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Kentucky Farm Cash Receipts Up in 2010

After being hit with a commodity market crash in 2008 and a global recession in 2009, Kentucky's farm economy showed marked improvement in 2010. Agricultural economists with the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture estimate Kentucky farm cash receipts to be \$4.4-4.7 billion this year, up at least \$100-300 million over 2009 and well above the 10-year average of \$4 billion. Since the economy is slowly recovering and agricultural exports are thriving, 2011 cash receipts and net farm income should be significantly higher.

"Larger volumes of grain exports at higher prices, as well as improved horticulture and meat exports, are behind the reversal," said

Craig Infanger, PhD, extension professor in the UK Department of Agricultural Economics.

Equine receipts, which remain in the No. 2 position, showed slight improvement over 2009 levels. Sales have been steady for the most part, Kenny Burdine, PhD, extension specialist in UK's

Agricultural Economics Department, reported. Stallion fees, in particular, have felt the pressure from a weak economy.

Infanger and fellow UK agricultural economists Burdine; Lee Meyer, PhD; Will Snell, PhD; and Cory Walters, PhD; along with Dewayne Ingram, PhD, from UK's Department of Horticulture, and Kentucky Farm Business Management Program



Equine receipts showed a slight improvement in 2010.

Coordinator Jerry Pierce, presented a 2011 outlook and an overview of Kentucky farm economy in 2010 as part of the annual Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation conference in Louisville.

In Kentucky poultry took the top spot, followed by equine, then grain. According to Burdine, horses will likely slip

to No. 3 next year behind corn.

"Equine receipts came in at \$780 million in 2009, which was a major decline from 2008 (more than \$1 billion)," Burdine said. "Equine receipts are likely to be largely steady in 2010, but a moderate increase is projected for 2011. Also,

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receipts for show, competition, and pleasure horses have continued to be hurt by the sluggish U.S. economy and weak recreational demand.

“If weather is good—meaning yields are good—I would be surprised if corn did not take the No. 2 spot next year given where prices are. Equine will most likely be No. 3, unless things really pick up. I would expect equine receipts in the \$825-850 million range, and corn is projected to be above that,” Burdine said.

“For three out of the last four years, Kentucky livestock producers had to deal with drought conditions across much of the state,” Burdine said. “So hay feeding began early in many areas. That means production costs will increase by the end of the year.” **UK**

Carol Spence, Agricultural Communications specialist and editor, The Ag Magazine, and Kenny Burdine, PhD, extension specialist in UK's Agricultural Economics Department, provided this content.

Horseman's Card Donates \$17,400 to Gluck Center

The Horseman's Card donated more than \$17,400 to the University of Kentucky Gluck Equine Research Center during the first three quarters of 2010. Since its inception in 1992, The Horseman's Card Platinum PlusVisa Credit Card with WorldPoints Rewards has donated hundreds of thousands of research dollars to the Gluck Center to benefit horse health. The affinity card was created to specifically help support the world-renowned research at the Gluck Center. Every time The Horseman's Card is swiped for everyday purchases, a contribution is made to the Gluck Center at no extra cost to the cardholder.

“Funds from The Horseman's Card are used to support research on equine health and well-being at the Gluck Center,” said Mats Troedsson, DVM, PhD, Dipl. ACT, chair of UK's Veterinary Science Department and director of the Gluck Center. “This source of support is very valuable to our program, since it can be used to fund a variety of needs within our program. Several pilot studies that have produced data to attract funding from industry and federal granting agencies have been possible through support from The Horseman's Card.”

In addition to raising money for equine research, The Horseman's Card offers exclusive equine savings for cardholders through its VIP benefits program.

“The kind of support that The Horseman's Card provides us is really what makes advancement in equine health and science possible,” Troedsson said.

For more information or to apply for The Horseman's Card, call 800/932-2775 (mention code UAB-GKF) or visit www.horsemanscard.com. **UK**

Jenny Blandford is the Gluck Equine Research Foundation assistant at the Gluck Center.



“Heart Attacks” and Heart Disease in Horses

The cardiovascular system, which is composed of the heart and blood vessels, is essential for the distribution of oxygen, nutrients, and other critical components to all organs throughout the horse's body. As the heart is the sole pump for the cardiovascular system, any disruption of its function can have critical consequences for the animal's life.

