

SEPTEMBER 2021  
EDITION

# WILDCAT CANTER

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY AG EQUINE PROGRAMS NEWSLETTER

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The 2021 UK Equine Career and Opportunity Fair matched more than 170 college students with almost 40 equine employers Sept. 29 at the UK Student Center.

UK Ag Equine Programs Equine Science Review won top honors at the 2021 American Horse Publications' annual media awards competition.



# HIGHLIGHTS



## UK FARM & FACILITIES EXPO

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## UK WINS AT AMERICAN HORSE PUBLICATIONS

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## UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DEADLINES

- Oct. 1- 3 – Equitana
- Oct. 2 – UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Round Up
- Oct. 4-10 - UK Equine Week of Service
- Oct. 11-17 – Retired Racehorse Project
- Oct. 15 - Experience Equine
- Oct. 25-26 - Fall break for students

# WELCOME

Fall semester, 2020...so many of us were trying to figure out the best way to navigate a pandemic that gave us little control over our lives and our health. For most people, there were no vaccines available yet. Many of us (as course instructors) quickly figured out that trying to teach to some students face-to-face (F2F), while others were tuning in via Zoom was one of the most exhausting, complicated experiences in our teaching history. I fully recognize that students were navigating these same challenges with various levels of comfort and/or stress. A smallish percentage of students flourished with the new model, but many students struggled. "Grit, determination, resiliency" was my motto last fall.

Fast forward one year...fall semester, 2021. Over 80% of the UK campus community is vaccinated; most students are politely wearing masks (no matter how much they may be gritting their teeth), so why do we feel so stressed? Why do we feel so exhausted? I thought for a bit that it was only me, but then a morning faculty/staff meeting quickly identified that all of us were feeling much the same. I took an informal 'check the pulse of the class' poll in a course that has ~40 sophomores and juniors. Were they feeling safer or less safe than last fall? Were they feeling more 'stressed' or less 'stressed' than last fall? Roughly, it was ~ 1/3 feeling safer and less stressed, ~1/3 feeling less safe and more stressed, and ~ 1/3 feeling about the same as a year ago. And how did they feel about F2F classes vs Zoom/online/hybrid? I was expecting that nearly 100% would say they preferred F2F, but it was more nearly half and half. Qualitative (open-ended)

comments portrayed the same sort of spectrum that we've learned the US as a whole represents – from students who despise the masks, are aggravated by the pressure to get vaccinated, and wish we would all just trust our immune systems to students who seem truly fearful about F2F classes for fear they might get sick, who can't begin to understand why everyone is not vaccinated, and why something as simple as mask-wearing causes so much contention. In other words, they present a nearly perfect snapshot of our country regarding this pandemic. We chatted a bit about these informal results. I suggested that if last fall it was all about 'grit, determination, and resiliency,' maybe this fall it needed to be about extending a bit of grace to our fellow classmates and others.



search related to decision trees for students and instructors related to COVID-19 policies. There are A LOT of these out there! I tried to sift through and identify the ones that provided references to peer-reviewed material, and I also weeded through and only looked at those dated August 1st, 2021 or after. (There are still a large number, and they are not all in complete agreement.)

So, what am I going to do to fight 'COVID-19 fatigue' this weekend? I'll probably go out to the boarding stable, give my horse a hug and breathe in that wonderful 'horsey' aromatherapy, and then get back to grading papers. Take care, everyone and please remember to be kind.



