

Wildcat Canter

UK Ag
EQUINE

March 2010

UK Equine Initiative
Student Newsletter

UK's College of Agriculture helps visitors to
the World Equestrian Games see blue
And we need your help!

By: Holly Wiemers

The collective equine world turns its attention to Lexington for the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games and its first ever appearance outside of Europe from Sept. 25 to Oct. 10 at the Kentucky Horse Park. In ways big and small, the College of Agriculture has contributed to the preparations being made. Here's how the College will be involved, and ways we need your help.

Endurance race

The Maine Chance Equine Campus, UK's research and teaching horse farm in north Lexington, will host several legs of the endurance event. The race, which covers 100 total miles in one day, is expected to cross over the farm several times as horses complete loops across Central Kentucky horse farms then travel back to the Kentucky Horse Park for mandated vet checks.

UK Village (volunteers needed – read more below!)

UK HealthCare is the official medical provider of the Games, and with that designation, UK is considered a major partner and the Equine Initiative the official equine university program of the Games. Part of this sponsorship includes a presence in the "UK Village," a 3,229-square-foot tent that will be located in the trade fair area. The College will be one of three anchors in the UK Village, along with UK HealthCare and UK Public Relations.

In this Issue:

- WEG volunteer opportunities abound
- UK's Maine Chance Farm: site for learning opportunities
- Internship and job opportunities
- EI Career Fair wrap-up
- Upcoming events

Student volunteer program (volunteers needed – read more below!)

The Equine Initiative has developed a collaborative student volunteer program for College students with the World Equestrian Games. The aim of the formal program is to place College students in specific areas during the Games that are of interest to them and may help them achieve personal and professional goals after graduation.

Partner in Kentucky equine higher education

UK, along with eight other equine higher education programs recognized by the Council of Postsecondary Education has taken a lead role in designing a consortium display themed "Where else for an equine education?" promoting Kentucky as THE place for students to look to for an equine higher education. This display will be present at the Games in the Equine Village, and will also serve as a legacy effort where representatives from the schools can travel to events

(Ctd. on page 2)



Equine Initiative News

Volunteer opportunities abound at 2010 WEG

(ctd. from front page)

around the country and promote Kentucky's horse education opportunities in the years ahead.

Here's where YOU come in! But hurry! The deadline to register is May 10.

The world is coming. Meet it by volunteering with the College of Ag at the World Equestrian Games. 16 days. 600 horses. Almost half a million guests. And it all happens here. The University of Kentucky will be part of the excitement, offering many opportunities to get involved. There are two ways to become a WEG volunteer for UK's College of Ag. How you participate is your choice.

TRACK 1: COA Student Volunteer Partnership with WEG

Collaboration between the College of Ag and WEG matches student volunteers with the job description that best fits them. Requires 36 hours, plus training sessions. Volunteers will work six-hour shifts during mornings, afternoons and evenings for all 16 days of the event. What you get in return:

Ariat uniform (2 polo shirts, jacket, baseball hat); complimentary parking at the Horse Park; meal for each four-hour shift worked; access to the Horse Park for all 16 days of competition – plus, opportunities for networking, resume building, front seat to a once-in-a-lifetime event of Olympic caliber and a chance to be the face of your College to the world.

TRACK 2: COA at WEG General Volunteer

Helping the College at its booths in the UK Village and Equine Village, or with the endurance ride on UK's research farm. Requires five hours, plus training sessions. What you get in return: COA equine uniform and general admission ticket for the day you work – plus, opportunities for networking, resume building, front seat to a once-in-a-lifetime event of Olympic caliber and a chance to be the face of your College to the world.

To sign up or find out more, please visit: www.ca.uky.edu/equine or call 859-257-2226.



UK's Maine Chance Farm provides opportunities for student learning and research

By Natalie Voss

Visitors to Fasig-Tipton Company and the Kentucky Horse Park may have noticed the new stone walls and University of Kentucky insignia along Newtown Pike, but may not know what occurs behind those walls on UK's Maine Chance Equine Campus, the university's research and teaching farm in north Lexington. [Maine Chance is part of the collective North Farm complex that includes Spindletop Farm and the equine health research that is being conducted by Gluck Equine Research scientists.]

