

Wildcat Canter

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY AG EQUINE PROGRAMS NEWSLETTER



SUMMER 2017

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UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DEADLINES

- August 21-25, Students permitted to change majors
- August 21, New student registration
- August 21-22, Add/drop for registered students
- August 22, CAFE Academic College Meeting, 1-4 p.m.
- August 23, First day of classes
- August 29, Last day to add a class
- August 31, UK Department of Veterinary Science Equine Diagnostic Research Seminar Series, 4-5 p.m., Topic: Regenerative Medicine; Speaker: Jamie MacLeod, VMD, PhD, UK Gluck Equine Research Center, UK Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

Welcome Students! Now please leave the country!

Seriously, though, during your academic time at the University of Kentucky, please try to take the opportunity to participate in an Education Abroad (EA) experience. It is an experiential learning opportunity that you will never regret! You're also likely to make lifelong friends and establish an important network for future career opportunities. (And many students will qualify for scholarships or financial [aid](#))

Next year, there will likely be THREE unique opportunities for Education Abroad programs affiliated with the Equine Science and Management and the Animal Science degrees. One is an EA experience headed up by Kristine Urschel that will involve in-country experiences in France. Another will be headed up by me, Camie Heleski, that will take place in the state of Oaxaca in Mexico. The third will involve EA experiences in Germany and the Netherlands and will be led by Jill Stowe and Reese Koffler Stanfield.

France: Dr. Urschel is in the planning stages for the first-ever, equine-focused education abroad experience to France for May 2018. The itinerary for this activity is still in the early stages of planning, with the current plan being an approximately 14-day experience in France. We anticipate that this EA experience will visit three regions: Burgundy (Dijon), Normandy (Saumur, Caen) and Paris. Tour highlights will include visits to many different equine farms (sport horse, Thoroughbred, breeding, milking mares and research), the Cadre Noir (French National Riding School) and a racetrack (Caen Hippodrome). Non-equine related activities will likely include the beaches of Normandy, regional castles (Chateaux), learning about the wine industry and visiting some of the major cultural sites in Paris (e.g. the Louvre, Eiffel Tower, Champs Elysees, Notre Dame).

Mexico: This will be a joint venture with students from Tuskegee University. We plan to have the experience in the state of Oaxaca involve about one-third equine activities (ranging from visiting farmers who utilize horses, mules and donkeys for farming, to Quarter Horse and Azteca Horse breeding and training facilities), about one-third other types of animal agriculture (e.g. beef cattle operations, small shareholder farmers with sheep and goats) and about one-third culture, history and ecotourism (e.g. a sea turtle sanctuary along the coast of Oaxaca, artisan villages near Oaxaca city, cathedrals near Oaxaca city). We are working especially hard to make this a very affordable EA experience, and it is not required that the participants speak Spanish. (This program will also involve in-country activity during a 14-day period in May.)

Germany and Netherlands: Jill Stowe and Reese Koffler Stanfield are preparing this experience to help students learn more about the global sport horse industry and its roots. Possible visits include warmblood breeding, training and showing facilities, as well as breed registry organizations. This experience is still in the planning stages, so the cultural and historical visits have not yet been finalized.

To participate in these EA experiences, students will first complete a section of EQM 300 for three credits in the Spring 2018 semester (a 50-minute class, once per week), to prepare for the in-country activities. As we are still in the early stages of planning, we do not have costs determined yet for these EAs, but will have price points estimated by early Fall.

For more information or to be added to our email sharing lists, please contact:

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Mexico – Dr. Camie Heleski, camie.heleski@uky.edu

Germany and Netherlands – Dr. Jill Stowe, Jill.Stowe@uky.edu

University of Kentucky Education Abroad [Office](#)

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Education Abroad Experience in Ireland and Northern Ireland

By Camie Heleski and Maddie Regis

On May 11, 11 University of Kentucky students and myself landed in Dublin, Ireland, to begin a 16-day adventure on the Emerald Isle. Throughout the spring semester, we had already been learning as much as possible about the culture, history and horse industry of both Ireland and Northern Ireland. However, it's always a richer experience when you experience these things firsthand. Before the jet lag hit too hard, we were off in our mini-bus with our tolerant driver, Jan, to head to Kildare and visit the RACE jockey training school. This rigorous program takes in students, often only 15 years old, to begin their training to become jockeys, who compete worldwide. Later, we enjoyed some group camaraderie during dinner and tried to keep our eyes open long enough to enjoy some live Irish music.

