

# Wildcat Canter

UK Ag  
EQUINE

Summer 2012

UK Ag Equine Programs  
Student Newsletter

Summer break is finally here! Congratulations to our graduates and good luck in your future careers. To our continuing students, have an amazing summer break and make the most of it.

Although the pace on campus slows down drastically over the summer, horse activities across the state are in full swing. There are countless shows and clinics every weekend throughout Kentucky. What a fun time for horse enthusiasts!



Some of the summer horse activities of the College of Ag include the 4-H Horse Program. Since many of our students are a product of 4-H in Kentucky or their home state, I thought I would put a call out for volunteers! We have lots of opportunities for students to volunteer in our 4-H Horse Program and enhance their résumé!!

The next event we will host will be the 4-H State Horse Show. The show will be held June 30-July 7th in Louisville --this is one of the largest 4-H State Shows in the country! We have about 800 horses participating in our show!

If you are here in Lexington and would like to volunteer your time so that the younger generations can join our group of horse lovers/enthusiasts/owners, don't be shy! Contact me and I will be glad to use your help!!

For everyone else, remember to keep yourself and your horse healthy and hydrated! I look forward to your return in the fall!

*Dr. Fernanda Camargo, Equine Extension Professor*  
**fernanda.camargo@uky.edu**

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- BED wins AHP Award
- Natalie Heitz accepted into Darley Flying Start
- Club & Team Updates
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# News and Announcements

## UK Ag Equine Programs Welcomes Mandy Roberts

Hello! My name is Mandy Roberts and I am excited to be the newest member of the UK Ag Equine Programs' team. I'll be working with several staff to coordinate schedules, travel arrangements and various in-office duties, as well as providing support to the various communications needs of the office.



I graduated from University of Kentucky in 1999 with a bachelor's in Animal Science, equine option, and am currently pursuing a master's in Community and Leadership Development. My past experience includes working with the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) as its Newsletter and Website Coordinator, maintaining various print and online media. I later transitioned to the Student Programs Coordinator position, working with 32 equine veterinary student chapters throughout North America to help veterinary students gain more hands-on equine and veterinary skills through farrier, dentistry and emergency and disaster preparedness wet labs. I also worked with various scholarship organizations to help students obtain funding for the rising cost of a veterinary education, as well as managing the Avenues Internship and Externship Program, allowing veterinary students and recent graduates the chance to work closely with AAEP member veterinarians to perfect their technical skills and gain excellent networking opportunities within the equine industry.

Most recently, I worked with The Race for Education, a college scholarship and youth outreach program, as its Communications Coordinator. My responsibilities included managing outgoing communication and print media as well as any online needs, including the website, e-newsletters and email blasts. I also assisted with event planning and promotion of the organization's various fundraising events, including the Horse Farm Basketball Tournament, the annual 5K/10K race in Midway and the Horsemen of All Ages Bachelor Auction. My role was also to serve as a community liaison to promote the organization by visiting with local high schools, various career and health fairs as well as Kentucky race tracks to share the Race for Education's various scholarship opportunities to back track workers' families and any youth that might have an interest in pursuing a career in the agriculture or equine industry upon college graduation.

I am a Lexington native and live with my husband, Tommy, and twin daughters, Hadley and Ava. I look forward to providing various resources to the equine community and keeping the Bluegrass informed of all the exciting plans the Ag Equine Program has in store!

*Mandy Roberts, Operations and Communications Coordinator*



## BED Wins Second Place at American Horse Publications

The Bluegrass Equine Digest was awarded second place in the online equine-related newsletter category at the American Horse Publications 2012 Annual Awards Competition in Williamsburg, Va. on June 2.

Now in its third year, the monthly e-newsletter dedicated to equine research at the University of Kentucky is co-edited by Jenny Blandford, Foundation Coordinator at the UK Gluck Equine Research Center, and Holly Wiemers, Communications Director for UK Ag Equine Programs. It is also edited by Alexandra Beckstett at The Horse magazine.

