

JANUARY 2022
EDITION

WILDCAT CANTER

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY AG EQUINE PROGRAMS NEWSLETTER

UK Ag Equine Programs held an open house for the 13 Equine Science and Management graduates Dec. 17 at the Pirri Teaching Pavilion on Maine Chance Equine Campus.

UK Ag Equine Programs wants to learn what influenced Equine Science and Management students to make their college decision. with a new survey.

University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs announces its second equine-oriented digital photography contest. Submissions will be accepted through Feb. 28.



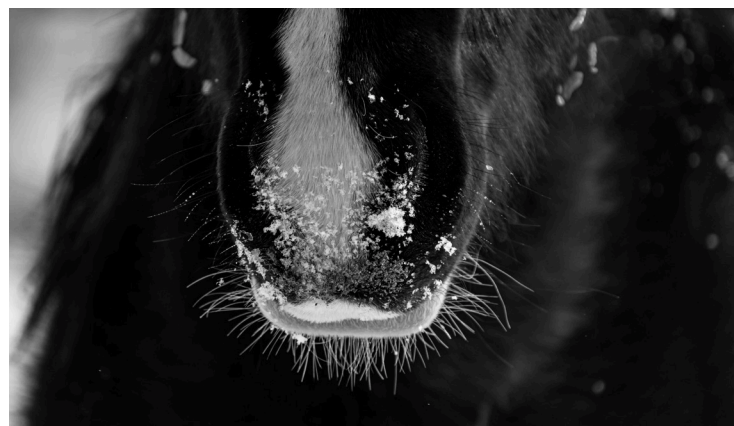
HIGHLIGHTS



UK AG EQUINE PROGRAMS HOSTS SECOND ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

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University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs announces its second equine-oriented digital photography contest. Submissions will be accepted through Feb. 28. All are encouraged to participate, from students to the general public. *(Photo credit, right, Audrey Cowen, one of the 2021 contest winners.)*



"WHY DID YOU CHOOSE UK?" SURVEY ASKS

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UK Ag Equine Programs wants to learn what influenced Equine Science and Management students to make their college decision. We created this survey in hopes of learning about what parameters influence prospective equine students and played a part in helping you make final college decisions.

Equine Science Students & Alumni

We want to learn about YOU



UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DEADLINES

- Jan. 31-Feb. 18, UK Research and Education Center Field Cleanup
- Feb. 1 and 2, UK VetCE: Topics in Reproduction
- Feb. 21, Pastures Please!!

WELCOME

Horses are in the plus column

The horse world has become a source of optimism for me, at least that portion of the horse world that I see as director of UK Ag Equine Programs. There are clearly some major issues to be stressed about in our world today, but over this past year horses and equine science were just the opposite – things to be proud of and reasons for hope going forward. I will share three examples.

The COVID pandemic has made us all more familiar with the biology of infectious disease agents and biosecurity parameters – things related to transmissibility and susceptibility. The first time I experienced the emergence of a new infectious agent within a naïve population was canine parvovirus in the late 1970s and early 1980s. As a result of a couple of DNA nucleotide mutations, suddenly there was a new type of parvovirus that was very good at infecting canine cells. As a result, dogs across the globe were all suddenly susceptible to a serious new disease. Mortality approached 90% in puppies and 10% in adults. Incredible numbers of dogs died and it took years to isolate the new virus and figure things out. Of course, we are currently living through the incredible loss and pain of a global pandemic caused by a new human coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2.

Turning to horses, last spring a number of farms were challenged by a novel diarrheal disease impacting newborn foals. It turns out that the disease was caused by Rotavirus B, a strain that had never infected horses before. Yet, UK scientists and colleagues identified the causative infectious agent and figured out some crucial issues in a matter of months – not years, literally in just a few months. So, within a single foaling season, they identified an important new equine virus and defined specific ways that breeding farms could minimize the disease's impact. I will not overview the science here, but new genomic technologies played a major role. Molecular and cellular advances are literally transforming medical sciences. We see this everywhere in human healthcare, and it is very exciting that horses are also well positioned to benefit in parallel from these exciting knowledge- and technology-driven advances.