The next day we had an outstanding tour at the world-famous Kildangan Thoroughbred Stud Farm. As an added bonus, we had a presentation about the Godolphin Flying Start program and then headed out to the Dundalk Race Meet. On the 13th, we headed to Northern Ireland to immerse ourselves in some different history and culture. We had a lovely tour of Enniskillen College's equine program, got up close and personal with "point-to-point" racing (or racing over jumps) and visited a very successful, but modest type of farm, Drumhowan Sport Horses. During our time in Belfast, we also participated in the Titanic Experience, and, for many of us, had our first, real hostel-living experience.

Many of our days involved a fair bit of driving, but this was a great way to see the beautiful Irish countryside (and, if we're honest, catch up on some badly needed sleep). We spent some time enjoying the shopping in Galway and then enjoying the scenery of Salthill village. On the 16th, we

headed to Limerick to explore a second collegiate equine program at the University of Limerick. The staff there made us feel very welcome and provided us with our first "real" Irish tea break. (If you are a tea lover, I'm not sure there's any better tea than what is served in Ireland). Later that day we went to see the Cliffs of Moher. For me, it was the sixth or seventh time I've seen the Cliffs, but it is one of those miracles of nature that never fails to take your breath away.

The following day, we visited a beautiful country estate with magnificent gardens surrounding it, but I'm pretty sure the highlight was taking "jaunty" rides (using a horse and cart) around the lake there. We enjoyed a great evening in Killarney, which for many of us was probably one of our favorite towns.

On the 18th, we enjoyed more beautiful scenery in Dingle town with lots of photo ops. The following day was the world-famous Blarney castle and Blarney stone – but, in truth, many of the students were under impressed with this, perhaps because it was quite crowded there. We proceeded to the Donkey Sanctuary and saw dozens of adorable 'long ears.' Several minutes before it started raining, all of the donkeys started walking and trotting to shelter, so our guide told us it was likely to start raining soon...quite accurate and soon we were all wet.

In her trip journal, Brooke Willett, an Animal Science sophomore wrote about her experience in Dingle.

"I absolutely loved Dingle! It was stunning! The mountains, the beaches, the town, everything about it was amazing," Willett said. "I loved all of the scenery and the entire feel of the town. We ate lunch at this little fish and chips restaurants and it was so good. I'm really glad we decided to do the scenic drive as well. That hidden beach below the cliffs was absolutely amazing. I loved it! It was one of my favorite sights, next to the Cliffs of Mohr."

As much as we loved the traditional

Irish food most of the time, every once in a while we would get a longing for something different, so one evening we had a group dinner at a lovely Italian restaurant. (Group dinners seem to be a great opportunity for bonding and sharing experiences.) The next morning was time for a tour at Waterford Crystal...if you have relatives who collect this, you will have an entirely new appreciation for the intricacy of the many patterns. We then had the opportunity to tour the lovely Ballylinch Thoroughbred Stud Farm.



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Sunday was a favorite for many of the students – our horseback riding (pony trekking) day. The staff seemed very knowledgeable, the horses were well-trained and, depending upon which group people were in, everyone either did a lot of trotting or a lot of cantering. (I think there were a few sore, stiff muscles the next day...particularly since the next day was a very thorough walking tour of Dublin.) Over the next few days, we got to know Dublin fairly well, everything from live Irish music to extensive shopping possibilities. We visited a few more castles, made sure to see the Irish National Stud Farm and then managed to find a couple of small horse farms that raised Irish Draught Horses and Connemara Ponies.