CAMIE HELESKI, PHD  
LECTURER



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# 2021 UK EQUINE FARM & FACILITIES EXPO

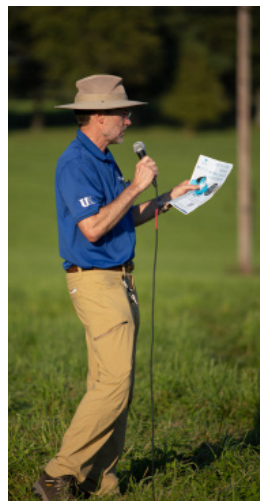
Photos by Matt Barton & Sydney Carter



The 2021 University of Kentucky Equine Farm and Facilities Expo showcased best practices in equine farm management at the famed Spendthrift Farm in Lexington, Kentucky. UK Cooperative Extension Service and Ag Equine Programs held the annual event Sept. 28, which featured educational talks about farm layout and planning, establishing new pasture and weed spraying options for farms of all sizes. Spendthrift Farm personnel also spoke about engaging non-horsemen in the horse racing industry.

Established in 1937, Spendthrift Farm has been home to top stallions, including 10 Kentucky Derby winners & 2 of the last 4 Triple Crown winners. We are the home to Champion Sire INTO MISCHIEF & 2020 Kentucky Derby winner, AUTHENTIC.

Sponsors for the event included Central Equipment, Derby State Equipment Sales, Farm Credit Mid America, Hallway Feeds, McCauley's, Robert Davis & Sons Hay and Straw, Inc. and Tribute Equine Nutrition. Additional support was provided by Central Kentucky Ag Credit, NTRA Advantage Equine Discounts and The Pond Lady.



# UK EQUINE CAREER & OPPORTUNITY FAIR

Photos by Sydney Carter



The 2021 UK Equine Career & Opportunity Fair matched more than 170 college students with almost 40 equine employers Sept. 29 at the UK Student Center. New this year was also a prospective student portion of the event for high school aged students and their families, with the opportunity for those students to meet with several Kentucky universities with equine programs. Food for vendors was generously provided by the University of Louisville's Equine Industry Program.



The **Student Experience and Applied Education Fund** was established through the generosity of the UK Ag Equine Programs' Advisory Board to support and allow students to gain horse experiences, both academically and recreationally, at the University of Kentucky.

This fund is to be utilized to provide financial support for students to do a multitude of extracurricular activities. You can access the full details and application [here](#). For additional questions please contact, Danielle Jostes, Equine Philanthropy Director: [Danielle.jostes@uky.edu](mailto:Danielle.jostes@uky.edu) Office: 859.218.1176.



# *Show your love of all things* **UK Ag Equine Programs!**

**Save the date:**  
**Online merchandise store opens October 4-17, 2021**

Ever wish you could purchase swag to represent UK Ag Equine Programs? Well, now is your chance! You can purchase merchandise for a limited time to show your program spirit. A portion of the order proceeds will come directly back to UK Ag Equine Programs to help us jump new heights in supporting teaching, research and extension. The store will be open for two weeks only, so don't miss it!

Keep your ears up and follow UK Ag Equine Programs for the merchandise store link to open on October 4!



