

JULY 2022  
EDITION

# WILDCAT CANTER

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY AG EQUINE PROGRAMS NEWSLETTER

The University of Kentucky's College of Agriculture, Food and Environment will host a Kentucky Signature Industries Career Fair Sept. 29, highlighting the equine and bourbon industries.

To kick off the fall semester, UK Ag Equine Programs will again host a Welcome Back BBQ on Aug. 25 at the E.S. Good Barn. This year, the event will include the opportunity for equine clubs and teams to be represented and interact with new students.

Learn more about what our interns have been up to! Two summer experiences featured: Michael Ciccolella, who worked for a dude ranch in Colorado, and Erin Hewett, who worked for a sport horse rehabilitation and fitness facility.



# HIGHLIGHTS



## UK'S AG EQUINE PROGRAMS AND JAMES B. BEAM INSTITUTE FOR KENTUCKY SPIRITS JOIN FORCES FOR ANNUAL KENTUCKY SIGNATURE INDUSTRIES CAREER FAIR

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Equine and bourbon are two of Kentucky's most iconic and economically impactful industries. This year, the University of Kentucky's College of Agriculture, Food and Environment will host a Kentucky Signature Industries Career Fair Sept. 29.

## WELCOME BACK BBQ AUG 25

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To kick off the fall semester, UK Ag Equine Programs will again host a Welcome Back BBQ on Aug. 25 at the E.S. Good Barn from 5-7 p.m. This year, the event will include the opportunity for equine clubs and teams to be represented and interact with new students.

## *Equine Welcome Back BBQ*



## WILSON NAMED SENIOR ACADEMIC COORDINATOR

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Kristen Wilson has been promoted to an academic coordinator senior position, and UK Ag Equine Programs is in the process of hiring an academic coordinator to work alongside Wilson in serving Equine Science and Management student needs.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DEADLINES

August 22, UK First Day of Classes  
August 25, Equine Programs Welcome Back BBQ  
September 29, Kentucky Signature Industries Career Fair  
October 2-8, UK Equine Week of Service  
October 5-8, UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Round Up  
December 6, Equine Science and Management Internship Showcase  
December 16, UK Last Day of the Semester, Graduation Open House, UK Commencement

Full event listings and details can be found [here](#).

# WELCOME

My name is Jill Stowe, and I was recently appointed as the third Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS) of the Equine Science and Management degree program, following in the footsteps of Drs. Bob Coleman and Kristine Urschel. I'm a full professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics, and you can find me teaching a few of our microeconomics theory classes (AEC 303 and AEC 503) as well as my "fun" class, Equine Markets (AEC 312). I'm not new to leadership roles within UK Ag Equine Programs; from 2013-2016, I served as director. However, this is my first time serving as DUS. I also serve as the faculty advisor for the UK Eventing Team and the UK Dressage Team. In my spare time, I ride and compete in dressage and do a little bit of lower-level eventing on the side. I also have two boys who are very close to being college-aged, so I'm anticipating that this experience as DUS will help me personally as they embark on their learning journeys after high school.



So, what does a DUS actually do? The primary role of the DUS is to chair the curriculum committee for the major. And what does a curriculum committee do? It might sound boring, but it's actually very important – in a nutshell, the curriculum committee is responsible for managing your academic degree program. If you look at the ESMA major sheet, every single course that is offered, how the areas of emphasis are designed and requirements for graduation have been thoughtfully deliberated. Within Ag Equine Programs, the curriculum committee is a proactive group that does its best to keep its fingers on the pulse of students and is mindful about anticipating opportunities and challenges.

As DUS, I am fortunate to be able to work with some amazing colleagues who are really good at and passionate about what they do. Their efforts in recruitment, advising, internships and career development and assessment (you know all those learning outcomes on your syllabi? You wouldn't believe how much time is spent on those!) are intentionally developed, delivered, monitored and adjusted to create the best learning and growth opportunities possible for you. We are focused on providing a rigorous and well-rounded degree program that will prepare you for the next step in your future and on helping you as you progress throughout the program – we want to see you succeed! We embrace the fact that we have the opportunity to influence the next generation of leaders for the equine industry.