The term “heart attack” has incorrectly evolved into common usage to refer to sudden death associated with heart disease. To medical professionals for people, this term is specifically reserved for myocardial infarction, which in people is commonly caused by clogged blood vessels that reduce blood flow to the heart and result in damage to or death of the heart muscle.

Since horses do not routinely suffer from coronary artery disease, “heart attacks” in this sense rarely occur. Racehorses that unexpectedly drop dead due to sudden death syndrome (Swale syndrome) are frequently said to have died of a “heart attack.” This determination, however, is inaccurate as heart lesions might not be present, so use of the term “heart attack” is imprecise.

Equine heart disease can develop rapidly (acute) or slowly (chronic). Speed of progression depends on the underlying cause and location of tissue disease. Equine heart disease can be caused by heart malformation, direct insult to

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the heart or its electrical signaling system, or secondarily to disease in other organs. Horses with heart abnormalities may or may not show clinical signs.

Acute heart disease typically results from a direct insult to the heart or disruption of its electrical signaling system. Examples in the horse include sudden death syndrome; disruption of blood flow to the heart; toxin- or drug-induced disruption of electrical signals; arrhythmias; snakebites; nutritional deficiencies; traumatic insult; and bacterial, hormonal, or toxic insult to the heart muscle. Because the heart is incapable of regenerating new muscle, acute dysfunction, regardless of the cause, can predispose the heart to chronic complications.

Chronic heart disease develops slowly due to the heart's ability to temporarily compensate for abnormalities by increasing its size. In the horse it can result from birth defects of the heart's chambers, valves, or blood vessels; cancer; previous insult to the heart or valves; or disease in other organs that secondarily alter the systemic blood flow into and out of the heart. Chronic heart disease essentially inhibits efficient delivery of oxygen to the body's tissues. Eventually, the heart becomes overworked and is unable to keep up with the body's oxygen needs, which can result in heart failure.

From 2000 to 2009, heart disease was identified in 261 horses that were presented to the University of Kentucky necropsy service. Multiple heart abnormalities were commonly

WEED OF THE MONTH

Common name: Bush honeysuckle

Scientific name: *Lonicera maackii* (Rupr.) Herder

Life Cycle: Perennial

Origin: Asia

Poisonous: None reported



Bush Honeysuckle

Bush honeysuckle describes several species of woody honeysuckles found in the eastern half of the United States. Types of bush honeysuckles include Amur honeysuckle, Morrow's honeysuckle, and Tartarian honeysuckle. All grow rapidly and produce multiple stems and can reach heights of about 30 feet. These deciduous (shedding their leaves annually) shrubs are shade-tolerant and flourish around stream borders and fence rows. This shrub is frequently found near fences and shady areas of horse paddocks. Bush honeysuckles are prolific seed producers. Fruits are a bright red and remain on the tree into early winter. Many bird species eat the berries and are the primary means by which the honeysuckles are spread.

Bush honeysuckle control is challenging. Young seedlings less than 2 feet are easily pulled from the soil by hand. Larger plants are difficult to remove by hand due to an extensive root system. Cutting the stems at the soil level is effective, but the stem must be treated with an herbicide to prevent severe sprouting. Herbicide products are available to control the bush honeysuckle. Consult your local Cooperative Extension Service personnel (www.csrees.usda.gov/Extension) for herbicidal control in your area. **UK**

William W. Witt, PhD, a researcher in the University of Kentucky Plant and Soil Sciences department, provided this information.

identified in individual animals.

Of the 261 horses, there were 174 cases of acute heart disease. These included traumatic insult (five cases); myocardial degeneration and necrosis (42 cases); and 127 inflammatory lesions including myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) (59 cases), endocarditis (inner heart

lining/valves) (29 cases), and pericarditis (sac surrounding the heart) (39 cases).

Additionally, 107 chronic heart disease cases were present and included cardiomegaly (enlarged heart) (11 cases), chronic valvular disease (1 case), congenital malformation (21 cases), cardiomyopathy (heart muscle disease) (31 cases),

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myocardial fibrosis (25 cases), and heart failure (18 cases).

Twenty cases had both acute and chronic lesions present.

In summary, equine heart disease is multifaceted and can be induced by multiple mechanisms. Although horses do not routinely suffer from traditional “heart attacks,” they do frequently develop heart abnormalities that can negatively impact their health and longevity. **UK**

Reprinted from the Equine Disease Quarterly, October 2010, University of Kentucky, Department of Veterinary Science. Alan Loynachan, DVM, PhD, Dipl. ACVP, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, University of Kentucky, provided this information.