Before and after classes each day, a group of 10 students care for approximately 116 horses as part of UK's experimental breeding program. The Maine Chance property has been used as a working farm since the late 1800s. The University purchased the property from Elizabeth Arden in 1967 as an expansion opportunity for agriculture research and programs. The farm has been home to Kentucky Derby winners Aristides and Jet Pilot.



Photo by: Natalie Voss

Although run as a commercial operation, Maine Chance's breeding program is designed to provide an opportunity for students to learn the day-to-day operations of a large breeding farm. In addition to maintenance tasks like mucking and mowing, students have the opportunity to be involved with the horses from birth to the sales ring.

"On commercial farms, interns do a lot of 'grunt work.' They don't get the hands-on experiences they get here. They get to help with foaling, taking mares to the breeding shed; they get more out of it if it's more hands-on," Farm Manager Brittney Gamler said.

Students agree that working for Maine Chance is a unique situation for hands-on learning experiences they may not be exposed to in commercial breeding operations.

"You have the opportunity to learn on the job rather than be expected to already know something," said Ashley Meyer, an animal science senior.

"I chose Maine Chance because it's more flexible with my class schedule and lets me do a little bit of everything. I'm not stuck in a yearling or mare barn all the time," said Maggie Hitron, a senior studying animal sciences with an equine focus, about why she enjoys working at the farm.

Both students said sales are their favorite time of the year at the farm. Before yearlings go to auction, each student is assigned a horse to prep and show at the sale, giving them the opportunity to see the end product of their labors. While neither is sure where they will work after graduation, Meyer and Hitron believe the skill sets they have learned here will "serve them well in the future."



Photo by: Natalie Voss

Above: Ashley Meyer carries straw to the main barn

The individual focus seems to be working out well for the horses, too. The farm made headlines during the Fasig-Tipton February sale when it sold an Offlee Wild filly for \$22,000 despite the depressed sales market.

"I see our mission as research and teaching first. The last part is the horses ... a by-product of that is the Offlee Wild filly," Assistant Farm Manager Bryan Cassill said. "There is value in the whole program from foaling to sales prep." All proceeds from auctioned horses goes toward farm operation expenses.

While Maine Chance has historically been home to Thoroughbreds, the current program also includes Quarter Horses.

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(ctd. from page 3)

Its two active stallions, both high point champions, are Medal of Valor and Slowly Passing Breeze, who are bred via artificial insemination to Toughbred mares to produce appendix horses for private sale. All horses in the program, including the stallions, are donations. Thoroughbreds are bred on donated seasons from local farms.

Cassill said Lexington breeders have become more and more supportive of the program in recent years, and he is grateful for every donated season. In addition to the breeding program, Maine Chance Equine Campus is home to many of the equine research studies conducted by Animal and Food Sciences and Gluck Equine Research Center scientists. Horses who are not sold at auction often return for participation in trials examining nutrition, physiology, parasitology and pasture composition. Upcoming projects include studies on amino acid composition in muscle, bermudagrass pastures, selenium intake and nutrition of pregnant mares.

Unsold horses are also used for teaching undergraduates in the equine science and management program. Behavior and handling classes are a requirement for graduation, and allow students to teach young horses to walk a course on a lead-line, and older horses to lunge under a surcingle. Although there are several student clubs focused on competition riding, they train at private facilities. Riding classes are not offered as part of the science-based degree program.

With the creation of the Equine Initiative in 2005, plans were made to update and construct new facilities on the Maine Chance campus. Since then, a 10,000 square foot teaching pavilion has been constructed for active demonstrations and a nearby existing barn has been renovated inside and out to become a foaling barn and teaching facility. In addition, several buildings have been updated or constructed on the Spindletop Farm side of North Farm. There are future plans to build a learning center with classrooms and laboratories, two new research barns and a livestock exhibition center.



Teaching Pavillion at Maine Chance

UK



Equine Medical Associates, PSC

James P. Morehead, DVM
Michael A. Prichard, DVM dip. ACVS

Eric S. Peterson, DVM
Caleb J. Harms, DVM

Jeremy L. Whitman, DVM
and Associates



P.O. Box 13116 • Lexington, KY 40583-3116 • (859) 255-9233 • Fax (859) 255-3116 • Email: office@eqmedical.com

Nina Bonnie to speak at distinguished lecture series April 1

Nina Bonnie, accomplished equestrienne, Kentucky Horse Park Foundation creator and driving force behind the park, will speak at the University of Kentucky Equine Initiative Distinguished Industry Lecture Series.

