo by Aimee Snow



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After leaving Dijon with our trusty bus driver Lionel, who maneuvered the complicated tiny roads in our coach bus with ease, we stopped in the town of Saumur along the Loire River. We toured its beautiful castle and museum of the horse, and then found some French Trotter races in nearby Rânes. Interestingly, French Trotter races are the most popular type of horse races in France, with more than 200 tracks located throughout the country. Rachel Reed, an Equine Science and Management student, described the races in her journal.

"These horses were so fast! I was shocked to see a horse able to trot this fast... All the trailers were parked out back and each rider basically got their horses ready and went out to the track. It was very much like a horse show," she wrote.

Our travels then continued north to the Normandy region of France, where we spent three nights in the beautiful coastal city of Caen. On the first day we toured the world-renowned equine lameness and imaging center, Cirale, in the town of Goustranville. Our host, Dr. Jean-Marie Denoix, gave an informative and educational tour, which was particularly fascinating to the pre-veterinary students. He encouraged them to first learn French, and then come intern at Cirale. That afternoon we toured the French National Stud Farm, Le Pin-au-Haras. Our tour included visiting many of the horses housed at the farm, a look at their impressive tack room and carriage house and ended with a vaulting demonstration.

Other equine tour stops in the Normandy region included an impressive equine events facility, Pôle International de Cheval Deauville, and the equine auction facility Arqana, both in the picturesque coastal town of Deauville. Perhaps, though, the most memorable experience in Normandy was not an equine tour at all, but instead our visit to Omaha Beach to pay our respects at the American Cemetery where 9,385 Americans who lost their lives in France during World War II are buried.

After leaving our hotel in Caen we began to make our way to our final destination of Paris, but not without a visit first to the beautiful Chantilly Castle. We had perfect weather to visit the castle surrounded by a moat, along with its "Great Stables" and horse museum. In Paris, we all took a riverboat cruise together to see all the main sights along the Seine River, including the Notre Dame Cathedral, Musée d'Orsay and, of course, the Eiffel Tower. This was our last time together as a group, as our final few days were free days for exploring the beautiful and bustling city of Paris. Students chose to spend their time either shopping or sightseeing, and enjoying the Parisian cuisine. Many visited the Louvre Museum, Notre Dame Cathedral and the Palace at Versailles. No Paris shopping experience is complete without a visit to the Avenue des Champs Elysées, and many found the famous macaron shop, Ladurée.

Overall the trip was unforgettable, and students experienced a perfect blend of education and entertainment. France is a country with a remarkable history, and it was enjoyable to see the horse highlighted in the history at many of our tour stops.

Student Joanna Ricci summarized her experience by writing, "On this trip I made many new friends that I hope to stay in touch with. Additionally, I learned so much about the French horse industry and how it compares to the U.S. It was truly an eye-opening experience that I will never forget."



*photo by Monica Pinkerman*



*photo by Jillian White*

## From our students...some of the pieces written in a provocative new course

By Holly Wiemers

An important part of the mission of our program includes undergraduate education, specifically with our Equine Science and Management undergraduate degree program. A new class that piloted this spring – taught by Camie Heleski, a faculty member and lecturer within the program – was one designed to present provocative, often controversial issues that are current to the equine industry.

In EQM 300, “Horse Whispering,” how to communicate with humans in the equine industry, students were introduced to topics, heard from speakers, researched information and communicated about industry issues in written and oral formats. The course was designed to expose students to hot button issues in the industry and encourage them to research and formulate well-communicated opinions about those issues. One avenue made available to this pilot course was publishing some of those stories here. Here are the last three written pieces that emerged from students in this course.

They are meant to be provocative and sometimes controversial.

## Whip Use in Thoroughbred Racing: Necessary or not?

By Taylor Cordovano

Since American Pharoah was hit 32 times with a riding crop in the 2015 Kentucky Derby, the debate over whip use in Thoroughbred racing has garnered more attention. The racing public’s perception is that whips are a blemish on the industry and unnecessarily abuse horses. Whereas jockeys and trainers typically believe crops are a necessary tool for control and to increase speed. In this article, I aim to soften the image of whips and to also encourage regulation against constant whip repetition for speed.