As you know, the career interests of our students are quite broad. Some are interested in becoming farm managers or professional trainers. Others want to work in the pharmaceutical industry or communications. There are a number of students who will pursue a professional degree like law or veterinary school. Still others want to pursue graduate school to earn an MS and/or PhD degree. Some even create new careers for themselves. Overseeing a degree program for such a diverse group of students in the largest major in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment is exciting and challenging, and I am grateful to be a part of the team that makes it happen. We are excited to have students back on campus! Maybe you are arriving in Lexington for the first time or are returning for your final semester; either way, I encourage you to get involved and take an active role in your education and your industry. Take some chances and try something new. Every choice you make plays a role in the next step in your journey, and we are grateful for being a part of yours.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me! I'm always happy to help.

## JILL STOWE

PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF  
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DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES, EQUINE  
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# UK AG EQUINE PROGRAMS & JAMES B. BEAM INSTITUTE FOR KENTUCKY SPIRITS JOIN FORCES FOR ANNUAL KENTUCKY SIGNATURE INDUSTRIES CAREER FAIR

By Holly Wiemers



Equine and bourbon are two of Kentucky's most iconic and economically impactful industries. This year, the University of Kentucky's College of Agriculture, Food and Environment will host a Kentucky Signature Industries Career Fair Sept. 29 in the UK Gatton Student Center 4-7 p.m. EDT.

UK Ag Equine Programs, which has hosted an annual equine career fair for more than a decade, is teaming up this year with the James B. Beam Institute for Kentucky Spirits to jointly host the event. The career fair will expose future industry professionals to internships, part-time and full-time jobs and volunteer opportunities. The fair is also an opportunity for employers who don't currently have job openings to raise awareness about career and involvement possibilities in all areas of the equine and bourbon industries.

The event is open to any college student in Kentucky with an interest in the equine, distilling, wine and brewing industries, as well as related areas such as finance, hospitality, supply chain, engineering, accounting, tourism, communication and more. Last year's Equine Career and Opportunity Fair drew more than 170 current and future college students from 11 different academic programs. More than 35 employers and 80 recruiters shared job, internship, volunteer and networking opportunities. Organizers are expecting this year's joint event to reach even more people.

"The career fair is a chance for our students to explore the diverse opportunities within the equine industry," said Savannah Robin, equine internship coordinator and event co-organizer. "We are so thankful to have the support of our industry partners and equine employers helping to grow our equine professionals."

The impact of both industries on the state is significant. Kentucky is home to 242,400 horses, according to most recent Kentucky Equine Survey. There are approximately 35,000 equine operations in Kentucky, creating more than 40,665 jobs and contributing approximately \$134 million in annual tax revenue. The bourbon industry generates more than 22,500 jobs and the annual payroll tops \$1.23 billion. The impact goes further with more than \$286 million in annual tax revenue in the commonwealth attributed to bourbon.

"The University of Kentucky and the James B. Beam Institute for Kentucky Spirits are committed to educating and developing the state's workforce. This starts with our students and recent alumni. Connecting students with the distilling industry early will accelerate economic opportunities for them and build a talent pipeline for Kentucky's \$9 billion signature industry," said Seth DeBolt, director of the Beam Institute and the Distillation, Wine and Brewing Studies undergraduate certificate program.

Thanks to the generous support of the Kentucky Thoroughbred Association and Kentucky Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders, as well as the Kentucky Equine Education Project, all registration costs for equine employers have been discounted. Similarly, the Kentucky Distillers' Association has helped underwrite the cost for employers in the distilling, wine and brewing industries.

"Emphasis on 'Careers and Opportunities' is central to the program," said James MacLeod, professor of veterinary science and director of UK Ag Equine Programs. "Broad awareness of the importance of Kentucky's signature industries combined with substantial opportunities for growth and innovation inspires everyone. This event is an exciting convergence of employers, current students, prospective students, industry groups and educational organizations."

Employers and student attendees may [register via Handshake](#) based on their industry association.



## Internship Spotlight

### MICHAEL CICCOLELLA

Wrangler, Sundance Trail Guest and Dude Ranch



Equine senior Michael Ciccolella recently traveled to Colorado for a summer internship working as a wrangler at Sundance Trail Guest and Dude Ranch.

Since opening in 2000, Sundance Trail Guest and Dude Ranch has provided a family friendly vacation environment centered around horseback riding. Sundance Trail Guest and Dude Ranch prides itself on being the smallest dude ranch in the Colorado Dude and Guest Ranch Association, allowing the organization to truly connect with their guests.