“The Irish Draught farm we went to today was great,” Willet wrote in her trip journal. “I love Irish Draughts but I did not know all that much about the breed so it was great to learn about them. The couple was so nice and I really appreciated them taking the time to show us all their horses and answer all our questions.”

Of course this is not an exhaustive list of everything we did during the in-country portion of our experience, but hopefully it gives you a flavor of what it was like. A big thank you to our logistics coordinator, Olwyn Mannix, who was with us for the entire itinerary! And thank you to the UK Education Abroad coordinator, Ben Vockery for all of the support.

Overall, the students said that they had a wonderful time and had many positive things to say about the trip.

“As a whole, I would say it was loaded with culture and equine learning.” said Jennifer Nunn, an Equine Science and Management junior. “It was a packed 17 days that had so much to experience from going to the cliffs of Moher to Kildangan Stud to an equine program college. There was so much variety in what we were learning, so it all stayed so interesting rather than the same type of farm every day.”

The participants’ journal entries reflected the exceptional trip experience as well.

“All in all, this trip was amazing. Not only did I make new friends, but I gained new knowledge and perspectives,” Lauren Mullins, a now graduated ESMA senior, wrote in her trip journal. “It showed me that there are other opportunities for me outside of the Thoroughbred breeding industry. I was also happy to learn more about the Flying Start and Irish National Stud Programs.”

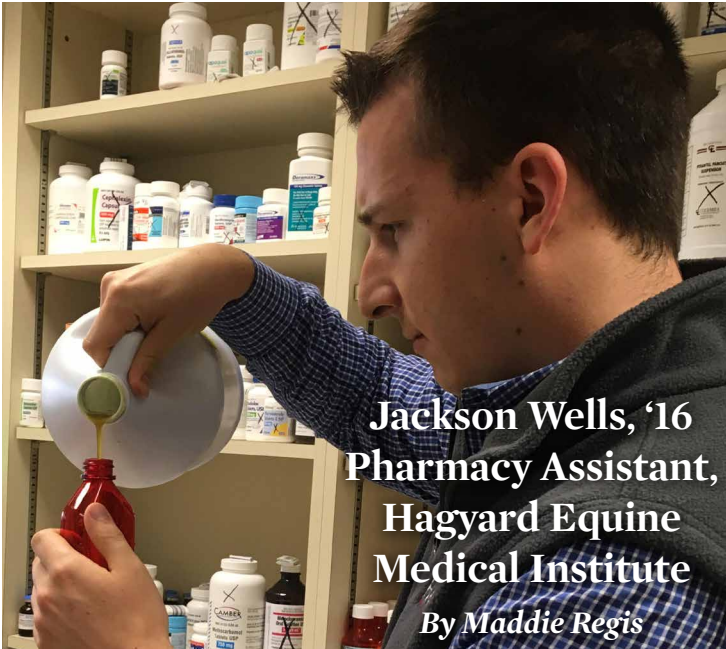
Michaela DeNardo, an ESMA junior, also had good things to say about the experience and the group that she got to share it with.

“Everyone brought their own flair to the trip and made what might have been boring situations super fun and interesting and I’m so thankful I got to share this experience with them,” DeNardo said.

Students who participated were either Equine Science majors or Animal Science majors. They included:

- Sarah Bernknopf – ESMA senior
- Laura Davis – ESMA junior
- Michaela DeNardo – ESMA junior
- Alice Hagerty – Animal Sciences junior
- Jennifer Manning – ESMA senior
- Lauren Mullins – ESMA senior (now graduated)
- Sarah Mullins – Animal Sciences sophomore
- Jennifer Nunn – ESMA junior
- Elizabeth Radomski – Animal Sciences sophomore
- Julia Rowinski – Animal Sciences senior
- Brooke Willett – Animal Sciences sophomore





**Jackson Wells, '16
Pharmacy Assistant,
Hagyard Equine
Medical Institute**

By Maddie Regis

Where is home for you?

Roscoe, Illinois, a small town about two hours north of Chicago.

How did you first become involved in the horse industry?

