

Wildcat Canter

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY AG EQUINE PROGRAMS NEWSLETTER



Photo by Jimmy Henning

AUGUST 2018



Goodbye and Thank You, UK Ag Equine Programs- PAGE 5

Change is a difficult, but necessary, part of life. Over the past two years, I have learned more than I could have ever hoped to as an intern for the Equine Program, and met many wonderful people. This makes it that much harder to say goodbye to my job and my coworkers, but I will never forget all the amazing experiences I have had while here.



UK Highlights the Beauty and Importance of the Saddlebred- PAGE 5

The Equine Science and Management program at the University of Kentucky provides students with a well-rounded education to prepare them to enter the equine industry. Here at UK, Saddlebred enthusiasts or horse enthusiasts in general can receive a top-notch education, have access to world class research, including the Gluck Equine Research Center, and be at the center of all the action the Horse Capital of the World has to offer.



Horse Farm Sees Success from Pasture Renovations- PAGE 7

A Kentucky Thoroughbred horse farm is reaping the benefits of healthier mares and foals due to pasture renovations they made over the past year with guidance from personnel in the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.



Other Features

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UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DEADLINES

- September 2, Labor day
- September 5, Get the Scoop, 3-4:30 p.m.
- September 12, Last day to drop a course or change grade option
- September 23, Last day to change major

Welcome

Bon Jovi, Jennifer Nettles, Keith Urban, Daughtry, Phillip Phillips, Sundy Best and many more along the way have all sung about the power of HOME. Although I spent a large part of my life in Louisville, Kentucky, I moved schools a lot and never really found a place that made me feel like I was home. That was, until I arrived in the Big Blue Nation.

My first semester on this campus, though, sure felt like I was in a foreign country. I had made friends and was getting somewhat comfortable, but had decided I was leaving. The only other person in my family that had gone to college, my Uncle Scott, convinced me to give it one more semester and after that, the rest is history. I have spent the greater part of the last 10 years of my life on UK's campus in various roles, from undergraduate to graduate student, from employee to – after being gone for the past four years teaching high school in Harrison County (shout out to my former students) – being an employee back on campus again. I know home sure sounds good to me (thanks Sundy Best).

I share this personal component and my corny puns with song lyrics to simply welcome you to my Home and tell you that it is sure is good to be back in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment here at UK. This place created a sense of community, pride and opened doors for my future and, without my involvement here, I wouldn't be who I am today.

In my new role as the Internship Coordinator for the Ag Equine Programs, I am thrilled to have the opportunity to help our equine students figure out who they want to be and how they will serve within our great industry. I have made some changes to the internship program, which will provide students both a rigorous and relevant experience.

Our student communication process has also changed and we're now offering more streamlined ways to share information with you through the Ag Equine Programs Student Hub on SharePoint and the Tuesday Tidbits. So be awesome, responsible young people and check these e-mails and sites frequently to stay educated on the happenings in the program.

You will likely see me bopping around teaching EQM 106, facilitating your internship or guest lecturing in one of your EQM 101 or 305 courses, but if I miss you in one of those areas, please feel free to contact me and request a meeting. My goal is to push you to grow, lead and build relationships that will help make you successful in the future. Just remember that growth is painful and change isn't easy. So if you have questions, concerns or are new and having a hard time adjusting, I will echo Phillip Phillip's version of home, "If you get lost, you can always be found, just know you're not alone."

Embrace the year, accept challenges, take advantage of all you can and take responsibility for making this place your home! Have a great start to the semester Wildcats and let us know if you need anything at all!

Savannah Robin
Internship Coordinator



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Goodbye and Thank You, UK Ag Equine Programs!

By Maddie Regis

Change is a difficult, but necessary, part of life. Over the past two years, I have learned more than I could have ever hoped to as an intern for the Equine Program, and met many wonderful people. This makes it that much harder to say goodbye to my job and my coworkers, but I will never forget all the amazing experiences I have had while here.