# Natalie Heitz Accepted Into Darley Flying Start Program

Oscar Hammerstein said, “If you don’t dream, how are you going to make your dreams come true?”

Ever since I was young I was fascinated with horses. I think it came through genes I inherited. I knew in high school that I wanted to pursue an education in the equine business. That led me from my home in Louisville 70 miles east to the University of Kentucky. I had no formal background in horses, but I did have some great advice from two people that before I arrived at UK to pursue the Darley Flying Start Scholarship. With that in the back of my mind and pursuing a degree in Equine Science and Management, I worked very hard both in the classroom and in making contacts for part-time jobs in the industry. The experiences I learned outside the classroom drove my passion with more certainty that I wanted to work in the equine industry.

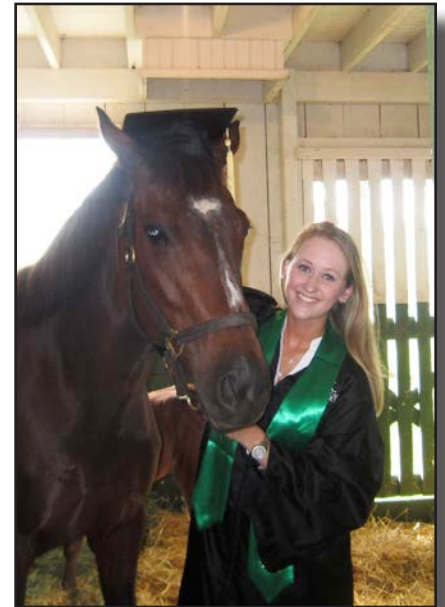
With the influence of some wonderful teachers at UK, support of contacts made while president of the UK Horse Racing Club, and the mentoring I received while working at an equine clinic and with a track veterinarian, a bloodstock agency and on a horse farm, I began to dream of pursuing an equine veterinary degree. However, I had always dreamed most of the Darley Flying Start Scholarship because of the opportunities to learn and experience many equine activities from a global perspective.

Because of my hard work at UK, I was accepted to a veterinary school; however, I had also applied for and received an interview for the Darley Flying Start Program. Darley only accepts 12 people annually in the world for this two-year program. However, dreams do come true and a couple of weeks ago I received a telephone call saying that I was selected for the 2012 class. Tears of joy flowed down my cheeks as I called my father to tell him the good news. It took me a couple of days to make telephone calls to thank all the people that along the way helped make this possible.

My dreams officially begin in August when the Darley Flying Start Program begins in Ireland. This international training program for potential Thoroughbred industry leaders will also take me to England, back to Lexington, Ky., Australia, Dubai and back to Ireland. Along the way I will benefit from classroom instruction as well as on-the-job education at some of the best horse farms in the world. The program was founded by HH Sheikh Mohammad of Dubai.

Since receiving that telephone call from Clodagh Kavannah, the Darley Flying Start Course Manager, my emotions and excitement have been bouncing. I am honored and grateful that Darley is making an investment in me so that one day I can hopefully make a big difference in a sport that means so much to me. Being a Kentucky bred I hope I will be able to represent my university well and “See Blue.”

*By Natalie Heitz, 2012 Equine Science and Management Graduate*



## 2012 Kentucky Equine Survey About to Begin

Beginning next week, horse owners across Kentucky could be some of 15,000 “horse-holds” selected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Ag Statistics Service to contribute critically important information about Kentucky’s horse industry. Organizers urge those receiving a survey in the mail to promptly complete and return the information.

The University of Kentucky’s Ag Equine Programs and the Kentucky Horse Council have partnered on the 2012 Kentucky Equine Survey, a statewide comprehensive survey of all breeds of horses. The study is in conjunction with the University of Louisville’s Equine Business Program and the Kentucky field office of the USDA National Ag Statistics Service. The last comprehensive study of this type was conducted in 1977.

