

Wildcat Canter

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY AG EQUINE PROGRAMS NEWSLETTER



February 2021



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UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DEADLINES

- March 22 - Midterm
- March 18 - Equine Industry Exploration Fair - 3:30-7:30 p.m.
- March 26 - Academic holiday for students
- April 10 - Spring into Service with UK Ag Equine Programs

Cover photo, UK's Michaela Keener riding Sherlock in Northern Minnesota in January. Photo by Laurelyn Turbes.

“A racehorse is an animal that can take several thousand people for a ride at the same time.”

- Anonymous

In EQM 301 – Thoroughbred Sales, we kicked off our first synchronous course meeting with this quote, one of my favorites, to illustrate how the Thoroughbred can fill us with excitement, adventure and opportunity. Whether that be watching your homebred thunder to the wire, seeing a yearling that you spent all summer prepping light up the auction ring or foaling out a mare on a chilly February night, the “ride” is there for anyone looking to take it.

When one hears the words “Thoroughbred sales,” images of a public auction may come to mind, the sounds of the rapid-fire auctioneer filling your ear, but this is only one of the many ways we can buy and sell Thoroughbreds. Throughout the semester, we explore various avenues of selling and pull the curtain back on an industry that at times can seem like a foreign land to newcomers. That is certainly how I felt when I first stepped foot in the Thoroughbred industry.

My foray into the Thoroughbred world was during my internship experience as an undergraduate, where I made the 700-plus mile trek from New York to Lexington, Kentucky. I can still remember my first day at the track, arriving at the Keeneland backside at 6 a.m., Barn 47, where I was handed a shank and a wry smile from my trainer. I think he could tell I was a bit of a fish out of water. The calm of the early morning sky was juxtaposed against the hustle and bustle of the shedrow, where the day was already underway.

While I was no newcomer to the equine industry, this world was so different from anything I experienced before. Some days were hard, feeling like a stranger in a strange land, but then an experience came along that made it all click.

We had a horse running at Churchill Downs on a hot June afternoon. I thought this would be a great opportunity to see how all the work we did in the morning transpired in the afternoon. When I arrived at Churchill, not quite sure where to go, I saw glimpses of a track beyond the concession stands and wagering windows. As I made my way out beneath the grandstand, it hit me: my breath being taken away; the hair standing up on my arms. There I was, staring out at a track where history had been made, where crowds have roared, the immense grandstand welcoming me on all sides. No longer did I feel like a stranger; I felt at home. I found my “ride” and never looked back.

The Thoroughbred industry has given me unique opportunities and experiences that grew my abilities both professionally and personally. Grit, determination and resilience to name a few. It has taken me from the backstretch to the classroom, where I have introduced others to the Thoroughbred and its many facets. It is so incredibly rewarding to share with others an industry that has given me so much, to pass on the knowledge that was passed down to me and to be a part of someone else’s journey into this strange land and make it feel like home. Sometimes my excitement can get the better of me when in course meetings – there is just so much I want to share!

For those seeking sure footing and purpose within the equine industry, your “ride” is out there. It is OK to have moments of uncertainty and unfamiliarity. As I stressed to my students in Thoroughbred Sales, no one was born with this innate knowledge of all things Thoroughbred, and the same applies across all sectors of the equine industry. Have an open mind, ask questions and leverage your instructors’ expertise and seek to build your equine “toolkit,” not only during the next four years, but for a lifetime.

Alicia Benben is a part-time instructor teaching EQM 301 – Thoroughbred Sales and works full-time in the Office of Teaching, Learning and Academic Innovation as an Instructional Designer. Prior to joining UK, Alicia was an assistant professor at the North American Racing Academy (NARA), Bluegrass Community and Technical College’s Equine Studies program, where she taught lecture, laboratory and online courses. Before entering the world of higher education, she was a licensed assistant Thoroughbred trainer.



UK Ag Equine Programs welcomes intern Sydney Carter

My name is Sydney Carter, I am the new communications and student relations intern for the University of Kentucky's Ag Equine Programs. I am a junior majoring in equine science and management and minoring in journalism. I am a member of Alpha Gamma Delta.



I have lived in Lexington for most of my life, but I was born in the suburbs of Chicago. I have always planned on attending UK for undergraduate studies. Initially, I planned on studying on the pre-medical track, but changed to an agricultural-focused study route as my career plans changed.

I began my experiences with horses at 8 years old, initially as a method of coping with anxiety. I took riding lessons at Wingswept Farm and grew up as a "barn rat" there. I quickly became interested in riding competitively. Saddle Seat is the discipline that I started with and the only one that I have stuck with. I have had experience working at Thoroughbred farms as well, but only riding and showing American Saddlebreds. I intend on expanding my experiences as life goes on, but my heart will always be with Saddlebreds.