I was busy being bucked off ponies when I was a kid, but I started riding competitively in Hunter/Jumpers when I was a teenager. Around this time, I started teaching beginner riding lessons. Working with other horse people to help improve themselves and their animals convinced me that a career in the horse world was right for me.

What were your career goals before graduation?

Before graduation, I was interested in marketing and communications. I enjoyed working in a handful of different internships, but ultimately ended up in a very different field. I am still interested in marketing, and could see myself coming back to it some day. That's the great thing about being in your early 20's – there's still plenty of time to try different careers!

Where are you currently employed?

Currently, I work at Hagyard Equine Medical Institute as a Pharmacy Assistant.

What are your current job responsibilities?

In a nutshell, I help both the compounding and front counter pharmacists in their day-to-day responsibilities. This ranges from measuring medication to prepping equipment for sterilization.

What led you to this position?

Dr. Coleman's Capstone class really helped me gain a more "up-close" perspective of the horse industry. For every multi-million dollar farm, there are dozens of family operated barns. I enjoy interacting on a person-to-person basis with people and their horses-being in a pharmacy is a great way to meet a wide spectrum of horse owners.

How are you currently involved in the horse industry?

I talk with people about their horses all day at Hagyard, but for a hands-on fix, I usually head out to my friends' farms. I am also a part of UK's Equine Alumni program, where I help plan Alumni events.

What advice do you have for current equine students?

Get a minor that stands apart from your major. I minored in English Composition, and it was always a point of interest during job interviews. UK offers a vast range of minors that are practical in nearly any job field. Find a minor that piques your interest, talk to your advisor and go for it.

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Ag Equine Programs

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UK Ag Equine Programs Refreshes Kids Barn at Kentucky Horse Park

By Maddie Regis

There are many different educational barns at the Kentucky Horse Park for visitors to explore, including the popular Kids Barn. This attraction includes informative stations for younger guests to learn about horses and horse care. University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs partnered with the park to include several stations for guests to learn about some aspects of horse care and the equine industry, including the Kentucky 4-H horse program, equine parasites and more.

PARASITE STATION

Young Kentucky Horse Park visitors can learn about the different types of parasites or “worms” that can inhabit a horse’s body by taking a journey with a worm named Ichy through the equine digestive system. Pictures of various types of worms are included, along with the worms’ characteristics and any problems they may cause. Actual preserved parasites, including roundworms and strongyles, are on display in jars at the station.

FORAGE STATION

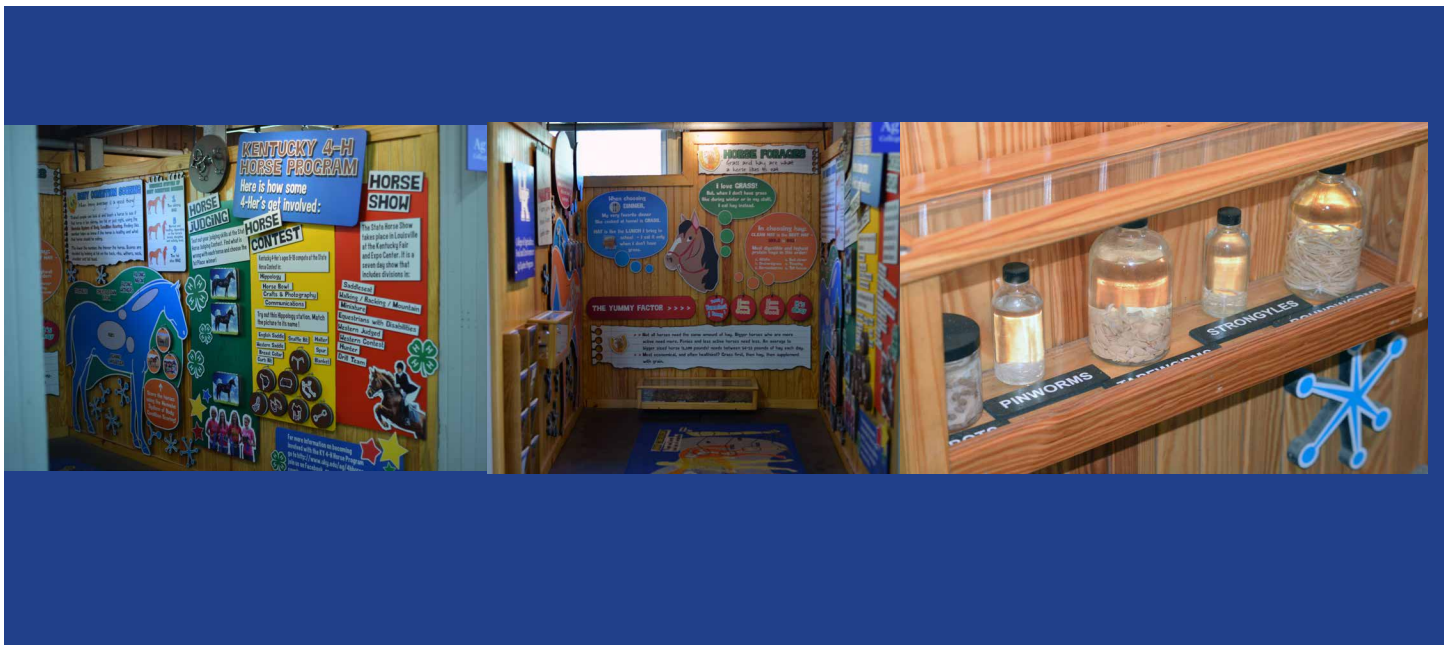
At the forage station, young equine enthusiasts will learn about the essential components of a horse’s diet, including grass, hay and grain. Quality of hay, types of hay and how much to feed different classes of horses are also discussed in interactive panels. Types of hay, including alfalfa and orchardgrass, are on display at this station.