The event will take place April 1 in the Maxwell H. Gluck Equine Research Center auditorium, on the UK campus beginning at 6:30 p.m. EDT. The lecture series is free to students and the general public. "The Distinguished Industry Lecture Series is a signature program of the UK Equine Initiative. It is designed to showcase distinguished industry practitioners from the broad equine industry," said Nancy Cox, associate dean for research of UK's College of Agriculture and administrative leader for the Equine Initiative. "We are very pleased to showcase the outstanding contributions of Nina Bonnie with this second lecture in the series."

Dan Liebman, editor-in-chief of The Blood Horse Magazine, will interview Bonnie using questions submitted by audience members. There will be three main areas of discussion: Bonnie's career path, the Kentucky Horse Park and the general state of the horse industry. This lecture is made possible by Equine Medical Associates, PSC.

Equine Initiative Career Fair a success

By Alexandra Harper

Over 100 students attended the second annual Equine Initiative Career Fair on March 2, 2010. The event was put on by the Equine Initiative Student Working Group and Internship Coordinator, Elizabeth LaBonty.

The evening started with registration and pizza for the students. At 5:30 p.m. Norm Luba, Executive Director of the North American Equine Racing Information Council and past President of the Kentucky Quarter Horse Association gave the welcoming address entitled, *So You Want to Work in the Horse Industry*.

From 6-7 p.m. informational sessions took place. One was presented by LaBonty on resumes, cover letter, and thank you notes. The other session was on interview skills and job searching techniques which was co hosted by Randy Gilbert, Manager of Dell Ridge Farm and Mike Owens, Manager of Cobra Farms. The final event was a booth session from 7-8 p.m. where students met and talked with potential employers.


"This year's Career Fair was a great success. Mr. Luba, Mr. Owens, and Mr. Gilbert all did an excellent job with their presentations and we had excellent booth representatives from the industry," said LaBonty, Internship Coordinator.

"The career fair was great. I think it's awesome that the UK Equine Initiative hosts this career fair for students interested in the horse industry. It gives students a chance to make contacts with some of the leading companies in the industry. As with any type business, networking is important, but I think that is especially true in the horse industry--it being such a close tight knit community. Another thing is that it's nice to meet with these companies in a casual environment, whereas most first meetings with a company may come in a job interview type environment," said Tony Murrietta, UK Freshman majoring in Equine Management.

Students from the University of Kentucky, Midway College, Darley Flying Start Program, Kentucky Equine Management Internship program, Georgetown College, North American Racing Association, Murray State and BCTS attended the career fair. There was a total of 33 different business and organizations that contributed to the fair in some manner, whether it was a booth, information provider, or door prize donor. Twenty-three booths were there with over 42 people representing the booths. Seven businesses and organizations sent materials for the information booth and 12 groups donated a total of 27 door prizes.



"I think that the high turnout of students from local equine programs demonstrates how much interest and need there is for this event," said LaBonty, Internship Coordinator.

Some of the organizations included Woodford Equine Hospital, Hagyard Equine Medical Institute, Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital, Darley Flying Start Program, Neogen Corporation, Kentucky Horse Racing Commission, Kentucky Horse Council, Keeneland, and Kentucky Equine Management Internship along with many more. 

Portrait unveiling ceremony of former Gluck Center director Dr. Peter Timoney

Dr. Mats Troedsson (left), DVM, PhD, Dipl. ACT, chair of UK's Department of Veterinary Science and director of the Gluck Equine Research Center, and Lexington-based artist Federico Pizzurro unveiled a portrait of Dr. Peter Timoney, former Gluck Center director and department chair, on March 10 during a portrait unveiling ceremony.

Timoney, MVB, PhD, FRCVS, joined the faculty in UK's Department of Veterinary Science in 1983. He served as Department Chair from 1989 to 2008 and Director of the Gluck Center from 1989 to 2006. He is currently professor and holder of the Frederick Van Lennep Chair in Equine Veterinary Science.

The portrait unveiling ceremony was attended by 90 people, including several local veterinarians. Each of the past directors and department chairs portraits are displayed in the Gluck Center auditorium.