Read more here: <http://news.ca.uky.edu/article/2012-kentucky-equine-survey-about-begin>

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## UK’s Gluck Equine Research Center to Host International Conference on Equine Infectious Diseases

The University of Kentucky Maxwell H. Gluck Equine Research Center will host the 9th International Conference on Equine Infectious Diseases (EID IX) Oct. 21-26, at the Hilton Lexington/Downtown Hotel. This is the second time this conference has been held in Lexington; the first time was in 1987 to mark the official opening of the Gluck Center.

The five-day conference will feature plenary sessions covering infectious and parasitic diseases in the areas of respiratory, gastrointestinal, neurological, reproduction and diseases of the working horse. Abstract presentations will focus on specific disease agents, immunology and diagnostics. Special sessions will focus on gastrointestinal parasites and impediments to the international movement of horses.

The conference will feature a practitioner’s day Oct. 21 for equine veterinarians or anyone interested in equine infectious diseases. It will highlight some of the more significant findings presented at the conference.

Read more here: <http://news.ca.uky.edu/article/uk%E2%80%99s-gluck-equine-research-center-host-international-conference-equine-infectious-diseases>



# HORSES

## a comprehensive study

THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 320,000 HORSES IN KENTUCKY.

*Or are there?*

HORSES GENERATE APPROXIMATELY \$3.5 BILLION FOR KENTUCKY'S ECONOMY EACH YEAR.

*We think.*

HORSES ARE ONE OF THE VERY CORNERSTONES OF OUR CULTURE.

*But our industry faces many challenges, and we must have better tools for making decisions.*

The University of Kentucky's Ag Equine Programs (formerly the Equine Initiative) and the Kentucky Horse Council, in conjunction with the University of Louisville's Equine Business Program and the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), will conduct a comprehensive study of all breeds of horses across Kentucky.

**The surveys will be mailed in July 2012.**

*From this study, we will be able to:*

- Describe the economic impact of the equine industry in the state
- Quantify the number of horses in the state at the county level
- Provide information for new and existing businesses
- Provide better information to help design and implement equine programs benefitting the state
- Establish a benchmark that will enable the industry to nimbly adapt to changing market conditions
- Provide better assessment of disease incidence and surveillance
- Provide useful data for elected officials

Kentucky is known as the Horse Capital of the World, yet the Commonwealth lacks fundamental information about its signature industry. The last rigorous equine study was conducted in 1977.

You are Kentucky's equine industry, and your input is vital.

# Kentucky Equine Survey

BEGINNING JULY 2012

## HOW YOU CAN HELP:

**If you get a survey this summer, fill it out and send it back.** Each and every response, and each and every horse, matters.

With everyone's help and participation, we will know by early 2013 how many horses there are in Kentucky, by breed, use and county, and what the overall economic impact is to the Commonwealth.

This information will be used to strengthen the industry, inform strategic planning and provide a benchmark for Kentucky's agricultural economy and its signature industry.

**THIS IS A BIG PROJECT** that requires many resources. Several industry organizations and individuals have contributed time, money, information, and expertise to making this happen. Their support has been instrumental to the project's progression. A current list of contributors can be found on the project website.



TO FIND OUT MORE OR CONTACT US:

<http://www2.ca.uky.edu/equine/kyequinesurvey>

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(859) 257-7272, Ext. 271



## Happy Mouth Bits Recalled

Select Happy Mouth wire bits have been recalled due to the potential of the steel wire to become frayed, rusted or worn which can cause the bit to break. Bits purchased between July through April 2012 may be returned to tack shops or riding stores to receive a refund.

Recalled models include:

- Boucher Roller Mouth
- Roller Mouth Loose Ring
- Roller Mouth Gag
- Pessoa 2-Ring Roller Mouth Gag
- Pessoa 3-Ring Roller Mouth Gag
- Roller Mouth Full Cheek
- Western Center Peanut Bar Mouth with Shank
- Western Center Peanut Mouth with Ring
- Pro King D Center Peanut Mouth

For more information, please visit [www.EnglishRidingSupply.com](http://www.EnglishRidingSupply.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:

- UK Ag Equine Programs
- Gluck Equine Research Center
- Saddle Up Safely



**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)

The advertisement is set against a background image of a brown horse's head and neck. The text is in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The URL is in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

# Pilot Study Examines Effectiveness of Horse-based Learning

In May, the University of Kentucky Center for Leadership Development launched a six-month pilot study to provide preliminary data on the effectiveness of collaborating with horses to teach emotional intelligence and leadership competencies, a process known as Equine Guided Leadership Education.

