

August/September 2011

UK Equine Initiative  
Student Newsletter

## Welcome to Equine Science and Management

As students arrive on campus for the start of the fall semester, I can only imagine what they are feeling. A long time ago, when I started college as a freshman, I was excited to meet my fellow students in the agriculture program at Brandon University. I was part of a pilot program to introduce students to university life. As a sophomore, I started over again, or so it felt, at a larger school – the University of Manitoba. In both cases, I was excited until classes started. Then I was concerned, and then I had some fear. This was not high school.



How did I survive –and I did—without too many bumps and bruises? To start, I made friends in class, particularly my fellow Aggies. We formed study groups and informal support groups that lasted until we graduated. One of the other strategies I employed was going to class. Did I have perfect attendance? Certainly not, but I did not miss many for fear that I would miss something I needed to know. Secondly, I got to know my professors. At the start it was hard, but if I had a question, I asked it. This is something I kept up all through my undergraduate program. Again, not with all my professors, but I did get to know those in my animal sciences major. These people were mentors and advisors that helped me succeed. Did they have all the answers? At times I believed they did, but often they let me find the answer on my own with their guidance. Not often did they just give me the answer.

Where does that leave you, the new or returning student? Well, go to class and be an active participant. Yes, those 8 a.m. classes are a challenge, but you are up to the challenge. Connect with your professors and, most importantly, your advisor. These people are there to help you with your academic success, but you need to participate as well.

The beginning of the semester is an exciting time. The students are back and we can get to the business at hand, preparing for your future, one in the equine industry.

### In this Issue:

- Equine Fall Kick-off
- Lawrence recognized with prestigious award
- Rood & Riddle Funding for Clubs and Teams

# Equine Initiative Events

## Princeton Field Day

More than 1,000 people braved high temperatures and excessive heat warnings to attend the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture's all-commodity field day held July 21. Located at the UK Research and Education Center in Princeton, the event featured facility bus tours as well as seminars about topics ranging from beef cattle production to vegetable crops, ornamental crops, and forages. The event also hosted youth activities and included more than 70 exhibitors from across the state. The next Princeton All-Commodity Field Day will be held in July 2013.



## Hats Off Day

The University of Kentucky Equine Initiative participated in Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital's Hats Off Day to Kentucky's Horse Industry Aug. 6.

Top left photo, Catherine Whitehouse, a graduate student in animal and food sciences, assisted a girl in matching the horseshoes with the type of horse that would wear them based on the sport.



Middle right, Pauline Bignon, a visiting student from France who is spending time at the Gluck Equine Research Center, helped children match the foals with their parents based on coat color genetics. Bottom right, Xinguo Wang (Casa), graduate student in plant and soil sciences, Tom Keene, hay marketing specialist, and Lyndsay Jones, master grazer coordinator in animal and food sciences, are ready to educate attendees on what types of plants horses eat. Other areas represented included equine economics, Saddle Up Safely, and general information about UK's Equine Initiative.



Hats Off Day was instituted seven years ago as an equine industry initiative to promote awareness of the state's equine industry and its role in Kentucky. Last year's event was attended by more than 13,000 Kentuckians. The day concluded with the \$50,000 Rood & Riddle Kentucky Grand Prix, a jumping competition held annually for 25 years.



# UK Equine Initiative's Equine Fall Kick-off!

All Equine Science and Management students are invited to the UK Equine Initiative's Equine Fall Kick-off Event! The event will be held September 13 from 5-7:30 p.m. at the E.S. Good Barn on the south end of campus, across from Commonwealth Stadium. The event will give students the opportunity to meet their fellow equine students and faculty and to learn more about getting involved with equine clubs and teams. There will be free BBQ, free T-shirts and giveaways for the first 150 students!

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## News and Announcements

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### UK's Laurie Lawrence recognized with prestigious American Society of Animal Science Fellow award

Laurie Lawrence, PhD., professor in the department of animal and food sciences at the University of Kentucky was recently awarded the American Society of Animal Science Fellow Award, which recognizes career achievements in research.

Since joining UK in 1992 Lawrence has made many significant contributions to the field of equine nutrition. She has studied the equine athlete, the brood mare, and the growing horse.