BODY CONDITION SCORING STATION

At the body condition scoring station, Kids Barn visitors are able to understand the importance of and methods behind body condition scoring. A diagram displaying the different body condition indicator areas on a horse is paired with pictures of horses on interactive panels, so visitors can even try their hands at using the body condition scale themselves to score the horse pictures.

4-H HORSE PROGRAM STATION

At this station, visitors can learn about the various aspects of the Kentucky 4-H Horse Program, including horse judging, hippology and the 4-H State Horse Show . Kids can even try judging with photos of horses on interactive panels, as well as a hippology panel where English tack is matched to its name. Information is provided about the different disciplines one can compete in at the 4-H State Horse Show.



UK Junior First Recipient of Jockey Club Scholarship

By Whitney Hale

Source; UKNow

University of Kentucky Equine Science and Management and Animal Sciences junior Julianna Witt is the first recipient of The Jockey Club Scholarship.

The Jockey Club Scholarship, which will cover Witt's 2017-18 academic year of studies, provides \$15,000 (\$7,500 per semester) to a student who is pursuing a bachelor's degree or higher at any university and has demonstrated interest in pursuing a career in the thoroughbred racing industry.

A native of Freehold, New Jersey, Witt plans to graduate with her bachelor's degrees and a minor in agricultural economics in 2019 from the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. A member of the Lewis Honors College and a Chellgren Fellow, Witt's undergraduate research project explores the relationship between broodmare value, stud fee input and resulting return on investment. Her research mentor is Jill Stowe, associate professor of agricultural economics.

Off campus, Witt has worked on numerous farms prepping horses for sales, worked the sales, and as a mare and foal groom. She also volunteers with Old Friends. Witt is committed to working in the thoroughbred industry and is considering the Godolphin Flying Start program, the Irish National Stud or pursuing a master's degree in equine reproduction after getting her undergraduate degree. This summer she is interning at BloodHorse magazine.

"The Jockey Club is proud to support students who are interested in improving the thoroughbred racing and breeding industries," said James L. Gagliano, president and chief operating officer of The Jockey Club. "Julianna Witt and Scott Little (winner of The Jockey Club Jack Goodman Scholarship) exemplify the type of people we want joining us in this great sport."