Many racing spectators already have doubts about the sport’s integrity due to highly- publicized breakdowns. Whip use has been a controversy between jockeys and spectators for a long time, but has not been so adamantly spoken about until the 2015 Kentucky Derby. Victor Espinoza, American Pharoah’s jockey, received backlash from those who believed his whip use was excessive.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) was quoted as saying horses that are being used for racing are “forced to sprint under the threat of whips.”

To some, Espinoza’s performance was confirmation that whips should not be allowed in racing.

On the contrary, some owners, trainers and jockeys believe that a whip does not hurt the horse and offers more control during a race. They maintain whips are too light and too padded to hurt the horse. Rules differ between countries and even between different tracks within the same country. At Churchill Downs in 2015, if whips did not break the skin, there would be no track sanctioned fine. Conversely, Belmont Park only allows three strikes in succession before the jockey is fined.

Bob Baffert, American Pharoah’s trainer, was quoted as saying that “Modern whips are more noisemaker than punishment tool, making a louder pop but a lighter impact than the older, heavy whips.” (Forde, 2015)

Another generally-held opinion of trainers and jockeys is that a riding crop is a necessary tool to be successful. Espinoza was quoted in the TDN as saying, “They don’t understand what it takes to win. Whipping the horse isn’t abusing the horse. If the horse is in pain, he won’t go forward. The critics don’t understand what it takes to win.” (Garvey, Niemietz & Coleman, 2015)

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According to Chief Steward Barbara Borden, American Pharoah was checked by 12 on-site veterinarians. None of them found welts on his side and no disciplinary actions were taken. The Kentucky racing stewards reviewed Espinoza's ride and ruled that his whip use did not violate state regulations. (Forde, 2015)

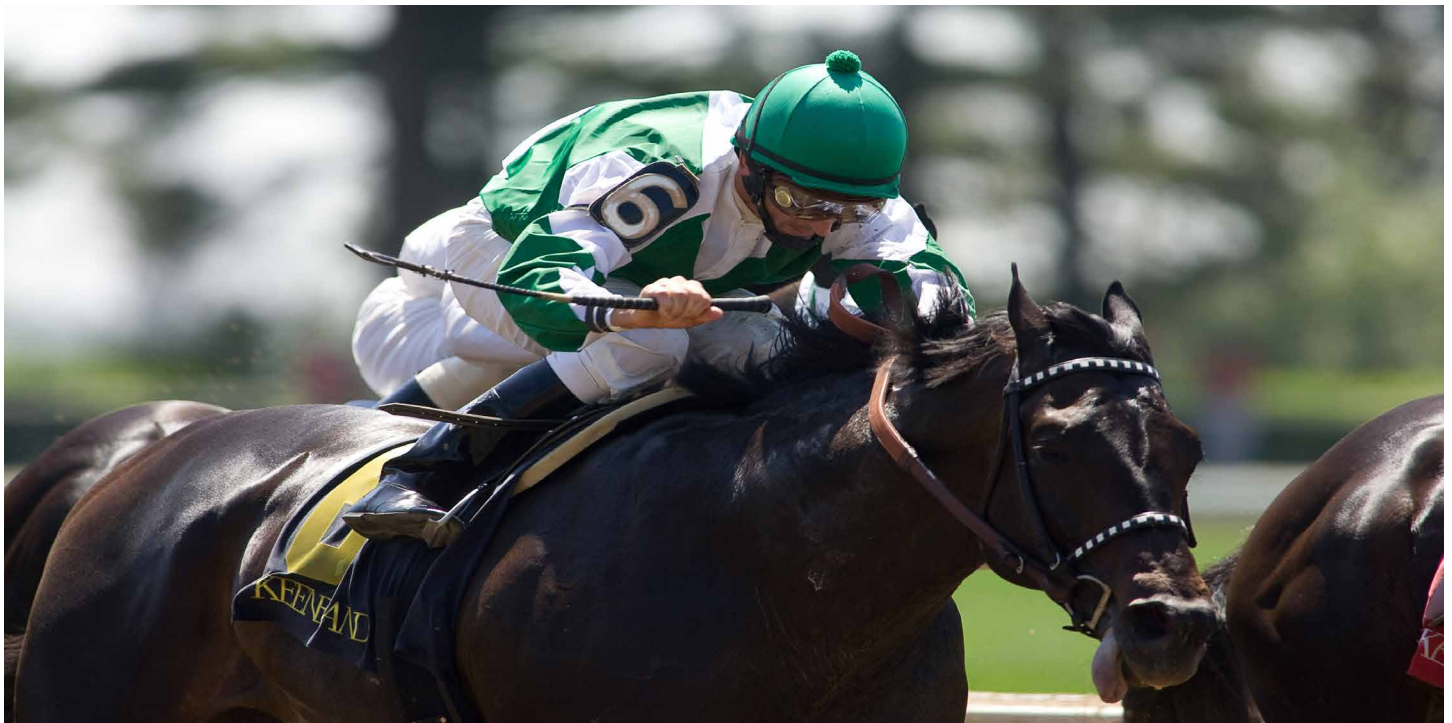
To the public, whip use is generally considered an incentive to make the horse go faster. It is not commonly known that a riding crop is also used as an aid to prevent larger accidents from occurring. While to some it can look like cruelty, "A whip has certain important functions for the safety of jockey and other horses," said Camie Heleski, senior lecturer within the University of Kentucky's Equine Science and Management undergraduate degree program.