The study is a collaborative endeavor between nursing researchers from UK HealthCare and social science researchers from the Center for Leadership Development, which is part of the UK College of Agriculture and under the leadership of Director Patricia Dyk. The long-range goal will be to secure future funding for larger research projects.

There is an abundance of anecdotal evidence that suggests experiential learning with horses is effective at building competencies, said Lissa Pohl, the center's co-investigator and project lead. "However, for this promising field to become even more credible in the eyes of those who want to utilize this powerful learning method, there needs to be academic research conducted and published in peer-reviewed journals showing this to be the case."

The study will compare the before and after emotional intelligence (EQ) assessments of both a control group and an experimental group of up to 15 nurses each. Researchers will also examine qualitative surveys of those in the experimental group who will experience a one-day equine-guided learning workshop designed to increase their EQ skills at work. The basic premise of equine-guided education is that horses are natural coaches, with an innate ability to interpret and mirror human behavior. Equine-assisted learning experiences are professionally facilitated horse-human interactions and exercises geared to helping people develop insights that can be applied in the workplace and in their personal lives.

Winning With Horse Power, a Florida-based global umbrella organization of equine experiential providers, is partnering with the center to assist in publicizing the research and raising funds for the study.

"Supporting this pilot study is a perfect fit for us," says Eileen Tighe, president and CEO of Winning With Horse Power. "Our members around the world are in many different specializations, but using equine-guided experiences to develop emotional intelligence is integral to all of them."

Instructions on how to contribute can be found online at <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/CFLD/research.php>. All contributions are tax deductible and will be used solely for the purpose of research in Equine Guided Leadership Education.

For more information contact Lissa Pohl, Center for Leadership Development Program and Outreach Associate, 859-257-2748



## Hay Yields Down

As many hay producers make their first cutting, they are finding lower-than-normal yields. The lower yields are due to a variety of reasons and depend on the type of hay produced and the producer's location, said Ray Smith, extension forage specialist with the University Of Kentucky College of Agriculture.

An unseasonably mild winter and a warm March allowed the hay crop to mature quicker than normal. But many areas in Western Kentucky have had very little rain this spring, which could be one explanation for lower yields of grass hay. Yields are also down in areas of Eastern Kentucky that



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have received more rainfall. Smith said the lower yields in this area could be caused by producers not applying fertilizer because of the high cost of nitrogen. Another explanation may be the grasses' growth patterns were affected by significant swings in temperature this spring. Alfalfa producers and those with grass-clover mixed hayfields are seeing higher yields than those with just grass hay.

“Across the state, the mild winter and good early precipitation led to tremendous early growth of clover this year, and alfalfa yields are good despite some alfalfa weevil damage,” Smith said.

Smith encouraged those who haven't made their first cutting of hay this year to do so soon. It is very likely that grass hay producers will get a quality second cutting this year if they receive timely rains.

Smith said it is likely alfalfa producers, who will take their second cutting in a few more weeks, will get a good second cutting, despite the amount of rainfall their area receives between now and then. This is because alfalfa has a deep root system and can thrive even in dry areas, he said.

For more information contact Ray Smith, Forage Extension Specialist, 859-257-3358

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## Clubs & Teams

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### Dressage & Eventing Team



*Talia Henkle riding  
Causing a Khemotion*

*Photo by Allen Page*

Several UK Event Team members competed in May-Daze at the Park Horse Trials May 25-27 at the Kentucky Horse Park. Congratulations to the following members:

Emily Moscoe riding Mr. Brightside placed 6th in Prelim Rider B  
Talia Henkle riding Causing a Khemotion placed 2nd in Training Rider C  
Connor Giesselman riding Formal Attire placed 2nd in Training Rider A  
Courtney Carroll riding Glamour Girl placed 15th in Training Rider B  
Shalise Gallaher riding Cadillac Cruise placed 11th in Open Novice A

The next horse trial will be the Midsouth Pony Club Horse Trial held June 22-24 at the Kentucky Horse Park, so be sure to check back for updates!