Horses are special animals that touch all of our lives, and being able to incorporate them into my job was a gift I am so thankful for, whether it was just writing a horse-related article, or getting to educate kindergartners about horses using an actual horse! This job has allowed me to grow in many ways personally and professionally. I am very sad to leave, but also very grateful for all the opportunities I have been afforded while at this job and grateful to all of the people who have helped me along the way (you know who you are!). I can't wait to use all of the personal and professional skills I have gained here in the next chapter of my life. Thank you, UK Ag Equine Programs, for a wonderful two years!



UK Video Highlights the Beauty and Importance of the Saddlebred

The Equine Science and Management program at the University of Kentucky provides students with a well-rounded education to prepare them to enter the equine industry. Here at UK, Saddlebred enthusiasts or horse enthusiasts in general can receive a top-notch education, have access to world class research, including the Gluck Equine Research Center, and be at the center of all the action the Horse Capital of the World has to offer. This extended version of the video highlights our equine undergraduate program, takes a look at equine research going on at UK, highlights UK's Saddle Seat Team and features some of our successful alum in the Saddlebred industry. To view the video, click [here](#).



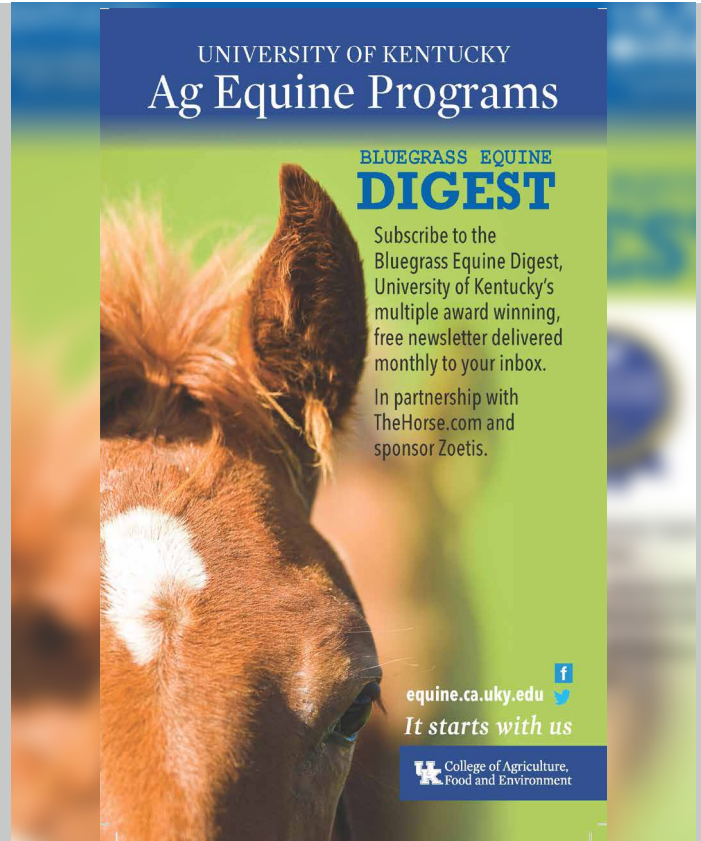
photo by Matt Barton, UK Agricultural Communications

Bluegrass Equine Digest

Check out the August issue of the Bluegrass Equine Digest, a free, monthly electronic newsletter dedicated to providing up-to-date information on equine research from the University of Kentucky's College of Agriculture, Food and Environment in collaboration with TheHorse.com and sponsored by Zoetis.

Click [here](#) to see this month's stories.

- Surface Testing, Part 3
- Rabies in Kentucky
- Watch Out for Wasps
- The Pre- and Probiotic Puzzle
- Mineral of the Month



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
Ag Equine Programs

BLUEGRASS EQUINE DIGEST

Subscribe to the Bluegrass Equine Digest, University of Kentucky's multiple award winning, free newsletter delivered monthly to your inbox.