For example, a whip is often used as a distraction for frightened horses to prevent them from rearing and flipping over backwards. A whip is also commonly used as a steering aide to prevent horses from veering left or right in a race, which would endanger the safety of other horses and jockeys.

When someone from the public is asked why a jockey would use a whip, a logical conclusion might be that "Jockeys use it to make the horse go faster." Many trainers and jockeys seem to think the same; that it motivates the horse to run faster in a race. But there is research that proves otherwise.

Drs. Evan and McGreevy, faculty of veterinary science at the University of Sydney, Australia, found that "Horses, on average, achieved highest speeds in the 600 to 400 m section when there was no whip use, and the increased whip use was most frequent in the final two 200 m sections when horses were fatigued. This increased whip use was not associated with significant variation in velocity as a predictor of superior placing at the finish." (Evans & McGreevy, 2011)

In conclusion, Thoroughbred trainers and jockeys use a whip not only as a speed incentive, but also as a safety precaution. A generally-held public opinion is that whips should not be allowed at all in racing. Both perceptions need to be reevaluated. It would be unsafe to take away riding crops from jockeys. They are used as a preventive measure against rearing and flipping over and as a steering aide to prevent major collisions. However, jockeys should have restrictions on the amount of times they can strike in succession. Found through Evan and McGreevy's research, the "constant repetition of the whip does not actually increase the speed of the horse." (Evans & McGreevy 2011)



## From our students...some of the pieces written in a provocative new course

By Holly Wiemers

An important part of the mission of our program includes undergraduate education, specifically with our Equine Science and Management undergraduate degree program. A new class that piloted this spring – taught by Camie Heleski, a faculty member and lecturer within the program – was one designed to present provocative, often controversial issues that are current to the equine industry.

In EQM 300, "Horse Whispering," how to communicate with humans in the equine industry, students were introduced to topics, heard from speakers, researched information and communicated about industry issues in written and oral formats. The course was designed to expose students to hot button issues in the industry and encourage them to research and formulate well-communicated opinions about those issues. One avenue made available to this pilot course was publishing some of those stories here. Here are the last three written pieces that emerged from students in this course.

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### Rolkur- Dangerous Training Technique or Misinformed Watchdogs?

By Rebecca Puglisi

Rollkur, the hyperflexion of the horse's neck through aggressive force, continues to be a controversial topic of discussion in the equine industry. There is disagreement about whether or not this style of riding is causing injury to the horse or if it only appears unjust to the untrained eye.

The International Federation for Equestrian Sports (FEI) is the international governing body for equestrian sports and it does recognize a distinction between riding using Rollkur and riding a horse in a deep outline not attained by force. It was not until the 2010 Round Table Conference that the FEI took a stand against this form of aggressive riding and made this distinction.

The practice of riding in a frame, where the horse's head is down and in, has been accepted by many riders, typically in the worlds of dressage and show jumping. According to M.D. Knipp in *The Art of Classic Dressage Training*, "When a horse is being ridden in a correct frame, its body is balanced and engaged. The horse should show desire to move forward and be accepting of the aids provided to it by the rider. This allows the horse to become collected, where the horse draws its body in, but with energy from its hind-end propelling them forward and up, similar to a spring."