My second 2021 reflection relates to equine athletes and sports medicine. Positive changes are happening on a number of fronts. Competition surfaces, drug pharmacology and detection, the standardization of regulatory issues, diagnostic imaging, safety equipment, public education and other health and safety variables are all advancing with positive effect. Last year, catastrophic injury rates in Thoroughbred racing were the lowest reported in the 12 years of data provided by The Jockey Club. The welfare and safety of both equine and human athletes have clearly and openly become a very high priority across horse disciplines and competition formats. Everyone can be excited about this.

My third reflection centers on the Maine Chance Farm team and the Thoroughbred foals they raise. What a great program on many levels – educational, student experiential opportunities, student jobs, synergy with research and extension programs, lasting memories and the fun of following the racing careers of these UK-bred horses. This past year was extra special because of Averly Jane, the filly that won her first four races impressively before a solid effort in a Breeders' Cup race. I enjoyed talking to the students who worked with the filly as a foal and yearling. I enjoyed watching her races. I enjoyed visiting Averly Jane at her training barn last fall. My congratulations to the students, staff, faculty and all of the horses in this program. Well done.

So yes, horses were definitely in the plus column for me in 2021. Looking forward, I think there is reason for optimism that 2022 will also be a good year for UK Ag Equine Programs. Let us hope so together.



JAMES MACLEOD, VMD, PHD

UK AG EQUINE PROGRAMS DIRECTOR,
JOHN AND ELIZABETH KNIGHT CHAIR,
GLUCK EQUINE RESEARCH CENTER



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CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

UK Ag Equine Programs held an open house for the 13 Equine Science and Management graduates Dec. 17 at the Pirri Teaching Pavilion on Maine Chance Equine Campus. Graduates and their families had the opportunity to mingle with teaching faculty, advisors and staff of UK Ag Equine Programs while enjoying light refreshments. The graduates received a gift for their outstanding accomplishments during their undergraduate career. We salute the following grads!

CONGRATULATIONS FALL 2021 CLASS



HOMETOWN: Louisville, KY

Abigail Bowles

INTERNSHIP: Central Kentucky Riding for Hope, Barn Management Intern

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

Getting to intern at an awesome organization that helps so many people.

What are your plans for after graduation?

I have no definite plans other than finding a full-time job in the Louisville area.

Most impactful faculty or staff member?

My advisor, Dr. Coleman, for offering advice on classes and helping me stay on track.

Maya Caceres

INTERNSHIP: Pocket aces Racing LLC, Communications intern

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

Working at Breeders' Cup World Championship and being able to help put on, work, attend the event at Keeneland in 2020.

What are your plans for after graduation?

I plan on moving back home to Maryland where I will be trying to pursue a job within the business side of the Thoroughbred Industry.

Most impactful faculty or staff member?

Dr. Carleigh Fedorka! She helped me apply what I learned in class at the farm.



HOMETOWN: Bethesda, MD



HOMETOWN: Louisville, KY

Daniel Deatrck

INTERNSHIP: Rigney Racing, Barn Assistant

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

Watching Averly Jane, a filly I helped raise at Maine Chance and took through the sales ring at Fasig-Tipton, win a Breeders' Cup Win at Keeneland and run in the Breeders' Cup.

What are your plans for after graduation?

I will be working for Godolphin at Gainsborough Farm. I also plan on going to graduate school to pursue an MBA.

Most impactful faculty or staff member?

Kristen Wilson and Savannah Robin have both been so supportive of me and have pushed me to step out of my comfort zone through experiences like Wildcat Wranglers and being a TA for EQM 101. Dr. Lawrence, Tim Jedra and Matt Zehnder, the managers at Maine Chance, have also taught me so much in my time at the farm and helped me get my start in the Thoroughbred industry.

CONGRATULATIONS

FALL 2021 CLASS



HOMETOWN: Elburn, IL

Rebecca Geringer

INTERNSHIP: Blackrock Ranger Station, Livestock Assistant Manager

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

My first weekend at Keeneland getting to go to the races.

What are your plans for after graduation?