The Jockey Club, founded in 1894 and dedicated to the improvement of thoroughbred breeding and racing, is the breed registry for North American thoroughbreds. In fulfillment of its mission, The Jockey Club, directly or through subsidiaries, provides support and leadership on a wide range of industry initiatives, and it serves the information and technology needs of owners, breeders, media, fans and farms. It is the sole funding source for America's Best Racing, the broad-based fan development initiative for thoroughbred racing. Additional information is available [here](#).

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Kentucky 4-H State Horse Show Displays Horsemanship Skills of 4-H Members

By Maddie Regis

During the first two weeks of July, the annual Kentucky 4-H State Horse Show was held at the Kentucky Expo Center in Louisville. Approximately 500 4-H members participated with more than 500 horses, and more than 1,000 people attended the horse show. There were a variety of divisions at the show. These included hunters, miniatures, saddle seat, walking/racking/mountain horses, contest (which includes timed events such as barrel racing and pole bending), western judged (which includes western pleasure and ranch classes) and drill team. Special needs equestrian divisions were held as well.

"The state 4-H horse show is a culmination of a year's worth of work and study," said Amy Lawyer, equine extension associate. "Its purpose is to highlight improvements the 4-Her has made throughout the year."

In order to qualify for the state 4-H horse show, children between the ages 9 and 18 must be a 4-H member, in a 4-H club with a certified volunteer leader, earn at least six hours of non-riding education in their 4-H club and declare a project horse and show that horse at one of the seven district shows in Kentucky. After these steps, they are qualified to go to the state horse show. They are not required to place at a certain level at the district show in order to qualify for the state horse show.

Recently, some changes have been made that allow 4-H members to bring two horses and show them in up to two different divisions, as opposed to only bringing one horse, which was the rule previously. Lawyer said that this is one way the show has increased the quality of horsemanship of the 4-Hers.

"It makes for extremely well-rounded horsemen, because that child can show the two horses in multiple disciplines, and therefore be competent in those multiple disciplines," Lawyer said.

Another state 4-H horse show requirement that Lawyer believes is turning out better horsemen is the requirement to show in a showmanship class in order to be eligible for the high point award for that division.

"The kids have to learn how to handle a horse well for showmanship, and spend lots of time with the horse in order to prepare for the showmanship patterns. This makes the horses better trained and the riders more educated," Lawyer said.

There are a few Kentucky specific 4-H state horse show rules that Lawyer believes are important as well. Helmets are required for all riders, and only 4-Hers can ride their horses at the show (no trainers or parents are allowed to ride the horse to give them a "tune-up.") Horse welfare is also very heavily emphasized. Any horse that is too thin or lame is disqualified from the competition. Lawyer said that she hopes this will help educate the youth in attendance about proper welfare, and help them make correct decisions when it comes to situations where a horse's welfare may be in question.

The Kentucky 4-H State Horse Show, above all, is a place for 4-Hers to display their hard work, and is an environment that encourages competent horse people.



U.S.-Canada Partnership Delivers Online Learning Platform to Keep Riders Safe

By Henrietta Coole

The University of Kentucky's Saddle Up Safely (SUS) program and Equine Guelph have announced a partnership to provide members of SUS' partner organizations with short, easily-accessible online training on equine safety and welfare.

Equine Guelph, the horse owners' center at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada, has developed The Horse Portal – a new e-training platform that will bring together horse people from both sides of the border like never before. The portal is designed to deliver a practical, common sense community approach to learning to horse enthusiasts of all ages.

Interacting with horses poses a high risk of injury to people of all ages. All too often, riding injuries occur due to lack of education or understanding of equine behavior and proper riding practices. In fact, a current study shows that half of equine-related injury patients believe their injuries were preventable and due to rider error.

"Through Saddle Up Safely, the University of Kentucky seeks to educate current and future riders about the simple steps that can be taken to prevent accidents," says Fernanda Camargo, DVM, PhD, equine extension professor at the University of Kentucky. "This partnership with Equine Guelph will further our mission to provide education on understanding horse behaviour and learning the simple steps that can be taken to prevent accidents."

The new Horse Behaviour & Safety short course will be offered October 2-22, 2017 with customized versions available to both youth (ages 14-17) and adults.