Often during training, horses being ridden using Rollkur techniques are bent behind the vertical, meaning their necks are flexed well beyond the point of correct connection, causing a curl in the neck and the horse's poll to no longer be the highest point on its body. Rollkur proponents maintain that these movements are said to help create a more supple connection and to help the horse to stretch its muscles.

A primary reason this style of riding is so controversial is the debate that fixation of the horse's head and neck causes injury or damage. However, the research is inconclusive.

Paul René van Weeren, veterinarian and professor within the Department of Equine Sciences at Utrecht University in the Netherlands, has published research and spoken at conferences about the topic.

"Thus far, there is no compelling scientific evidence based on which using the hyperflexed position can be condemned," he said. "From a biomechanical point of view, inclusion of this (hyperflexion) position in training amplifies the range of exercises, and it could be that it indeed aids in the measurable gymnastic action of the horse, although we haven't proven that."

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Much of the research is variable due to the ability of the rider and the methods used to achieve flexion.

During the dressage portion of the 2012 London Olympic Games, Swedish competitor Patrik Kittel was photographed riding her horse in what appeared to be Rollkur. The photographs went viral and many online forums and pages expressed outrage and began accusing the FEI of failing to enforce procedures written in the Stewards' Manual. The FEI issued a statement regarding these photos and accusations stating that it considers a photo a "moment in time" and that the horses were properly supervised.

FEI 4\* dressage judge Stephen Clarke of Great Britain was on the panel of judges at the London Games. When asked if he believed there was any cause for concern, he said, "The Olympic training and warm-up areas are so well policed by the stewards that it is not possible for a competitor to have violated the rules on stretching and hyperflexion and gotten away with it."

With the lack of research regarding the practice of Rollkur, it seems as though the majority of the controversy surrounding this issue stems from public perception. Should leaders in equestrian sports be doing more to educate outsiders? Should the practice be banned regardless of lack of research? Or does more research need to be done first?

While the controversy is not over and the research is inconclusive, it seems that Rollkur is becoming a less common practice overall. The FEI is not turning a blind eye when it comes to stewarding and competitors are not likely to practice techniques that could jeopardize their scores. More needs to be done about educating spectators on proper techniques for demonstrating classical training methods versus when they should be taking action and reporting riders that are abusing the training technique. Ultimately, one can be optimistic that classic and correct riding and training are being rewarded and recognized.



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## Foaling Season: The Earlier the Foal, the Better?

By Brittany Blackwell

In recent years, the horse industry has become more technologically advanced and equipped with new solutions to the reproductive challenges that once plagued the trade.

Breeders want foals born at the optimum time to ensure a big, strong prospect to enter the sales ring or step onto the track. Broodmares sit under lights or wear innovative light masks as the winter days begin to shorten, all in hopes that they will be prepared to ovulate at the very beginning of breeding season.

While having the oldest yearling or 2-year-old possible may appear to be ideal, research has found that foals born in the spring or early summer may be exposed to more favorable conditions that could actually lead to more advantages later in life.

There are several benefits to later foals that do not require research to figure out, such as more comfortable weather. Spring foals may get more turnout time, as opposed to January and February foals that are often cooped up in the barn for fear of winter storms and freezing temperatures. A certain amount of turnout time is often believed to be extremely beneficial for the development of young horses, and spending more time outside makes them much less susceptible to respiratory problems that could be caused by spending too much time in the barn.

Researchers with the University of Veterinary Medicine in Vienna found that that the growth rate of the developing fetus is affected by the time of foaling. All horses have seasonal changes in metabolism during the winter months, and this can translate into a reduction in fetal growth during that last few weeks of pregnancy. The study involved grouping 27 broodmares based on the month in which they foaled. Foals were measured and weighed at birth and repeatedly for 12 weeks. It was found that as a whole, bone length and the size and weight of the placenta was smaller in foals born earlier in the year. These differences were attributed to the seasonal "slump" in a horse's metabolism that occurs during the winter months. The final weeks of equine pregnancy include a phase of rapid fetal growth, with foals gaining around one pound per day. However, if this growth falls during a time of lowered metabolism, the foal may not end up growing as much as it naturally would.