"I am most excited for the memories and companionship I will make throughout the summer. This internship will serve as a great learning opportunity and will give me a taste of what life on a dude ranch is actually like. I am looking forward to learning from my fellow wranglers as they are very knowledgeable when it comes

to tending to herd needs and taking care of their overall health. My boss Dan has been running the property for 22 years now and is very experienced when it comes to running a dude ranch vacation get away," he said.

When asked about advice he has for people who are interested in similar opportunities, he stressed the importance of networking.

"You can send your resume to the Dude Ranchers Association. This will allow your resume to reach many different organizations across the country. Most dude ranches start reviewing resumes for summer employment in early January, so the sooner you give your resume to the Dude Ranchers Association, the better your chances," he said.

Following graduation, Ciccolella plans to move out west and work for a ranch. He would like to own his own dude ranch one day.

*Claudia Harding, a senior Equine Science and Management major, is the Communications and Student Relations Intern with UK Ag Equine Programs.*





## Internship Spotlight

### ERIN HEWETT

Equine Rehabilitation and Fitness Center Intern, Spy Coast Farm

Erin Hewett, an Equine Senior from New York City, is spending her summer working for Spy Coast Farm in Lexington.

Spy Coast Farm specializes in the breeding and development of top-quality performance horses. Hewett is working as an Equine Rehabilitation and Fitness Center intern.

Hewett is responsible for barn chores such as mucking stalls, haying and watering horses, turning horses out and hand walking.

"As interns, we get to administer treatments such as balance pads, blue light therapy, laser therapy and therapeutic ultrasound with the horse," she said. "We get to observe and ask questions to an experienced veterinarian performing a variety of different treatments and diagnostic exams."

When asked what advice she would give students interested in similar internships, she said, "Reach out early and make yourself available."

Following graduation, Hewett plans to attend veterinarian school. She says this internship has allowed her to make many connections as well as see the different branches of veterinary work that are options.

*Claudia Harding, a senior Equine Science and Management major, is the Communications and Student Relations Intern with UK Ag Equine Programs.*





University of  
**Kentucky**

Ag Equine Programs  
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

*Equine  
Welcome  
Back BBQ*



**5 P.M.  
AUG. 25  
E.S. Good Barn**

**Come chat with our  
equine related teams to  
learn more!**

**Join us for friends food and fun!  
Everyone welcome!**

JUNE/JULY 2022, VOLUME II, ISSUE V

## -FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH-

The Official Newsletter of the Kentucky 4-H Horse Program

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## Regional DELEGATION

The following 4-H members will be representing Kentucky at Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championships in Perry, GA August 3-7

### Horse Bowl:

**Caroline Olds-Oldham County**  
**Ella Olds- Oldham County**  
**Savanna Claggett- Oldham County**  
**Anna Turlington- Hardin County**

### Hippology:

**Camryn Mattox- Jessamine County**  
**Lily Tyson- Jessamin County**  
**Emma Brown- Jessamine County**  
**Freya Isenhardt- Oldham County**  
**Mikayla Clemons- Hardin County**  
**Brooke Robinson- Pulaski County**  
**Nora Kubat- Hardin County**  
**Cadence Dukes- Hardin County**

### Judging:

**Caroline Olds- Oldham County**  
**Ella Olds- Oldham County**  
**Savanna Claggett- Oldham County**  
**Cadence Dukes- Hardin County**  
**Nora Kubat- Hardin County**  
**Lily Tyson- Jessamine County**  
**Nadia Shurley- Campbell County**  
**Brooke Robinson- Pulaski County**

### Public Speaking:

**Cora Hopkins- Mason County**  
**Patricia Keys- Hardin County**

### Individual Presentation:

**Anna Turlington- Hardin County**

### Horse Show:

**Adriana Gordon- Marion County**  
**Nadia Shurley- Campbell County**  
**Emma Wade- Campbell County**  
**Madison Woods- Allen County**

*Good Luck!*



College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment

Equine Programs

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## WILSON NAMED SENIOR ACADEMIC COORDINATOR



Kristen Wilson has been promoted to an academic coordinator senior position, and UK Ag Equine Programs is in the process of hiring an academic coordinator to work alongside Wilson in serving Equine Science and Management student needs.

"Kristen has been a leader and/or key contributor to several of the high profile and innovative accomplishments that we receive accolades for and are justifiably proud of, both student-centered initiatives and programmatic efforts," said James MacLeod, UK Ag Equine Programs director. "In addition, she expertly and reliably manages a long list of day-to-day and semester-to-semester tasks for ESMA students and instructors that are essential to our large interdepartmental major."



## Ag Equine Programs

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