Student Spotlight: Alissa Hayward

By Alexandra Harper

Alissa Hayward, a junior and community leadership and development major at UK was the Kentucky Equine Youth Festival Intern this year. Hayward started in October coordinating volunteer efforts by recruiting volunteers, creating and maintaining volunteer database, communicating with volunteers, and she completed her internship by coordinating volunteer's assignments the day of the event.

Hayward worked under the guidance of volunteer coordinator, Elizabeth LaBonty, youth festival chair, Fernanda Camargo and the rest of the Kentucky Equine Youth Festival committee.

"Hayward was instrumental in the success of the Kentucky Equine Youth Festival. She played a key role in contacting potential sponsors, working to meet the needs of demonstrators and of course, helping coordinate volunteers. From the start to finish this event was a huge undertaking, and I was impressed with both Hayward professionalism and her efficiency," said LaBonty, Equine Internship Coordinator.

Hayward's career path is still undecided but she knows without a doubt she wants to work with horses. After completing her internship, Hayward wrote the following wrap up piece about the Youth Festival.

Youth Festival Attracts 6,000 Children

By Alissa Hayward


What do you get when you combine 6,000 children from Kentucky and eight demonstration rides featuring the equestrian disciplines from the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games? Why the 2010 Kentucky Equine Youth Festival of course! On March 19, the new indoor arena at the Kentucky Horse Park was filled with children grades K-12 who had traveled from all over Kentucky to see demonstration rides, view equine educational demonstrations, visit many booths and learn about horses and the World Equestrian Games.

Starting at 8 a.m., children began arriving by the busload. After slowly but surely filling the arena seats, the first demonstration ride began with Endurance. Thereafter, every hour on the hour until 4 p.m., the audience got to see a new demonstration ride showcasing in order, Dressage, Eventing, Reining, Driving, Vaulting, Show Jumping and Para Equestrian. The demonstration rides had the two-fold purpose of teaching the festival attendees about different equestrian disciplines as well as promoting the Alltech 2010 FEI World Equestrian Games. In the downtime between the demonstration rides, 30-minute educational seminars took place in the warm-up area. The seminars covered a wide range of topics including Equine Ophthalmology and Horse Safety.

"We hope that this event will open the world of equestrian events to youth that otherwise wouldn't have the opportunity to see elite riders demonstrate their event," said University of Kentucky Equine Extension Specialist Dr. Fernanda Camargo. The festival, hosted by the University of Kentucky Equine Initiative and University of Louisville Equine Industry Program, in conjunction with the Kentucky 4-H Horse Program, Kentucky Equine Education Project, Kentucky Department of Education, United States Equestrian Federation, United States Pony Clubs and the Kentucky Horse Council was designed to celebrate Kentucky hosting the 2010 World Equestrian Games, but it also promoted equestrian sports in Kentucky and horses in general. Numerous booths representing different equestrian organizations breed affiliations and schools lined the course, giving attendees ample opportunities in hands-on fun and educational opportunities.

"(The Festival) went well, with lots of people, especially younger kids interested in the Equine Industry," said Jenny Gordan from the Kentucky Thoroughbred Association, who ran a booth at the 2010 Kentucky Equine Youth Festival.

More than 60 volunteers worked the festival and were instrumental in its success. Doing jobs ranging from parking to seating attendant, their ultimate job was to make sure that the children had a good time. According to Cherish Shivers, one such festival attendee, they succeeded.

"I liked the festival and I had a good time," she said as she took a quick break from visiting all the booths, before darting back into crowds of people and disappearing. 

Student Internship Section

...matching the jobs of today with the candidates of tomorrow...

Internship Opportunities:

eXTENSION INITIATIVE is looking for a student to work in its horse community office. Contact Ashley Griffin (ashley.griffin@extension.org) for more information.

STUDENT WORKER needed for Dr. Tom Tobin, researcher in equine pharmacology, therapeutics and toxicology at the Gluck Equine Research Center. Contact Elizabeth LaBonty (elizabeth.labonty@uky.edu) for more information.