The principal researcher of the study, Christine Aurich, wrote, "When a foal is born in winter, it is thus likely that the seasonal reduction in energy metabolism affects the fetus."

While the foal born in January or February may have more time on the ground than its younger counterparts, it might have been born with a size deficit to make up. The study notes that foals born in the late winter are inherently unnatural, and perhaps horses as a species are not adapted to raising newborn foals before the last frost of the year.

Since it is unproven how long the impacts of foaling date last, it might be worth the consideration of stud farms about the pros and cons of the intensive care of broodmares for the purpose of getting the earliest foal possible. It is unclear whether or not the birth month of a foal actually poses any long-term advantages or disadvantages in terms of size, and the more favorable weather of springtime foaling may actually be preferred over foaling dates earlier in the year.

## A Student's Perspective on Visiting the Fasig-Tipton Horses of Racing Age and Yearling Sale

By Maddie Regis

A Thoroughbred sale is like no other event in the world. The gleaming coats of the impeccably groomed horses glisten in the sunlight as they are shown off to prospective buyers, who are eager to find that special horse that will have just the right combination of heart, try and speed.

The beautiful atmosphere of the grounds and all the gorgeous barns and other buildings heightens the sales at Fasig Tipton even further.

This month, I traveled to the Horses of Racing Age and Yearling Sale that just concluded at Fasig Tipton, and experienced all the class and style that the sale has to offer. Back in the barns, it was clear that every groom and barn worker had put in tireless effort to make sure the horses looked and walked their best (even the feisty young horses who threw in a hop or rear while walking).

At the sales pavilion, the atmosphere was electric. The walking ring buzzed with buyers and many other observers as the grooms showed off their stock. Inside the sales pavilion, the auctioneer's voice rang out rapidly as the prices for each horse climbed higher. The sale was an exciting display of some of the best racehorses Kentucky has to offer, and anyone that has an opportunity to visit a Thoroughbred sale, especially a Fasig Tipton sale, should take advantage.



*photo by Hailee Adams*

## ‘The Next Set of Hands In The Industry’: College Students Learn On The Job At Maine Chance

Source: Joe Nevills, Paulick Report

In one way or another, everyone in the Thoroughbred industry learns on the job. The University of Kentucky’s Maine Chance Farm is the rare consignment that makes learning on the job its priority.

The farm, positioned within a stone’s throw of Fasig-Tipton’s Newtown Paddocks base in Lexington, Ky., affords students the opportunity to get hands-on experience on a working farm and go through the process of foaling, raising, prepping, showing, and eventually selling a young Thoroughbred.

Because it’s a learning facility, the Maine Chance broodmare band is on the lower end of the commercial spectrum, but the program has been gathering steam in the public consciousness.

To read the entire article, click [here](#).



## UK Ag Equine Programs Recognized by American Horse Publications for Excellence with its Bluegrass Equine Digest and Philanthropy Videos

By Holly Wiemers

UK Ag Equine Programs was recognized with the winning e-newsletter in the business division for its Bluegrass Equine Digest at the American Horse Publications Equine Media Awards competition June 16 in Hunt Valley, Maryland. The Bluegrass Equine Digest was awarded first in a category that had seven entries.

The Bluegrass Equine Digest is a free, monthly e-newsletter about equine research at the University of Kentucky that is distributed in conjunction with The Horse.com and supported by Zoetis. It has been produced by UK since June 2009 and was also awarded top e-newsletter in this category in 2013.

Additionally, UK Ag Equine Programs was recognized for two philanthropy-related videos it submitted in a category that featured 25 entries. Its Philanthropy Thank You video was awarded second in the category and the Gluck Equine Research Center 30th Anniversary video was recognized with an honorable mention.

The AHP Equine Media Awards competition featured material published in 2017. Held since 1974, the AHP annual awards competition this year drew 823 entries from 108 members.





## Chapter for Equine Alums Approved

By Holly Wiemers

A new equine-specific chapter was recently granted formal recognition during the spring board meeting of the College of Agriculture Food and Environment Alumni Association.

This is a new way for alums to get involved. Traditionally, College of Agriculture, Food and Environment alums have joined geographic chapters based on where they are located across the state of Kentucky after college and during their careers. This doesn't reflect the national, or for that matter global, nature of many industries and professions that result from a degree within the college.