Lawrence was one of the first equine nutritionists to focus on performance horses. She and her graduate students used a systematic approach in understanding the metabolism of exercising horses with particular emphasis on factors that limit maximum performance. Her investigations focused on fuel utilization and acid-base balance during exercise. Her research expanded the knowledge base relative to the contribution of various nutrients to energy production during exercise. Her studies on nitrogen metabolism during exercise and the role of dietary protein on the response of horses to exercise were the first ever to be conducted in this area.

Pre-exercise feeding practices vary widely in the racing industry. Lawrence's studies shed new light in this area. She found little evidence to support that the type of feeding practice (fed vs fasting) prior to high intensity exercise had any effect on the exercise response. Her studies also demonstrated that several nutrients affect immunological enhancement, including vitamin E, selenium, fructo-oligosaccharides, and omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids.

Through cooperative efforts with U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service, Lawrence has developed a major research effort involving the utilization of pastures and conserved forages by horses.



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Lawrence's research is revealing the effects of seasonal variations on pasture nutrient composition and the factors that influence pasture intake by horses. She and her students have developed innovative methods for assessing the grazing preferences of horses which she has combined with new laboratory methods of estimating forage digestibility in horses. Her work in this area resulted in her receiving the Alfalfa Public Service Award from the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council.

In 1998, she was recognized by her peers in ASAS by being given the AFIA Award for Distinguished Research in Nonruminant Nutrition. This was the first time that a woman has received this award and only the second time that an equine nutritionist has been so honored. She served as president of the Equine Nutrition and Physiology Society and in 1999 received its distinguished service award. In 2008, she received the first ASAS Equine Science Award.

In 2004, Lawrence was appointed to chair the National Research Council's subcommittee to revise the "nutrient requirements of horses." This was the first time a woman chaired a nutrient requirement series publications in the history of the NRC. The publication, released in 2007, and other NRC publications are used by nutritionists in academia and in the feed industry worldwide, and are considered to be the best source of nutrient requirement information.

Lawrence is an active member of ASAS and has served on the Board of Directors of the Society, serving as recording secretary. She has also served as Chairperson of the Nonruminant Nutrition Committee and the Horse Committee of the Society and currently serves on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Animal Science.

Her active basic and applied research programs have resulted in 75 refereed journal publications, 12 book chapters, and more than 150 scientific abstracts, research reports, and popular articles.

*Edited from Lawrence's nomination packet submitted for American Society of Animal Science award*

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## UK College of Agriculture appoints new associate dean for instruction



The University of Kentucky College of Agriculture recently announced Larry Grabau as the new associate dean for instruction. Grabau has been a faculty member within the College since 1984. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota and master's and doctorate degrees from the University of Missouri. If you're interested in reading more, please see [www.ca.uky.edu/news/?c=n&d=896](http://www.ca.uky.edu/news/?c=n&d=896).

## American Quarter Horse Foundation Scholarships are now available

The American Quarter Horse Foundation provides financial assistance to members of the American Quarter Horse Association and American Quarter Horse Youth Association through general racing, career path and state or regional scholarships. Eligibility of applicants is based on the individual scholarship criteria and requirements provided for each scholarship offered through the Foundation.

Scholarship applicants must submit a completed application, official transcript and letters of reference. Students applying for state or regional scholarships must also submit proof of affiliate membership. All application materials must be postmarked by Dec. 1, 2011 to be eligible.

Recipients are selected based on academic merit, financial need and American Quarter Horse involvement, as well as applicant's leadership and communication skills.

For more information or to complete an application, please visit [www.aqha.com/Foundation.aspx](http://www.aqha.com/Foundation.aspx)

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## Clubs and Teams

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### Rood & Riddle offers scholarships, club or team Funding



Does your club or team want to host an event this year? Due to the generosity of Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital, the UK Equine Initiative has established a fund to help offset costs associated with

activities by UK Student equine clubs and teams. Each club or team may apply once per fiscal year and may be awarded up to \$500. Funding applications go through an approval process and funds are given on a first-come first-served basis. More information and copies of forms can be found online at [www.ca.uky.edu/equine/StudentHub](http://www.ca.uky.edu/equine/StudentHub), under student clubs and teams.

In 2010-2011, the UK Horse Racing Club's "Inside Horse Racing: The Derby Experience" panel event that consisted of Thoroughbred horse racing professionals as well as the Equestrian team's Intercollegiate Horse Show Association show were both supported in part by the Rood & Riddle fund.