Currently, I don't have a horse of my own. I have owned two Saddlebreds in the past, both of which were horses used in Wingswept's riding lesson program. Briarhill's Easter Lilly still resides there and spends her days teaching children and carrying them into the academy show ring.

I spend a lot of my free time doing artwork and managing my photography business. I am excited to have the opportunity to bring those skills to the Equine Program this semester. My photography background is mostly photojournalism and animal photography.

After I graduate, I hope to establish a small, self-sustaining family farm. I can't wait to rescue all kinds of animals on the farm, especially horses. As far as a career path, I intend on pursuing a media-driven career. It would be a dream job to be a traveling wildlife/nature photographer for National Geographic. I hope to continue using my journalism and photography skills in order to accomplish my goals.

I am thankful for this incredible opportunity to work with UK Ag Equine Programs and excited to develop my knowledge and skills in communication and public relations!



Ag Equine Programs
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

Internship Spotlight



KATIE WALLACH

Solis/Litt Bloodstock Agency, Winter 2020-2021

Katie Wallach completed her internship during the 2020-2021 Winter Intersession at Solis/Litt Bloodstock Agency located in Lexington, Kentucky. Solis/Litt Bloodstock is a team that focuses on strategic breeding, racing partnerships and purchases. Wallach had the opportunity to get familiar with the use of online equine databases and helped the company with investments.

"The most rewarding experience was watching a race or reading an article and knowing what they were talking about. Learning key terms then applying them was a great way to show my progress and increase my confidence," She said.

Wallach was invited to stay on the team as a student intern as the winter intersession ended. She continues to work remotely for the agency.

Her advice for other students pursuing an internship: "If you want it get it. Do everything in your power to make connections, talk to people and work hard. I decided in the summer I wanted to go into bloodstock and a few months later I was an intern."

"Providing opportunities for students outside of the classroom is one of the most important ways an alumni can contribute, especially in the equine industry. UK's location in Lexington provides equine students a key advantage over peers at other universities in the breadth of real-world experience that our city can offer. Other host sites can contribute to building a future for our profession by investing in the students - cultivating a passion for horses and offering a space for growth and development. Spending time with students is an investment not only in them personally, but in the health and future of racing." Said Wallach's internship supervisor, UK equine science and management alumni Madison Scott.



UK Ag Equine Programs launches photography contest

By Sydney Carter

University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs announced the launch of its first equine-oriented digital photography contest last month. Submissions will be accepted through Feb. 28. Students, as well as the general public, are encouraged to participate. There are three age divisions and four categories for submissions.

UK Ag Equine Programs is looking for original photographs that capture horses in any discipline as well as any that include horses interacting with people or in a farm landscape setting. Photographs will be submitted online via this [link](#).

Entries are to be judged by a committee of staff, students and skilled photographers from March 1-5. At the conclusion of the contest's entry deadline, each division's top three images will be published on 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 12.

Prizes will be awarded to category winners of each age division as well as the opportunity to be featured in the monthly newsletter, The Wildcat Canter, or other publications through the Ag Equine Programs. For more information regarding the rules and how to enter, visit our [Facebook Page](#) or contact: equine@uky.edu.

10th annual Equine Research Showcase held virtually; talks highlighted in Equine Science Review issues

By Holly Wiemers



University of Kentucky's 10th annual UK Equine Showcase was held virtually over four weeks from Jan. 5 through Feb. 9. The event continued the life journey theme initiated in 2020 and emphasized weanling to yearling horses, presenting both completed and work-in-progress projects relevant to this age group.

Information from the sessions will be covered in the Equine Science Review, with stories about the Jan. 5 musculoskeletal talks featured [here](#). Jan. 19 talks on nutrition and Feb. 2 talks on parasitology, vaccine immunology and causes of mortality are featured in the February issue [here](#).

Presenting sponsors included BET, Kentucky Performance Products, McCauley's, Merck, Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital and Tribute Equine Nutrition.

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A CHANCE TO **WIN** SOME EQUINE SWAG?

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AG EQUINE PROGRAMS

2021

PHOTO CONTEST

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February Equine Science Review recap

By Holly Wiemers

The Equine Science Review: highlighting research and outreach efforts at the University of Kentucky 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. Have updates delivered to your inbox each month by subscribing to the Review [here](#).