In partnership with TheHorse.com and sponsor Zoetis.

equine.ca.uky.edu

It starts with us

College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

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Horse Farm Sees Success from Pasture Renovations

By Katie Pratt

A Kentucky Thoroughbred horse farm is reaping the benefits of healthier mares and foals due to pasture renovations they made over the past year with guidance from personnel in the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

In 2017, Mill Ridge Farm in Lexington experienced significant foaling problems that appeared to Marc Richardson, the farm manager, to be classic symptoms of fescue toxicity.

“Last year, we had multiple foalings that required veterinarians to come out,” Richardson said. “We also had mares that did not have any milk production.”

Under the advisement of the farm’s veterinarian Stuart Brown, Richardson contacted UK forage extension specialist Jimmy Henning, PhD, and Krista Lea, MS, program coordinator for UK’s Horse Pasture Evaluation Program.

“The Horse Pasture Evaluation Program really started to help horse farms better understand pasture management and look at fescue toxicity,” Lea said. “Over the years, we have increased the size and the scope of the program primarily due to demand.”

Henning and Lea met with the farm personnel at Mill Ridge. They took forage samples from pastures frequented by pregnant mares. The samples were analyzed, and the results confirmed that the tall fescue in some of the farm’s pastures had high ergovaline levels. Ergovaline is a toxin produced by endophyte-infected tall fescue that affects pregnant broodmares.

Henning and Lea made recommendations that included completely killing off two fields with the highest ergovaline levels and reseeding them with bluegrass, orchardgrass and a little perennial ryegrass to help with forage establishment. This meant taking those two fields out of production for almost a year. They removed only the fescue in the other fields.

“We targeted the pastures that supported mares in the last third of gestation,” Henning said. “It lent itself to a narrow range of options and a focused response.”

Richardson and other Mill Ridge personnel have been pleased with the results.

“It is a complete 180 from last year,” Richardson said. “This year, we lost no mares or foals. The pasture renovations are what turned our foaling season around.”

Richardson said the farm plans to renovate one field each year until they remove fescue from all the fields through which pregnant mares rotate.

“It’s a big investment, especially the pastures we totally killed off and reseeded, but when you compare it to the cost of one trip to the clinic with a mare and foal or the loss of a foal, it’s not really very expensive,” he said.

Horse farm owners and managers who are interested in learning more about pasture evaluation should start with their county extension agent for basic recommendations and help in taking soil samples. They can get more detailed recommendations and samplings through UK’s Horse Pasture Evaluation Program.

To view the video, click [here](#).



UK Ag Equine Programs Intern Position Open

UK Ag Equine Programs is hiring a communications and student relations intern. The student position is paid and offers flexible hours (15 to 20 per week) located on campus. The student in this position helps support the office through tasks that include generating, compiling and editing content for the Wildcat Canter; helping to generate news releases and profile pieces about the program and its people; and creating content for the program's various events, social media accounts and website. In addition to writing skills, the student hired for this position should also have some graphic design experience and be open and willing to talk to multiple types of people in a variety of settings. This position helps support all the communications, events and student activities generated through the Ag Equine Programs' Office. To learn more or to apply, click [here](#). Position closes Sept. 10.



Ag Equine Programs

College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

Student Communication Update

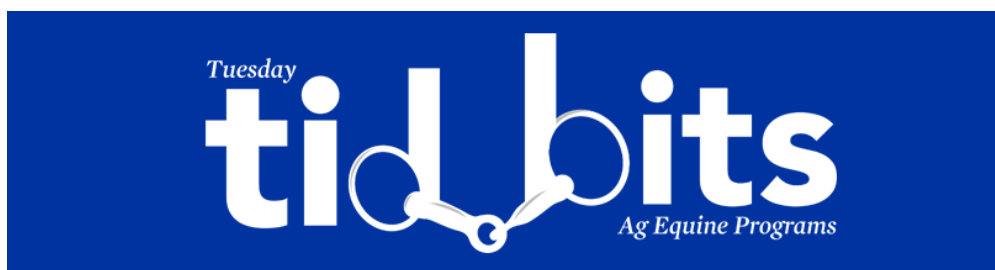
Over the summer we streamlined how we communicate with students. As a result the following resources have been developed. Please note that these are only accessible to UK students and employees.