In the last few years, Rood & Riddle has also contributed to student scholarships. Last year, Dressage Team member Jen Brogie was awarded this scholarship. This year, two students, Virginia Stilwell and Jillian Gordon, have been awarded funds from the Rood & Riddle gift fund for the 2011-2012 school year. Congratulations!

The UK Equine Initiative would like to thank Rood and Riddle for its continued support of the equine industry and the University of Kentucky. If you would like to learn more about Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital, please visit its website at, [www.roodandriddle.com](http://www.roodandriddle.com).

## Dressage & Eventing Team

The UK Dressage and Eventing Team was very busy over the summer and is excited to welcome new and old members back this fall. This fall the team will be riding with Jen Joyce at her new farm in Paris, KY. Jen has competed at the Advanced level in eventing and has previous experience coaching the intercollegiate dressage team. She is extremely motivated to teach and share her knowledge. She recently purchased a new facility, Sycamore Ridge Farm, which consists of 170 acres, three barns and a large outdoor arena. The team is very excited about the endless possibilities at Sycamore Ridge Farm, as Jen would like to make her facility a forever place for the team.

We will be looking to host our first combined test in the spring! The team had a fantastic fundraiser this summer at the Pony Club National Championships held at the Kentucky Horse Park this past July. We held a raffle called "Event Free in 2012." The raffle consisted of donated entries from 10 horse trials, including May-Daze, River Glen, Full Gallop, Virginia Horse Trials and more. The winner will receive the entire package of free entries, some including stabling. The raffle will be drawn September 15. If you are interested in buying tickets please contact Jen Brogie at [jen.brogie@uky.edu](mailto:jen.brogie@uky.edu).



There are a lot of opportunities for those who compete in eventing! If you want to be a part of UK's team at the Hagyard Midsouth Three-Day and Team Challenge, please get your entries into Courtney Carroll, [clcarroll@uky.edu](mailto:clcarroll@uky.edu), ASAP. There is also a clinic with Daniel Steward on October 15-16. It is \$20 to audit and \$175 to ride. There will be many other clinics to come this year, so stay tuned.

The team's first meeting will be tonight, Sept. 7, at the UK Student Center room 359. We will be welcoming new members, introducing the new coach and answering questions about the intercollegiate dressage team. We will have a calendar of events for the fall semester that will include clinic dates, horse trials, speakers and much more. Come meet the team and see if the UK Dressage and Eventing Team is a good fit for you!

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## Equestrian Team

The UK Hunt Seat Equestrian Team welcomes new members whether you are a seasoned rider with lots of experience or if you have no experience at all! The team's first meeting was held Aug. 25. Contact Doug Masters for additional dates, [dvmasters@uky.edu](mailto:dvmasters@uky.edu).





The UK Western Equestrian Team is excited to start up another great year of riding and showing and we hope you will join us. The western team competes in horsemanship and reining events against different schools throughout the year. We are coached by 2006 AQHA Horseman of the Year, Bennie Sargent. All riding levels are welcomed, even those who have never ridden before will be able to ride and show. If you are interested in joining the team or getting more information, please email team president, Claire Knox, [ceknox2@uky.edu](mailto:ceknox2@uky.edu). We look forward to riding with you!

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## Horse Racing Club

The Horse Racing Club held its first meeting Sept. 1 and Jamie LaMonica, who is the president of Stallion Company, a bloodstock agency spoke to the club. Jamie LaMonica worked as the Director of Stallion Operations at Vinery Stud and also founded Starequine.com and Empire Stud in 2003. Currently Jamie LaMonica focuses on stallion syndication and has been involved in the acquisition and/or syndication of several successful stallions.

If you were unable to attend the first meeting but are still interesting in joining the club, please email President Natalie Heitz, [nmheit2@uky.edu](mailto:nmheit2@uky.edu). There is a small membership fee for the year or semester to cover field trips and special events. The membership fee allows members to participate in all the club's activities but the meetings are open to anyone.

The club has planned a field trip to the Keeneland September Yearling Sales and also a Fall Breeder's Cup Event set for Oct. 19 from 6-9p.m. in the William T. Young Library Gallery and Auditorium. Thanks to the Breeder's Cup, there will also be giveaways. Be sure to save the date for this fun event!