# EQUINE SCIENCE REVIEW WINS NEWSLETTER CATEGORY AT 2021

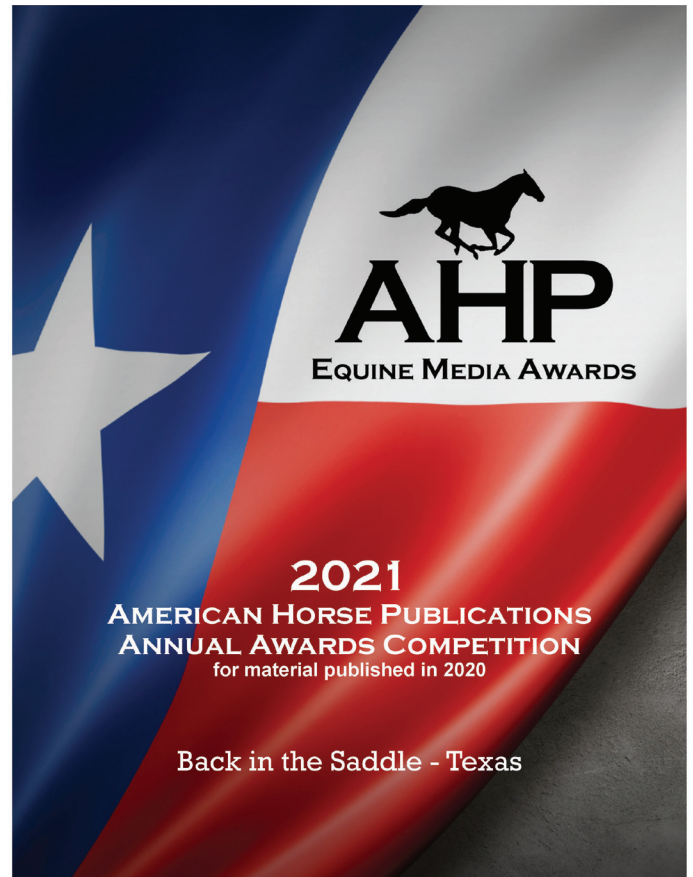
By Holly Wiemers

UK Ag Equine Programs Equine Science Review: Highlighting Research & Outreach Efforts at the University of Kentucky won top honors at the 2021 American Horse Publications' annual media awards competition. The Equine Science Review won in the newsletter business category.

"The content is well-researched and well-written, as would be expected from a university of this caliber. Photo selection and placement effectively highlight key points of each article. Overall, this publication does an excellent job of delivering content appropriate for the target audience and meeting its mission statement," read judges' comments on the submission.

In addition, the inaugural UK Equine Week of Service, held in October 2020, placed third in the Advertising/Marketing Social Media Campaign category.

"I truly loved this campaign. Engaging by using multiple forms of media to engage the audience created excellent PR for the organizations that UK Equine worked with and accomplished the goal of creating a sense of connection during a time when it was greatly lacking. Kudos to the ingenuity and clever use of tools at your disposal," read judges' comments on the submission.





Take a tour of our

# Publication Stable



**EQUINE  
SCIENCE  
REVIEW**

Welcome to the Equine Science Review: highlighting research and outreach efforts at the University of Kentucky! The Review is a monthly newsletter from the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment that highlights the important equine work happening at the university. UK is home to world-class research and service excellence in equine health, safety, nutrition, pasture and forages, economics, engineering, environmental compliance and many others. Programs at UK offer the depth and breadth of scope fitting its location in the heart of horse country.



**THE GRADUATE**  
*gallop* 

UK Ag Equine Programs is excited to announce our newest publication, The Graduate Gallop, curated for our equine alumni to stay connected and informed. This monthly e-newsletter will include event and program information, a career connections category including job postings, networking and volunteer opportunities, a highlighted professional tips topic each month, dates and deadlines and alumni features. It will also include a section for UK's Equine Alumni Affiliate Network (EQAAN).



**Wildcat Canter**  
University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs Newsletter

Each month UK Ag Equine Programs distributes a student newsletter called the Wildcat Canter. The Wildcat Canter features equine club and organization news and updates, UK Ag Equine Programs news and features and a wide range of spotlights, from students to classes, advisors, scholarships and job and internship opportunities. Its purpose is to keep students, alums and those interested in UK's equine programs updated.

Use the QR codes above to subscribe or find out more about each publication!



## Do You Own or Manage A Horse Farm in Central Kentucky?

As a follow up to a recent survey, researchers at the University of Kentucky invite you to take part in a survey about horse farm operations and use of conservation practices. The purpose of this study is to understand motivations and barriers to the implementation of conservation practices on Central Kentucky horse farms. Through this study, we hope to improve water quality in Central Kentucky and better understand horse farm concerns. Interested participants will be asked to take a 15 minute survey.

### You may be eligible to participate if you:

- Are over the age of 18
- Own or manage a horse farm in Central Kentucky

Scan the QR code or visit the link below to learn more:

<https://bit.ly/UKHorseFarmSurvey>



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 University of Kentucky  
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*An Equal Opportunity University*

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