SUMMER INTERNSHIP AVAILABLE: Virginia Tech is accepting applications for its Equine Instructor's Internship. Interns will shadow a mentor and prepare to take the CHA Instructor's Certification Program examination. They will also assist faculty and graduate students with ongoing research projects. Students graduating in May 2010 will also be considered. Contact Elizabeth LaBonty (elizabeth.labonty@uky.edu) for more information.

KENTUCKY HORSE COUNCIL is looking for an office intern. Responsibilities include updating the KHC website, video reporting and research, among other tasks. Candidates should be detail-oriented and have strong writing skills. Contact Essie Rogers at erogers@kentuckyhorse.org for more information.

THE AMERICAN PAINT HORSE ASSOCIATION is looking for a summer intern in Fort Worth, TX. The Intern will work primarily in the Performance Department and will also have the opportunity to work with individuals in marketing, media and *Paint Horse Journal*. Salary is \$1,200 per month. Contact Equine Initiative (equineinitiative@uky.edu) or Kristen Harvey (kjanicki@uky.edu) for more information.

THE SIERRA CLUB'S COAL-FREE CAMPUS CAMPAIGN is hiring student interns for the winter/spring semester. Internship are available in the following areas: media relations, grassroots campaigning, coalition building and events coordinating. Interns **must work a minimum of 10 hours per week. Contact Miranda Cooper at miranda@greencorps.org for more information.**

Remember that to have an internship count for credit, you must contact Elizabeth LaBonty prior to the start date.

RESEARCH SUMMER INTERNSHIP available within the Equine Initiative. For more information please email Elizabeth LaBonty (elizabeth.labonty@uky.edu).

Job Opportunities:

BARN HELP needed at West Wind Farm beginning in March. Must have Thoroughbred experience and be able to operate machinery. Contact Lisa Crammer Molloy at 859-595-6660 for more information.

NIGHT WATCH positions available at Margaux Farm. Call Kelli Hoffman-Cross at 859-621-6606 for more information.

SUMMER JOBS AVAILABLE at Sombrero Ranch facilities in Colorado. This is a primarily riding position. Visit their website (www.sombrero.com) or contact Kristyn Smith (xc4life@ufl.edu) for more information.

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT ON CAMPUS: The Office of Undergraduate Admissions is accepting applications from current students for Wildcat Assistants, who will aid in

Equine Initiative Events

The Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association has several educational opportunities coming up in 2010:

- **April 29 - New Owner Seminar:** Churchill Downs, Louisville. The new owner seminar provides a basic introduction to Thoroughbred ownership. Topics at new owner seminars include how to build a racing stable, owner and trainer communications, common veterinary concerns, accounting and insurance issues, understanding racing partnerships and much more.
- **May 21 - 23 - Breeding Clinic:** Lexington. The Breeding Clinic is held in Lexington each year and consists of tours at three Kentucky Thoroughbred farms. Clinic topics include foal registration, pedigree theory, a conformation workshop, equine nutrition, equine business matters, foaling and farm management as related to Thoroughbred breeding.

Equine Clubs and Teams Updates

Dressage/Eventing Team: The UK Dressage Team participated in its last Intercollegiate Dressage Association (IDA) show of the season on March 13. The A team finished 4th and the B team finished 9th. Kentucky finished 4th in the region out of nine schools. The following members also finished well regionally:

Alison Wilaby-3rd First Level

Emily Mysinger-4th Upper Training

Catherine Connell-4th Intro

Jennifer Brogie-4th Lower Training

Jordahn Hahn-6th Intro.

The Dressage Team had a great season and would like to thank its new coach, Jenny Joyce, for all her help throughout the year. They would also like to thank all of the members and sponsors as well as Champagne Run, their facility, for all their help in hosting their first regional IDA show on Feb. 28. At this show UK teams came in 2nd (B team) and 3rd (A team).

Equestrian Team: The Equestrian Team will be going to the Zone Championship at Finely on April 11 and the IHSA Nationals at the Kentucky Horse Park from May 6-9.

Horse Judging Team: If you are interested in joining the Horse Judging Team, contact Kristen Harvey at kjanicki@email.uky.edu.

Horse Racing Club: Anyone interested in joining the Horse Racing Club, email ukhorseracingclub@hotmail.com.