I will be managing the young horse program for Aliboo Farm West in Glacier, Montana.

Most impactful faculty or staff member?

Savannah Robin, she always cared about my success from the moment I decided to transfer to my last credit hour before graduation from this program.

Kylie Harris

INTERNSHIP: Harrison Horse Training, Farm Management Intern

Campus Involvement:

Team Roper with the UK Rodeo Team

What are your plans for after graduation?

To continue working for Harrison Horse Training in a full-time position.



HOMETOWN: Madisonville, KY



HOMETOWN: Taylor Mill, KY

Naomi Hurdle

INTERNSHIP: Breeders' Cup, Ticketing and Customer Service Intern

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

Spending 2.5 weeks in Del Mar for Breeders' Cup and being an integral piece in hosting the event is pretty hard to beat!

What are your plans for after graduation?

I plan to make a career in horse racing marketing and PR. I have a strong desire to write my own story within this, and to share others. Horse racing is a beautiful sport and a humble lifestyle. I want the public to know that.

Most impactful faculty or staff member?

In regards to my career life, Mrs. Robin. When others said it couldn't be done, she never failed to re-light the fire in my belly and create a way for me to get out there and do it. In regards to my life as a horsewoman, Dr. Rossano. I saw the way she loved and treated horses and through the watch of a careful eye, began to develop my own demeanor around them as well.

CONGRATULATIONS

FALL 2021 CLASS



HOMETOWN: Traverse City, MI

Cecilia Kurkowski

INTERNSHIP: Ballyhigh Show Stables, Assistant Lesson Barn Manager

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

The equine welcome back barbeque. As a transfer student, I hardly knew anyone and this was such a fun opportunity where I made new friends and we raced the bouncy horses.

What are your plans for after graduation?

I don't have solid plans after graduation yet as I am still looking for a job, but I do plan to stay in Lexington for a while longer!

Most impactful faculty or staff member?

It really is hard to just pick one as all the equine faculty was welcoming and supportive. But I would have to say Savannah Robin through my whole college career at UK. From the start of EQM 106 supporting me being so versatile between disciplines to now helping me find jobs, being confident in my decisions, and knowing my worth.

Aracely Marin

INTERNSHIP: Kentucky Equine Adoption Center, Barn Management Intern

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

I would say it was my time at my internship I had a great time getting to actually work with horses and getting to experience new things.

What are your plans for after graduation?

After graduation, I will be applying for jobs to work a farm and I would like to do some volunteering in places that interest me.

Most impactful faculty or staff member?

Camie Heleski, I thought that she was a great professor and advisor always helping me if I needed. I even wrote a paper on why she was a good example of a leader.



HOMETOWN: Lexington, KY



HOMETOWN: Appleton, WI

Jayna Pellett

INTERNSHIP: Maker's Mark Secretariat Center, Equine Nonprofit Fundamentals Intern

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

Meeting with Catherine Whitehouse, equine nutritionist at KER; Catherine helped solidify my aspirations to become an equine nutritionist.

What are your plans for after graduation?

After graduation, I plan to acquire an equine industry career, precisely one involving nutrition, and then begin the application process for the Animal Science Master's Program at the University of Kentucky. With my Master's, I hope to establish myself as an equine nutritionist in Central Kentucky!

Most impactful faculty or staff member?

The most impactful equine faculty member from my entire career was Savannah Robin. During her class, Savannah Robin encouraged me to step out of my comfort zone and develop my skills. Even after completing her course, she continued to help sculpt me into the professional I am today.

CONGRATULATIONS

FALL 2021 CLASS



HOMETOWN: Lexington, KY

Mackenzie Rockefeller

INTERNSHIP: Racing Surfaces Testing Laboratory, Research Intern

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

Working with Dr. Peterson and others at the Racing Surfaces Testing Lab.

What are your plans for after graduation?

I will become a full-time employee at the Racing Surfaces Testing Laboratory starting in January 2022, where I will be learning to manage the lab as well as focusing on the completion of the Maintenance Quality Database the lab is working on with The Jockey Club. I also plan to apply to the College of Public Health at the University of Kentucky by this upcoming February to hopefully begin a Master's Degree.