The February issue of the Equine Science Review is [online](#) or can be read in [Issuu](#) . Stories this month include:

HIGHLIGHTING RESEARCH
AND OUTREACH EFFORTS AT
THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

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EQUINE SCIENCE REVIEW

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Alternatives to Kentucky 31 have been on the market for decades.

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Open to individuals participating in any form of equestrian activity.

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Immunology, mortality causes, protein synthesis, mineral needs, paristology and quality pastures.

- [Justifying Kentucky 31 Tall Fescue No More](#)
- <https://equine.ca.uky.edu/content/science-sleuths-science-shapes-diagnostic-tests-zoonotic-it-might-not-mean-what-you-think-it>
- [Expression of Select mRNA in Thoroughbreds with Catastrophic Racing Injuries Infographic](#)
- [Equestrian Athlete Survey Seeks to Learn More About Equestrians' Activity Levels](#)
- [UK Equine Research Showcase Recap: Vaccination, Immunity and Immune Responses in Weanlings](#)
- [UK Equine Research Showcase Recap: Primary Causes of Mortality in Weanlings and Yearlings](#)
- [UK Equine Research Showcase Recap: Importance of Protein Synthesis in the Growing Horse](#)
- [UK Equine Research Showcase Recap: Dietary Minerals in the Growing Horse](#)
- [UK Equine Research Showcase Recap: Parasitology Info for Weanlings and Yearlings](#)
- [UK Equine Research Showcase Recap: Quality Pasture for Quality Yearlings](#)
- [UK Pastures Please!! Recap: Managing Carbohydrates in Horse Diets](#)
- [UK Pastures Please!! Recap: Wise Investments for Pasture Management](#)
- [UK Pastures Please!! Recap: Controlling Troublesome Weeds in Horse Pastures](#)
- [Wood Named Leader of UK Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension](#)



College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

UK Equine Industry Exploration Fair to be held in March

UK Ag Equine Programs will host a Spring 2021 Equine Virtual Industry Exploration Fair. The event's goal is to expose students and equine-interested community members to the vast diversity of opportunities within the equine industry. Similar to the Fall Career and Opportunity fair, once employers are registered and have posted their schedules, students can sign up for sessions to learn more about the employers or host one-on-one meetings.

The event will be held virtually Thursday, March 18, 2021, from 3:30-7:30 p.m.

Group Info & Recruitment Sessions:

Info session: learn about diverse areas within the equine industry

- Recruitment sessions: learn about part-time, full-time, career, volunteer or internship opportunities
- 30 minutes each
- Multiple students can attend

1:1 Sessions Mini Interview/Recruitment Sessions:

- 10 minutes each
- One student and one employer representative can attend



EQUINE SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT

Alumni

PROFILE



Kiley Moore

Nurse Tech at Rood and Riddle
Equine Hospital.

HOME : Southern California

GRADUATED: 2020



How did you first become involved in the horse industry?

My uncle boards a few friends' horses at his house back home. I was able to help care for/take riding lessons on one of the girl's horses who boarded with my uncle. This eventually led to me getting my own horse and wanting to make a career out of it.

What were your career goals before graduation?

Something in the veterinary field

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

I applied for a nursing undergrad internship at Rood and Riddle and was offered a choice of the internship or a year-round position.

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

Giving medications, holding horses for procedures, taking vitals, making/administering IV fluids and assisting vets/interns.

How are you currently involved in the horse industry?

I work in the equine veterinary field and have my own BLM mustang I am training under saddle in my free time.

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

Never turn down jobs, volunteering/internships at places you don't typically have interest in/don't know much about. Those opportunities will teach you a lot and can potentially lead to a job/area of the industry you could find a career in.

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Valentine's wishes from the Wildcat Wranglers

The Wildcat Wranglers, leadership and ambassador team for the Equine Science and Management undergraduate degree program, created valentine's wishes, critter cookies how-to video on Instagram as well as care packets for students in the program, complete with peppermints and hot chocolate packets students picked up in the UK Ag Equine Programs office. Due to winter weather disrupting distribution, packets were a welcome treat the following week.



DEADLINE
EXTENDED

MONDAY MARCH 15

scholarship deadline for
CURRENT STUDENTS

2.6 GPA required

MARCH 15

TRANSFER STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE



In order to access our college-specific scholarship application, you must be admitted to the University of Kentucky and have a linkblue ID.

We encourage all transfer students considering the University of Kentucky to apply on a "Transfer Tuesday" where admissions application fees may be waived. See web for details.

Questions may be directed to:
Mike Pirrman, College of Ag, Food & Environment
e: mike.pirrman@uky.edu
p: (859) 257-3468

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