Polo Team: If you are interested in joining the Polo team, contact Cary Campbell at cccampbell1@me.com

Saddle Seat Team: Next show will be April 17 against Eastern Kentucky University at the Mercer County Fairgroups. Also congratulations to Cydni Simmons and Brittany Baird who were recently selected for the World Cup 5-gaited team!



Funding available from Horses and Humans Research Foundation

Horses and Humans Research Foundation has \$50,000 in grant funding available for equine-assisted activities research. Visit www.horsesandhumans.org to apply. The deadline is May 15, 2010. You may support further research by making a tax deductible donation via the website or P.O. Box 480 Chagrin Falls, OH 44022.

Horses and Humans Research Foundation exists to facilitate universal understanding and appreciation of the significant influence of horses and humans. The primary goal is to support, promote and fund scientific research that explores the claimed, yet unsubstantiated benefits of equine-assisted activities and therapies, leading to the discovery of the most effective methods and techniques for conducting thousands of existing and future programs.



Equine Club Directory

Dressage/Eventing Team

Dressage Advisor: Drura Parrish
drura.parrish@uky.edu
Dressage President: Emily Mysinger
ekmysi2@uky.edu

Eventing Advisor: Kristen Harvey
kjanicki@uky.edu
Eventing President: Courtney Carroll
clcarr4@uky.edu

Equestrian Team

Advisor: Dr. Bob Coleman
rcoleman@uky.edu
President: Lauren Patterson
lpatt4@uky.edu

Horse Judging Team

Advisor: Kristen Harvey
kjanicki@email.uky.edu

Horse Racing Club

Advisor: Dr. Laurie Lawrence
llawrenc@uky.edu
President: Natalie Heitz
nmheit2@uky.edu

Polo Club

Advisor: Roger Brown
rogerbrown@uky.edu
President: Cary Campbell
cccampbell1@me.com

Saddle Seat Team

Advisor: Lee Edgerton
lee.edgerton@uky.edu
President: Katie Singleton



KENTUCKY INTERNATIONAL EQUINE SUMMIT

The second Kentucky International Equine Summit (KIES), sponsored by the Equine Industry Program at the University of Louisville in cooperation with the University of Kentucky's Equine Initiative, will be held Monday and Tuesday, April 26 and 27, 2010, at the Hilton Lexington.

Program subjects for 2010 include 75 speakers on economic structure and strategy issues for the industry, association management and leadership, post-secondary equine education, and scientific animal care.

Students can attend the Summit for free (lunch included) if they register online at kyequinesummit.com by April 12. After April 12, the cost is \$50.

The Kentucky Horse Council is now offering a free membership to college students majoring in equine. As a KHC member, you will receive weekly e-news, discounted or free admission to KHC educational events, discounted purchase of KHC merchandise and an optional benefit of \$1 million personal equine liability policy. To join online, visit: http://kentuckyhorse.org/en/memberships/applications/add.asp?userid=&httpreferrer=/en/memberships/add_pre.asp

Contact Us

Equine Initiative
N212 Ag Sciences Building North
Lexington, KY 40546-0091



Office: (859) 257-2226
Fax: (859) 323-8484
Email: equineinitiative@email.uky.edu
Web: www.ca.uky.edu/equine

**Director of the Equine Initiative & Dickson
Professor of Equine Science and Management:
Dr. Jamie MacLeod**

**Associate Director for Undergraduate Education in
Equine Science & Management: Dr. Bob Coleman**

**Equine Initiative Communications Director &
Editor: Holly Wiemers**

**Equine Initiative Lecturer & Internship Coordinator:
Elizabeth LaBonty**

**UK Equine Interns: Alexandra Harper and Natalie
Voss**

Equine Initiative Staff Support: Kevin Hagan

You can find more information about the Equine Initiative by joining our Facebook fan page

College of Agriculture Academic Calendar:

March

29-April 20-Priority Registration for 2010 Summer and Fall terms

April

1-20-Priority Registration for 2010 Summer and Fall terms

3-Last Day to withdraw from a class for academic reasons

23-May 10-Students may change majors

30-Last Day of Classes

May

3-7-Finals Week

8-Graduation

Upcoming Events

April 1- Second Equine Distinguished Lecture Series with Nina Bonnie, 6 p.m., Gluck Auditorium

April 2-23 Keeneland Spring Meet

April 22-25 Rolex 3 Day Event, Kentucky Horse Park