[Ag Equine Programs Student Hub- Sharepoint](#)

Program, advising, professionalism, career and internship resources

Tuesday TidBits-Weekly

Email updates with events, links to updated jobs and program highlights.



UK Maine Chance Farm Says Goodbye to Bryan Cassill

Source: edited UK Maine Chance Farm students and staff Facebook post, July 21

We have an important “grad” to discuss. Our manager, Bryan Cassill has accepted a position with Buckeye Nutrition in Ohio.

It’s hard to say in a short (not short) post what Bryan does for the farm as his dedication and love for the horses and students is unsurpassable. The knowledge he has (which seems to be limitless) is so readily shared with the students that have worked for him, making his students valuable additions to the horse industry. Broodmare managers, sales coordinators, showman, racetrack employees— there’s a Maine Chance grad in every corner.

Not only does he teach, he finds students jobs. It’s not uncommon for him to walk in and say, “Hey, I’ve found you a job! Call this number.”

You can usually see a Maine Chance employee at the Kentucky Thoroughbred Farm Manager meetings alongside Bryan when he brings one along to learn something new and to make connections with industry professionals. He’s always looking out for the benefit of the student in anything that goes on at the farm. Even when things go wrong, he knows a student can take a lesson from the situation.

Bryan’s dedication to his students’ and employees’ successes in the industry and in life can’t be topped by anyone, and it’s obvious to his students how much he cares. He makes every effort to get to know his employees in and out, always asking about what’s going on in their lives, their opinions on any subject or simply what they did over the weekend. No matter the subject, he is sure to light up the room, making employees smile even while cleaning stalls. There’s laughter almost immediately when he walks in. Bryan is always down for a diverse conversation with his students, topped with a few good jokes (or maybe all the jokes).

He’s a resource and role model for the students he hires and molds into professionals. On top of that, he’s a great friend and wonderful human to look up to and admire for his intelligence, knowledge and love for the industry. It’s a bit of a tough goodbye and you will be missed by all that you’ve worked with in Kentucky’s horse industry. You’ve served a fantastic 10 years here at Maine Chance, so congratulations to you, Bryan Cassill for your new adventures and to Buckeye Nutrition for gaining an outstanding new member!





Tyler Clarke, '11
Founder, Advantage Agri-Marketing
Services

By Maddie Regis

Where is home for you?

I was born and raised in Lexington and still call it home. My wife, McKenzie, and I live just a few minutes from the rest of my family where I grew up.

How did you first become involved in the horse industry?

I loved everything about racing since I was a child. One moment that sticks out was meeting jockey Pat Day in the Keeneland parking lot with my parents. He must have spent half an hour talking to us. Growing up around the cattle business gave me a great respect for animal agriculture, and I'm still in awe of equine athletes today. When I was in school, Zenyatta was making her mark on the sport, and I was captivated.

What were your career goals before graduation?

Like many students, I wasn't exactly sure where I saw myself down the road, but I knew I loved horses and agriculture in general. There was so much I was learning in both the classroom and through internships and jobs that I had a hard time picking that one route. I really considered research/academia but was also open to everything from sales to farm jobs.

Where are you currently employed?

Five years ago, myself and a fellow UK graduate, Jimmy Hall, started a small agricultural marketing and branding agency called Advantage Agri-Marketing

Services. It's been quite a ride so far and we've gotten to work with some wonderful people, companies and organizations throughout the U.S., and even internationally. I am also involved with my family's cattle farm and farm-to-table meat business called Clarmont Farm.

What are your current job responsibilities?

While Jimmy heads up the "creative" aspects of our marketing efforts, my focus is on the business and sales side. As a small business owner, I get to wear a lot of hats; some days that means business planning and accounting, other days I spend with clients and project management. There is no doubt my favorite part is solving problems and offering solutions for clients by combining our experience with horses/agriculture and advertising.

What led you to this position?