Ag Equine Programs is one of only a few programs in the college that has participated so far in this new approach. The chapter is officially called the Equine Alumni Affiliate Network. It is open not only to graduates of the Equine Science and Management undergraduate degree program, but also to alums who graduated from UK and who have an equine interest. This includes alums from other degrees within the college that might now be working in the equine industry or even those who participated in the equine clubs and teams that are part of the college's undergraduate landscape but might not have had an equine or other college major.

The chapter's current co-chairs are Hannah Niebielski and Courtney Calnan. The secretary is Morgan Pyles and the Treasurer is Leah Alessandrini.

The group holds several social and networking events each year and those interested in learning more are encouraged to follow the group on [Facebook](#) or learn more about joining by clicking [here](#).





**Hollis Glowniak, '17**  
**Accounting Support Representative,**  
**US Equestrian**

*By Maddie Regis*

*photo by Ally Gutekunst*

**Where is home for you?**

East China, Michigan; however, I consider Kentucky my new “forever home.”

**How did you first become involved in the horse industry?**

I convinced my parents I wanted to ride horses when I was 9 years old after riding a neighbor’s horse once and going on a vacation trail ride. No one in my family was into horses, so they thought it was “just a phase.” I started hunters like most who begin riding and then fell in love with dressage shortly thereafter.

**What were your career goals before graduation?**

My goal was to be actively contributing to the equine industry in a way that utilized my talent with numbers! I knew I did not want to work hands-on with horses everyday but enjoyed accounting.

**Where are you currently employed?**

I’m the Accounting Support Representative at US Equestrian located in Lexington, Kentucky at the Kentucky Horse Park.

**What are your current job responsibilities?**

My job responsibilities include having knowledge and experience to back up anyone in the accounting department, running weekly and monthly reconciliations and reports to ensure quality control, assisting with collections, updating and writing

procedures, analyzing account balances and handling equine passport transactions. Any given day will be different depending on who needs assistance, so I could be entering invoices for accounts payable, running credit cards or checks, processing post competition reports or scanning documents for processing.

**What led you to this position?**

It is all about the connections when it comes to opportunity. When I was a freshman at UK, the secretary of the UK Dressage and Eventing Team got word that I was a horse girl who liked numbers and accounting. She was good friends with the director of accounting at US Equestrian. I was almost immediately interviewed and was offered an accounting internship my first summer in Kentucky and was invited back the following two summers. During my third summer (summer of '17), my internship lasted only two weeks, as a job in the department became available. I quickly jumped on it, and my director was willing to work with me during my last semester at UK to maintain the position while finishing school. I returned back to full time right after graduation.

**What advice do you have for current equine students?**

Be involved, take up any and all opportunities and make connections. College flies by, and there are so many fun and unique experiences that come with it. You never know which people along that journey will lead you to an amazing job or opportunity.



**Ag Equine Programs**  
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

# Join Us for the UK Equine Farm & Facilities Expo

**Make Up Date: Monday, August 6, 3:30-8:00 p.m.**

**Knapper Farm  
485 Chatham Ln  
Harrodsburg, KY 40330**

*Free meal will be provided!*

## Program

3:30 - Registration

4:00 - Exhibitor Booths

5:00 - Welcome, Dinner provided by the Mercer County Cattlemen's Association

5:30 - **Keynote Speaker: Utilizing Cost Share to Improve Grazing, Profitability and Resource Protection on Horse Farms**, *Adam Jones, NRCS State Grazing Specialist*

6:00-8:00 Educational Sessions, concurrently every half hour:

- **Weed Control Following a Wet Spring**, *Dr. Bill Witt and Keenan Bishop*
- **Implementing Rotational Grazing on Horse Farms**, *Steve Musen and Dr. Bob Coleman*
- **Rejuvenating Fall Horse Pastures**, *Dr. Ray Smith*
- **Maintaining a Healthy Horse**, *Dr. Justin Murray*

*Paul and Melita Knapper run a small Thoroughbred breeding and layup operation just south of Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill. They are also the first of three established demonstration farms showcasing federal cost share opportunities on equine operations in Kentucky.*

**RSVP requested to [equine@uky.edu](mailto:equine@uky.edu) or 859-257-2226**



**University of Kentucky**  
College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment  
Cooperative Extension Service

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