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## Polo Team



The polo team has been busy preparing for the upcoming year! It has fun things planned for this year! The team hopes to have a few polo games at the Kentucky Horse Park so we can have lots of UK supporters and tailgates! The ponies will be coming back in the beginning of September and the team will have a meeting for anyone who is interested. Anybody who would like to join or would like more information can email president Posey Obrecht at [poseyobrecht@aol.com](mailto:poseyobrecht@aol.com) or search 'U of Kentucky Polo' on Facebook.

## Saddle Seat Team

The UK Saddle Seat Team is very excited and motivated for the upcoming show season. The team is coached by Stephanie Sedlacko at Wingswept Farm. The team consists of about 20 members and has riders that compete in many different divisions. New members are always welcome! If you are interested in the Saddle Seat Team you can check them out on Facebook or email Kelly Ruhl at [kellyruhl4@yahoo.com](mailto:kellyruhl4@yahoo.com)

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## 4-H and Youth

### No Lazy Summer for Kentucky 4-Hers

The term “lazy summer” might apply to some, but not anyone involved with the Kentucky 4-H Horse Program. Summertime is when the youth in Kentucky get to show off their horse skills, and these skills abound. The 4-Hers displayed their talents in the State Judging Competition, the State Horse Contest, the State Horse Show, and the Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championships, where the Kentucky participants managed to place in every knowledge event entered. June kicked off the state competitions with the Horse Judging Contest. This event was held on June 2 at the Kentucky Horse Park and had 120 participants from all across the state. The 4-Her’s judged eight classes of horses, including halter and performance classes and then gave oral reasons to our official judges. Awards were given out to the top individuals and teams in halter, performance, reasons and overall.

The following week, Kentucky horse kids gathered again in Lexington for the State Contest. This was held at the Clarion Hotel with more than 250 participants. The contest included competitions in art, sewing, photography and equipment, as well as knowledge categories such as public speaking, presentations, Horse Bowl and Hippology. Horse Bowl is a Jeopardy-like game where teams of contestants must answer a variety of horse related questions. Hippology is the ultimate horse knowledge competition that consists of a written exam, hands-on stations and horse judging.

The State Horse Show once again took place at the Kentucky Fair and Expo Center from July 2-9. In 2011 there were more than 650 participants with more than 700 horses. This eight-day event encompasses a wide range of horse disciplines including Hunter, Miniature, Saddleseat, Walking/Racking/Mountain, Contest (speed events), Western and Drill Team.

But the fun didn’t stop at the State level. The Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championships were held in Tunica, Miss., on July 26-31. Southern Regionals bring participants from 13 Southeastern states. The top two teams or individuals in each knowledge category at the State Horse Contest were invited to compete at Southern Regionals for a total of 30 participants representing Kentucky in both educational events and the horse show.



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In Mississippi, the Kentucky contingent did not disappoint with top 10 finishes for both individual and teams in judging, public speaking, presentations, Horse Bowl and Hippology including second place finishes overall in Hippology and Horse Bowl.

The next stop for the contest kids is the Quarter Horse Congress in Columbus, Ohio. This event occurs in the middle of October and the Kentucky youth are already preparing for it. This will be their first national contest of the year, followed in November with the Eastern National 4-H Round-up. Eastern Nationals are held every year in Louisville during the North American International Livestock Expo.

The 4-H Horse Program has had a busy, yet rewarding summer. After all of the accomplishments at the State and Regional level, the Kentucky youth are excited to put their skills to the test against competition from across the nation this fall. Check back after nationals to see how our teams did!

*By Amy Lawyer, Equine Extension Associate*

## Semester Academic Calendar

### September

Sept 5th, Labor Day, No classes

Sept 14th, Last day to drop a class without it showing on student transcript

Sept 20th, Last day to submit Notification of Intent to receive a fall 2011 degree

Sept 21st, Last day to officially withdraw from the University or reduce course load

## Upcoming Events

### September

7-10- College of Agriculture Round Up

13-Equine Kick-off, 5:00-6:30 p.m

15- Kentucky Equine Networking Association (KENA) Meeting

24- Draft Horse Field Day

### October

7-30- Quarter Horse Congress

# BLUEGRASS EQUINE DIGEST

A free monthly online newsletter with the latest research and practical, use-it-today advice from the University of Kentucky's Gluck Equine Research Center and the Equine Initiative.