I can't begin to thank the faculty and staff from UK enough, especially Dr. Coleman, Dr. Camargo and Dr. Rossano. I fondly recall my conversations with them and they each pushed, encouraged and motivated me in different ways. My time working at Shadwell Farm, Woodford Feed and Maine Chance allowed me to see different aspects of the horse and agricultural industry in general.

What advice do you have for current equine students?

Go to class and soak up everything you possibly can. Don't be afraid to ask questions; when I entered the program I barely knew one end of the horse from the other. Lastly, it's okay if you're not totally sure where you will end up. Just be sure you're gaining valuable, diverse experience and making everything of your time with your peers, faculty and employers.



Ag Equine Programs
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment



Micah Hurt, Junior
Internship Site: City of Atlanta
Mounted Patrol
By Maddie Regis

Why did you choose UK to pursue your degree in Equine Science and Management?

I chose UK because of its location. Lexington is not too far from home and it is the perfect place to peruse Equine Management. I am in the Horse Capitol of the World and there are so many opportunities here for students in this field.

Where is home for you?

I am from Atlanta, Georgia

What experience did you have with horses before starting in the equine program at UK?

Before starting the equine program at UK, I had been taking western riding lesson on and off for about three years. I was definitely a little further behind my peers in terms of experience.

Why did you choose the internship that you did?

I wanted an internship that would help me gain more experience, but something that was also unique. Interning for the City of Atlanta Mounted Patrol allowed me to have both. It was something different, but also a great learning experience.

What were your responsibilities at your internship?

As an in intern with the Mounted Patrol Unit, I helped with daily barn chores, getting the horses ready for detail (special events), hosting barn tours, helping with training and exercising.

What was your favorite part of the internship?

This internship really allowed me to see into the everyday life of working with horses. There are so many aspects to consider when you think about running a farm, and I got a chance to see it all. I was able to help with the daily care of the horses, work on the upkeep of barn and work with the public to educate them about horses and the Mounted Unit.

What did you learn the most about during your internship?

I learned that to work in the equine industry you have to be truly dedicated. Working with horses requires a lot of time and patience. If you are really passionate about something, though, it makes the work even more rewarding.

What are your plans after graduation and how did this experience help you prepare for them?

After I graduate, I would like to go into the field of equine therapy. I am hoping to work with veterans and police officers that suffer from trauma or PTSD. This internship gave me the experience I needed to work with horses, and gave me a glimpse into the life of a police officer. I think having such a unique opportunity has prepared me to enter this line of work.



Ag Equine Programs
 College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

Get the Scoop

UK Equine Science
and Management
welcome back
event

Meet and greet
with equine
clubs and
teams;
Crank and
Boom ice
cream;
Door prizes;
Photo booth



Ag Equine Programs
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment



Wednesday, Sept. 5

3-4:30 p.m.

Seay Auditorium Lobby

AEC 300/EQM 396: European Equestrian Experience: Germany and The Netherlands

Program Overview



Today's sport horse industry owes its roots to centuries of careful breeding and training in Europe. During this program, students will be immersed in the German and Dutch cultures and gain an appreciation for the unique aspects of the horse industry in these two countries. Learn more about the history of this global industry through visits to breeding, training, sales, and competition facilities, major breed registries, and manufacturers of sport horse tack and equipment.

Germany and the Netherlands are rich in cultural history, and participants will have the opportunity to visit many important historic sites. In Germany, students may visit sites such as the moated castles in Münster and the Bremen Market Square. While in The Netherlands, students may visit the Bloemenmarkt, the world's only floating flower market, and take a canal cruise.



Highlights

- Visit such sites as the Hanoverian State Stud in Celle, the Verden and Vechta auction houses, the Olympic Training Facility in Warendorf and more
- See internationally-recognized training facilities for dressage, eventing and show jumping
- Experience the local culture, food and drink in a variety of picturesque cities and towns in Germany and the Netherlands

Other details

- Spring Semester Embedded Course
- International Travel Dates: May 6 - 17, 2019
- To apply: international.uky.edu/ea

Questions?

Please contact Dr. Stowe at jill.stowe@uky.edu





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