Most impactful faculty or staff member?

Mrs. Savannah Robin was the most impactful faculty member in my college career because she was able to listen to my story and help guide me in the right direction. Coming into the equine program as a late-major transfer, I did not have as much time as others to find where I needed to be, but with only a few conversations I felt like I had been a part of the program since I was a Freshman

Allison Strecker

INTERNSHIP: Great American insurance Group, Associate Underwriter in Equine Mortality

What is your favorite memory from your undergraduate career?

Working on the UK Research Farm in the Vet Science Department. Nothing more exciting than learning to manage a whole operation with just a few set of hands.

What are your plans for after graduation?

Continue with Great American and set sights on law school to pursue agriculture, environmental, or equine law. All three would be preferable!

Most impactful faculty or staff member?

I cannot pick between everyone! For my personal journey, though, Dr. Coleman, Mrs. Wilson and Dr. Heleski have guided me through this turbulent experience and never gave up on me. It is the dedication they show to their students that helped me feel like I was able to succeed.



HOMETOWN: Louisville, KY



Fall 2021

DEAN'S LIST

EQUINE SCIENCE & MANAGEMENT

Michel Aguiluz
Jaida Alea
Hailey Anderson
Margaret Babiarz
Grace Barrier
Caroline Blang
Abigail Braese
Macy Broughton
Emily-Ruth Brown
Olivia Bryant
Ryan Burton
Kendall Carlson
Hailey Carroll
Sydney Carter
Charles Churchill
Elizabeth Clark
Valentine Comoglio
Amelie Contreras
Lillian Crouch
Avery Cummings
Heather Hunt
Naomin Hurdle
Emma Hyde
Emily Johnson
Victoria Kupets
Jada Lang
Madelyn Leahey
Sydney McHorse
Savannah Meacham
Rachael Mooney
Caitlyn Moore
Emily Morton

Taylor Nackers
Elizabeth Newman
Mary Caroline Noneman
Virginia Ohl
Cameryn Oswald
Loralye Page
Jayna Pellett
Isidra Powell
Alana Quirindongo-Baunsoe
Anabel Ricigliano
Mackenzie Rockefeller
Emma Rose
Cailin Schaefer
Stephanie Scott
Alexandra Sharp
Katelyn Smith
Mackenzie Smith
Daniel Smith
Alec Townley
Lia Van Der Wal
Elizabeth Vejr
Angela Veshia
Audrey Villarreal
Ava Vransy
Madison Walker
Mackenzie Werner
Alexis Willis
Claire Wilson
Marion Yingling
Chloe Young
Jennifer Zimmerman

Equine Science Students & Alumni



We want to learn about YOU



Please take this brief survey!

UK Ag Equine Programs wants to learn what influenced Equine Science and Management students to make their college decision. We created this survey in hopes of learning about what parameters influence prospective equine students and played a part in helping you make final college decisions. Please take a moment to complete the survey [here](#). We are excited to learn more about how you chose this program.



UK AG EQUINE PROGRAMS HOSTS SECOND ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

By Sydney Carter

University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs announces its second equine-oriented digital photography contest. Submissions will be accepted through Feb. 28.

All are encouraged to participate, from students to the general public. There are three age divisions for submissions: UK students, youth (17 and under) and open (18 and over).

UK Ag Equine Programs is looking for original, high-quality photographs that exhibit any discipline or breed of horses, horses interacting with people and a more artistic category. Photographers can submit photos online via a Google form.

Entries will be judged by a committee of staff, students and trained photographers in early March.

Each division's winning image will be published on the UK Ag Equine Programs' Facebook page for a "People's Choice Award." Votes for the award will be determined by the number of likes that each image receives by 5 p.m. EST on Friday, March 11.

Prizes will be awarded to category winners of each age division as well as the opportunity to be featured in the program's monthly newsletter, The Wildcat Canter, and other UK publications.

Participants can get more information regarding the rules and how to enter, at <https://equine.ca.uky.edu/> or by following UK Ag Equine Programs' Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts. They can direct questions to equine@uky.edu.