Saddle Up Safely is partnered with equine and safety organizations throughout the United States, and members of these partner organizations will receive a 10% discounted rate when registering for adult or youth versions of the online course at www.TheHorsePortal.com/SUS

Equine Guelph is a pioneer in online training and education programs for the horse industry. However, the youth offering of the Horse Behaviour & Safety short course marks Equine Guelph's first online training program developed specifically for youth.

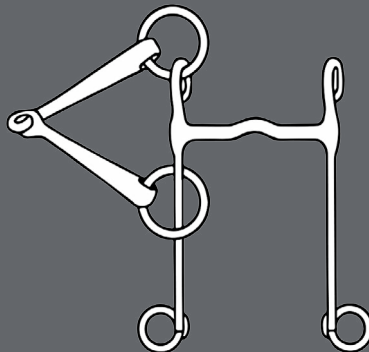
"We are especially excited to work with SUS to deliver safety training our industry's youth," says Gayle Ecker, director of Equine Guelph. "The Horse Portal will bring together our young people in a safe, online community where they will learn how to 'speak horse' and stay safe around horses and on the farm!"

For more information, click [here](#).

4-H Horse Program Launches YouTube Channel

The 4-H Horse Program now has its own YouTube channel. The channel will consist of equine educational and safety related videos.

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



UK farm visit connects students to forages

By Katie Pratt

Kentucky has a reputation for producing quality forages to feed its well-known livestock and equine industries, but Lexington's skyline can keep many residents from seeing the grasses that blanket the area's iconic rolling landscape. A field trip to the University of Kentucky's Spindletop and Maine Chance research farms gave Millcreek Elementary School students the opportunity to get out of the city and learn about the pastures for which Kentucky is so famous.

The UK Forage Extension group in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment organized the field trip with Dawn Keith, Millcreek Elementary summer program coordinator. Keith approached the forages group about a field trip to the farms this summer after they did a presentation at the school in April.



"Most of these kids are from the city or the suburbs, and only a few of them have any kind of farm background," said Ray Smith, UK extension forage specialist. "We wanted to show them where their food comes from, how horses are raised and the kinds of things horses eat, so they have an understanding of Kentucky agriculture."

Students who attended the field trip were incoming third- through sixth-graders who were part of the school's Lion's Den Club. The Lion's Den is a 21st Century Community Learning Center at The Academy for Leadership at Millcreek Elementary. Students in the club volunteered to attend school for four weeks this summer to learn more about reading, math, science, engineering and technology.

"We've been taking a couple of field trips, and this one gets the kids outside, gets them learning about plants and how to identify different grasses," said Kristen Witt, Millcreek Elementary teacher for science, technology, engineering and mathematics. "I hope they take away how fun it is to be outdoors and to learn about science."

Students rotated through several educational stations on the farms. They planted a pea seed to take home at a stop where they learned about seeds and soils. Members of the UK forages team walked the students through a typical horse pasture and helped the elementary students identify and collect different grasses and weeds. The students helped the UK forages group by collecting seeds from a field containing Woodford Big Flower Vetch, a forage that is nearly extinct, although small populations continue to grow at Spindletop. The UK forages group plans to use the seed to plant at other locations on the farm. The students also went through a maze carved out of a switchgrass plot.

For fifth-grader Ester Maksimenko and sixth-grader Akasha Glover, the field trip exceeded their expectations.

"It was fun learning about all these different types of plants and how they grow, doing the maze and going on the scavenger hunt," Maksimenko said.

"I thought we were just going to learn about stuff and not do anything fun, but we did a lot of fun things, and I loved it," said Glover, who wants to pursue a science-based career.

Krista Lea, UK research analyst, said one of the goals of the day was to interest kids in agriculture and science.

"Many of them said this was the first time they had ever been out on a farm. It's really cool to get them out here and to see what UK offers," she said. "Maybe they'll want to come to school here one day, but even if they don't, they'll just have a better appreciation of agriculture."

CONCUSSION

or Injury?

There's an App for That!



saddle up
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