*Sign-up at:*

[www.thehorse.com/enewsletter/register.aspx](http://www.thehorse.com/enewsletter/register.aspx)

# Internships

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## UK graduate shows current student the ropes of the Thoroughbred industry

Like other interns before him, Kyle Johnson, a sophomore majoring in Equine Science and Management from Beverly, Mass., took an internship that would help him learn the ropes of the Thoroughbred industry. What made his internship different from the others is that he got to learn from a recent UK graduate.

Johnson's interned at Swifty Farms, Inc. in Seymour, Ind., where he learned what goes into managing a breeding farm.

"This experience was very insightful. I learned how a breeding session is conducted, how to give medications, and how to prep yearlings," Johnson said.

Johnson's internship supervisor, farm manager Christina Lawton, graduated from the UK's College of Agriculture in 2010 with an Equine Science and Management degree.

"My manager really showed me all spectrums of the business during my internship at UK. I learned so many things that have helped me thus far in my career, and I tried to teach my intern the same things I was taught," Lawton said.

Johnson chose to intern at Swifty Farms because he had no previous experience in the Thoroughbred industry, though he had worked on various farms growing up, and Swifty Farms was small enough to take him on but still big enough for him to learn.

Lawton said that she thoroughly enjoyed having Johnson around this summer.

"Having an intern gave me a great hand on the farm and was also a way to spread the word in Kentucky what our farm is like. Having an intern also helps us attract students to our farm for a career after college. We are always trying to find good horsemen and it is hard not being in horse country," she said.

Johnson hopes to one day run his own Thoroughbred breeding operation and said his internship helped him develop the skills he needs to be successful.

"The most important thing I learned on this internship was how vital experience is to a horseman. There is so much that is learned from just daily work with the horses that can't be learned any other way," Johnson said.



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Lawton said Swifty Farms is always willing to take on interns and thinks that internships are very important to students.

“It was definitely a sign of our program’s growth to have a recent UK graduate take an intern,” said Elizabeth LaBonty, Internship Coordinator. “Christina knew the program because she had been through it and I think she was able to offer Kyle a unique perspective because of that.”

“The best advice I can give is to meet everyone. Put yourself out there. Build good relationships with people in the industry so when you begin your career you have contacts to answer questions you have. My relationships I made in college saved me when I entered the real world,” Lawton said.

For more on internships contact Internship Coordinator Elizabeth LaBonty, **elizabeth.labonty@uky.edu**

*By Chelsea Urhahn*

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## Saddle Up Safely

### UK’s Fernanda Camargo hosts Saddle Up Safely riding blog

Dr. Fernanda Camargo, in partnership with Saddle Up Safely, has an online blog to raise awareness about horse riding safety. Camargo is an equine extension professor at UK in the Animal and Food Sciences department. To read Dr. Camargo’s blog, please visit **www.saddleupsafely.com**.



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## Like us on Facebook!

The University of Kentucky’s College of Agriculture has several equine-related Facebook pages that present the latest news and events information. Stay up-to-date with UK’s horsey happenings by following their activities on these pages:

- Equine Initiative
- Gluck Equine Research Center
- Saddle Up Safely



## Equine Club Directory

### **Dressage & Eventing Team**

Advisor: Dr. Jill Stowe

**jill.stowe@uky.edu**

President: Jen Brogie

**jen.brogie@uky.edu**

### **Equestrian Team**

Advisor: Dr. Bob Coleman

**rcoleman@uky.edu**

Hunt Seat President: Lauren Patterson

**lpatterson@uky.edu**

Western President: Claire Knox

**ceknox2@uky.edu**

### **Horse Racing Club**

Advisor: Dr. Laurie Lawrence

**llawrenc@uky.edu**

President: Natalie Heitz

**nmheit2@uky.edu**

### **Polo Club**

Advisor: Dr. Roger Brown

**rogerbrown@uky.edu**

President: Posey Obrecht

**poseyobrecht@aol.com**

### **Saddle Seat Team**

Advisor: Dr. Mary Rossano

**mary.rossano@uky.edu**

President: Jamie Weisbach

**jamieweisbach@ymail.com**

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**Equine Initiative Communications Intern &  
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**You can also like us on Facebook!**