Internship Spotlight

DEJA ROBINSON

Intern, Kentucky Horse Racing Commission



Equine senior Deja Robinson has spent the month of October exploring her new internship at the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission. The opportunity for this position was provided by the Ed Brown Society, which works to promote diversity within the equine racing industry.

"This is a goal that is near and dear to my heart. I take great pride in serving as a role model to minority youth and other college students aspiring to work within the industry," Robinson said.

The KHRC is an independent agency of state government charged with regulating the conduct of horse racing and pari-mutuel wagering on horse racing and related activities within the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

It oversees and regulates all types of equine racing, including Thoroughbred, Standardbred, Quarter Horse, Paint horse, Appaloosa and Arabian Horse races.

According to Robinson, her role as an intern with KHRC has provided her with extensive shadowing, learning and working experiences.

"As an intern at the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission, I am exposed to a variety of aspects of the racing industry, especially regarding regulation. This internship opportunity has allowed me to expand my knowledge and understanding of the industry by shadowing commissioners across the various divisions and committees. Due to this, I have been able to further develop key skills including communication, adaptability, networking and professionalism skills," Robinson said.

She says that she enjoys the ability to learn something new every day and working hands-on at local racetracks.

[Sydney Carter, a senior studying Equine Science and Management with a minor in journalism, is a communications and student relations intern with UK Ag Equine Programs.



EQUINE SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT

Alumni PROFILE



Averie Levanti

Pennsylvania Horse Breeders
Association Office Manager

HOME : [Pennsylvania](#)

GRADUATED: 2021



How did you first become involved in the horse industry?

I read Bill Nack's book on Secretariat when I was 12 years old, and it sparked my interest in the thoroughbred industry. I started doing photography and blogging jobs at 15. I bought that book on a whim one day, and I hadn't even intended to go to the book store. Thinking what my life would be like now if I didn't make what was then such an insignificant decision kinda makes my head hurt.

Was there a turning point for you in college that had an impact on your career?

I wasn't sure exactly what I wanted to do in the thoroughbred industry when I started college. I had farm jobs working hands-on while in school, and while I enjoyed it, I realized it was not what I was meant to do long term. I started with some remote marketing jobs my final couple years of school, and towards the end of my senior year I realized I would most enjoy an administrative position, particularly for a breeding farm, sales company, or breeders association. That is exactly where I ended up.

What led you to this position after graduation? Did you have certain internships, professors or classes that influenced you?

I'm the office manager for the Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association. The position was opening up the same week as graduation, and I found out from my boss for my part time job/internship with the Pennsylvania Horse Racing Association. I interviewed two days after graduation, and started three days after that.

What are your responsibilities in your current position? What do you like most about your position?

My main responsibility is making sure everything is correct and in order for registrations and memberships. I gather all of the necessary paperwork before the horses proceed in the registration process. Breeders need to register their horses with our association to be eligible for the state bred breeding fund. In addition, I make sure to keep the office stocked and help coordinate any events or meetings that we are hosting. My favorite part of my job has to do with the sales. I keep track of which horses we have entered in public auctions, make sure they are registered before they sell, and then record the results.

What advice do you have for current equine science and management students?

Take advantage of what Lexington has to offer! There is no better place to be in terms of gaining experience and networking in the horse industry. Simply having the opportunity to live in Lexington taught me more about the industry than I ever could have imagined.

 University of
Kentucky®

Ag Equine Programs
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

Join us for the 12th annual

Pastures Please!!

...hosted by UK Cooperative Extension in
conjunction with UK Ag Equine Programs

February 21, 5:30-8 p.m.

Fayette County Extension Office
1140 Harry Sykes Way, Lexington, Kentucky

Register via this QR
code or by calling (859)
257-5582.