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### Equestrian Team

The University of Kentucky Equestrian Team placed 8th overall in the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (ISHA) Nationals competition held May 3-6 at the Hunt Horse Complex in Raleigh, N.C. Congratulations to the following members:

Meghan Shader placed 6th in Team Open Fences and 2nd in Individual Open Fences

Lauren Patterson placed 2nd in Team Open Flat

Laura Douglas placed 7th in Team Intermediate Fences

*continued...*

Katy Wingerter placed 6th in Team Intermediate Flat

Holly Ray placed 8th in Team Novice Fences

Victoria Hackbarth placed 10th in Team Novice Flat

Lindsay Vance placed 7th in Team Walk, Trot, Canter

Hannah Eldridge placed 10th in Team Walk Trot

Jessica Browne placed 8th in Individual Intermediate Flat

Kevin Sipes placed 5th in Novice Horsemanship

Megan Carter, 2007 Alum of the University of Kentucky, 1st in the Alumni reining class

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## Horse Racing Club

The UK Horse Racing Team is on break for the summer. Check back in the fall for announcements about club activities!

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## Polo Team

The UK Polo Team has leased out its ponies for the summer to places like Maryland, New York and Massachusetts where they will play. Next year, the club will be expanding and will host more JV games at home. The team will also be offering lessons for those who want try polo, but not play on the team, although they welcome beginners. Look for more updates closer to the start of the school year!

UK Ag Equine Programs sends our deepest condolences to the UK Polo Team for the recent loss of their polo pony Diva. Diva was runner-up for best playing polo pony at the United States Polo Association National Intercollegiate Championships in 2011 and was an asset to the team.

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## Research in Equine and Agricultural Disciplines

The UK READ club is taking a break for the summer, but is looking forward to the fall. Next year the club plans to expose members to common lab techniques used in research and possibly help out on a few research studies that UK graduate students are working on. Stay tuned for more updates!

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## Saddle Seat Team

The UK Saddle Seat Team competed in the Intercollegiate Saddle Seat Riding Association championship show in April against ECU, University of Louisville, Morehead, Northern Kentucky University and Marshall University. The UK team came out on top, winning the Highpoint Team award for both the show and the entire year. Melissa Steinkamp, a sophomore, also won the Senior Highpoint award for the championship show. Nicole Laroussa, a junior, won Senior Reserve Highpoint Champion for the ISSRA Championship show. Kelly Ruhl, a junior, came out on top with both Junior Reserve Highpoint Champion for the show and the year.

The team also said a sad goodbye to seniors Erica Salley, Renu Ramesh and Aimee Griggs. They all ended the year with great rides at the UK show in April. The team wants to thank all of its members and coaches, Stephanie Sedlacko and Catherine Van Arsdall for all of their hard work throughout the year.

# Internships

## Student Internship at Pimlico a Once in a Lifetime Experience

*Even though we live in the heart of Thoroughbred country, getting to attend one of the Triple Crown races is still considered a treat. While it is common for students from UK's Equine Science and Management undergraduate degree program to intern at farms, vet clinics, industry associations and with trainers, but none have been involved in putting on a major racing event - until now. Everyone who knows Posey Obrecht knows her for her resilience, optimism and hard work. So it was very deserved that she be given the opportunity to intern behind the scenes at the 2012 Preakness. Posey did everything from identify horses to work in the paddock to watch the morning workouts and we could not be more proud to have had her there representing us.*

*- Elizabeth A. LaBonty, Lecturer and Internship Coordinator*

*In Obrecht's own words...*

My time at Pimlico was nothing short of amazing. Not many people can say they have worked a Triple Crown race in the weeks leading up to the event. I am so fortunate to have been able to be a part of such a storied organization for such an amazing event.