PROGRAM

5:30 Refreshments

5:45 Welcome

6:00 Pasture Health, *Dr. Ray Smith*

6:45 Controlling Foxtail & Buttercup,
Dr. Bill Witt

7:15 Plants that Shouldn't be in Your
Pastures, *Dr. Megan Romano*

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VOLUNTEER SPOTS OPEN FOR FIELD AND PASTURE CLEAN UP FROM TORNADO DAMAGE AT UK RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CENTER

We are beginning field and pasture cleanup at UK Research and Education Center located in Princeton in earnest. This is a monumental task, and we need help. We have created a scheduling tool to space volunteers out over the next month. You can volunteer for more than one day if you would like.

Field cleanup at UKREC will be weather dependent and will begin at 8:30 a.m. on the days specified in the scheduling tool. For coordination purposes we are asking volunteers to sign up. Please meet across the street from the original experiment station building located at 1205 Hopkinsville Street, Princeton, Kentucky. Please wear solid footwear and weather appropriate attire. If possible, please bring leather work gloves. We will be handling metal and lumber with nails. For more information or to confirm weather cancellations contact Chris Teutsch at Chris.Teutsch@uky.edu or 270-963-0066 (cell). Note: If you arrive later than 8:30 am, just call and we will find you.

Please remember that cleanup is weather dependent, so if it is bitterly cold, raining or snowing, cleanup for that day will likely be cancelled. Link to UKREC Field and Pasture Scheduling Tool is [here](#).

SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS

Check out this unique B.A.R.N Gatekeepers training - Bring Action Right Now to Suicide Prevention - available to students. Participants will gain knowledge on understanding and preventing suicide in addition to learning how to support each other. In addition to QPR training, experiences will include community building, learning about ourselves through equine assisted learning and the value of radical care for ones' self and others.

See the flyer for dates and times as well as activity descriptions. For more information, contact: Lee Anne Walmsley or The Center for Interprofessional Health Education at CIHE@l.uky.edu Registration is FREE and the deadline to register is Feb. 1.

CLUBS AND TEAMS NEWS

Cats hit a three-peat

On Jan 29, the UK Saddle Seat Team traveled to Prospect, Kentucky, to compete at the University of Louisville hosted January ISSRA Horse Show. Together, we earned 65 points to win our third straight show of the season. Special shout outs are in order to Piper McGehee, who earned High Point Senior Rider, and Brooke Anderson, who won Reserve Junior High Point Rider!

UK Eventing team looks forward to new season

After a successful 2021 season, the University of Kentucky Club Eventing team is now focusing on training, its accomplishments and what's to come in 2022. Read the story in its entirety [here](#).

UK AG EQUINE PROGRAMS IN THE NEWS

Ed Brown Society establishes horse industry internship for minority college students

The Ed Brown Society is a local organization that promotes minority participation in the horse racing industry. This month, the non-profit is announced a partnership with a racing industry leader that will provide in-depth internships for minority students at Gulfstream Park in south Florida.

Two selected interns from the University of Kentucky are chomping at the bit for the opportunity. 1/ST is committing \$150,000, over several years, to cover all costs so select students can have a paid internship within the horse racing industry.

Charles Churchill is majoring in equine science and management at UK. He was selected for the program. He wants to focus on how tracks advertise exotic wagering. Deja Robinson is another UK equine science major selected for the program. She's interested in the veterinarian side. Read and watch more [here](#).

'Social Licensing' The Day Two Focal Point of Baffert/NYRA Hearing

The concept of perception versus reality has been a core plank on both sides of the highly publicized "detrimental conduct" case ever since the New York Racing Association (NYRA) first tried to banish trainer Bob Baffert eight months ago. On Tuesday, the second day of a hearing process that could lead to Baffert's exclusion from New York's premier tracks, the murky interpretation of who should be considered the true victim and which entity is in need of protection from harm rose to the forefront in the form of arguments over "social licensing" that at times played out in tense and pointed fashion.

Although Baffert is the most easily identifiable Thoroughbred trainer in North America, the key witness who testified Jan. 25 was not at all a recognizable name within the sport. Some 7 1/2 hours of testimony and cross-examination from four witnesses were anchored by about 90 minutes of debate regarding the opinions and PhD expertise of Dr. Camie Heleski, a University of Kentucky equine sciences professor who specializes in what the general public thinks of as horse racing.

See the story in its entirety [here](#).





Ag Equine Programs

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