On my first day at Pimlico, I had a full day of learning all about the racetrack. My family was very involved with steeplechase racing, but I never really understood how an actual track works. After my introductions to everyone in the office, I went through Maryland Racing 101. I had to learn the condition book and how to read it and how the computer system works. I always assumed racing would run like a horse show where the prize list for the day went out and you would mail in your entries with a Coggins and membership cards, but racing is so much more complicated than that.



The first job I had was with Lisa who was the horse identifier. I went over all of the Jockey Club papers that came with each horse and learned how to read them. With their Jockey Club papers, the Triple Crown, Breeders Cup and State Bred eligible papers are also attached. Then we would go over the race for the day and make sure the horse information on the overnights, matched with their current Coggins and vaccination information. Lastly, we would make sure all of the tattoos matched the paperwork that the racing office was given. This job seemed like it would be a fun job if you were interested in working closely with the Jockey Club.

The next job I was assigned to was the paddock judge. I always assumed the paddock judge just checked to make sure all the horses were in the paddock at the specific time, but there is more to it. In the morning, Mario, who is the paddock judge for Maryland Racing, would go through his personal program and write down times for calling jockeys, saddling horses and riders up. Next, we would review the computer system for adds and scratches and to check if any horse would be using special equipment for that day. Being in the paddock with Mario was one of my favorite parts because you get to hear the trainers talking with jockeys and then you'd watch horses dance out onto the track.

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For two days I followed around one of the state veterinarians and got to treat a lot of the stakes horses that were in town for the Black Eyed Susan and Preakness. We even got to treat I'll Have Another after his morning workouts and top filly, MillionReasonsWhy.

The vet I followed took such good care of every horse that he saw. It was really comforting to see. Everything was so well documented and almost all of the owners were happy at the end of the day. I wish more people would see this side of racing and not all of the negative news stories that come up about horse care.

I did so many cool jobs while working at Pimlico that I could probably write a whole book. My favorite part would have to be watching I'll Have Another prepare to run in the Preakness Stakes. Team O'Neill arrived in Baltimore the day before I did, so I got to witness most of their time there. The first day, I was introduced to the whole team and went to go see the big horse. He wasn't so big after all, but when he runs, he is amazing. I also learned that I'll Have Another has a famous lead pony named Lava Man. Lava Man won more than \$5 million during his time on the track. He is also the first horse to ever win a Grade I on Polytrack, dirt and turf. When I'll Have Another would come out for his morning workouts, many people in the crowd would cheer for Lava Man instead of the Triple Crown hopeful.



*Obrecht on left with Lava Man*

Team O'Neill provided great press for racing. They went to the Baltimore Ravens training camp, threw the first pitch at an Orioles game, and even visited the children's ward at Johns Hopkins Children's Hospital. There was also a 5K race for Susan G. Komen for the Cure and all of Team O'Neill ran in it. They were great to get to know and loved to share their story with anyone who came by and asked.

When the Preakness and Black Eyed Susan came around, Pimlico had truly transformed. A new horse would get shipped in to the special stakes barns and new prizes would arrive in the office. Since I had an all access pass to roam around Pimlico on these days, I went everywhere to make sure I saw everything. I would get so lost in the hallways that I would walk through every day because of all the people running around.



*Obrecht on NBC at the Preakness Stakes*

For the actual Black Eyed Susan race, I somehow ended up in the winner's circle with an NBC camera and Todd Pletcher coming right at me. He was trying to get to the winner's circle and I was in such shock I could not even move so, needless to say, I got some camera time that day.

Being behind the scenes of one of these big races was amazing. How everyone handles the crowds, the press and the trainers is truly remarkable. The anticipation for the big days is addicting and I cannot wait to try and be a part of it again.

## Equine Club Directory

### Dressage & Eventing Team

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### Equestrian Team

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Western President: Allie Board

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### Horse Racing Club

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President: Natalie Heitz

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### Polo Club

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President: Posey Obrecht

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