Water Quality Testing

Providing horses a continuous supply of clean water is part of the foundation of good husbandry. Several different water sources might be found on a horse farm: ponds, streams, lakes, and automatic waterers or troughs supplied by well water or city water.

It is difficult to find guidelines specific to equine drinking water. Most often they are lumped into the water quality guidelines for livestock. Following is information to help ensure that water quality for your horses is sufficient.

Water samples can be tested for physical and physiochemical properties, excessive nutrients, toxic compounds, and microbes.

Physiochemical properties include salinity



Water samples can be tested for physical and physiochemical properties, excessive nutrients, toxic compounds, and microbes.

(the presence of dissolved substances), water hardness, and water pH (its level of acidity or alkalinity). Hardness is determined by the water’s concentration of calcium and magnesium. Excessive water hardness can create mineral deposits on water piping and affect the efficiency of certain disinfectants.

The presence of excessive nutrients, such as sulfates and nitrates, can also be determined by water testing, as can the presence of toxic compounds—arsenic, fluorine, lead, mercury, and many others.

In a recent issue of the *Canadian Veterinary Journal*⁸, a case of water sulfate toxicity was reported in horses. Of a herd of 19 horses, five were found dead, and 13 others had diarrhea. Extensive diagnostic testing of the horses was completed as well as surface water testing and

examination of the pastures for toxic weeds. The authors concluded that excessive sulfate levels with high salinity of the surface water caused the illness and deaths.

Fecal coliform bacteria measurements can help determine the presence of fecal matter and possible pathogens in the water. Water stagnation can cause excessive growth of cyanobacteria, or blue-green algae. In times of drought, when surface water levels can become low and water flow decreases or ceases, overgrowth of these bacteria can occur, and cattle have been reported to become sick or die from drinking contaminated water.

Floods are the costliest disasters in the United States. Flood waters can contain sewage, gasoline, oil, petrochemicals, and many other contaminants and are not suitable for livestock as a water source. As soon as is safely possible, animals in flooded areas should be provided a clean water source.

For water testing advice, contact your local Cooperative Extension Service (CES) office for testing supplies, sample collection instructions, and handling procedures. State CES websites and www.eXtension.org are also good sources of information on water quality and livestock. **UK**

**Burgess BA, Lohmann, KL, Blakley BR. (2010). Excessive sulfate and poor water quality as a cause of sudden deaths and an outbreak of diarrhea in horses. Can Vet J 51:277-282.*

Reprinted from the Equine Disease Quarterly, October 2010, University of Kentucky, Department of Veterinary Science.

Recap: UK College of Agriculture at WEG

The 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games (WEG) have come and gone, but the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture hopes to reap the benefits of the resulting worldwide exposure for years to come. From prospective students to new partnerships to general awareness about equine programs at UK, much was gained by the university's involvement in the Games. Some of the key highlights of UK's participation in the Games include:

The UK Village

- A 3,200-square-foot official sponsor display in the trade fair
- The College of Agriculture was an anchor, along with UK HealthCare and UK, with participation by Saddle Up Safely and Commercialization and Economic Development
- An estimated 30,000 attendees throughout the 16 days
- More than 25,000 gift bags/giveaways
- 271 total volunteers
- 230 prospective student forms were submitted to the College of Agriculture from seven countries and 34 states.
- Many great contacts were made and awareness gained for all College of Agriculture programs

Endurance Event/Tent

- 27 of the 100 miles of the race were run on UK's Maine Chance Farm

- The College of Agriculture party under the tent let attendees watch four loops of the race
- 280 RSVPs for lunch, close to 200 for afternoon, and 200 attendees stayed all day
- Positive feedback from external stakeholders and attendees

Equine Village Consortium Display

- Included eight participating Kentucky universities
- Paid for by the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville, with participation by Asbury University, Georgetown College, Midway College, Morehead State University, Murray State University, and Western Kentucky University
- Great working partnerships formed, with future plans for consortium participation and many equine events nationwide

Student Volunteer Program

- UK students helped staff the Equine Village
- 26 UK students were part of this official program
- UK students provided approximately 1,800 man hours of WEG labor
- Georgetown College, Murray State, and Asbury University also provided students

Interesting Stories to Emerge from the Games:

- The College of Agriculture's Horticulture Department donated approximately \$40,000 worth of flowers and landscaping to decorate



WEG venues

- UK faculty volunteered with events during the Games
- 186 UK informational tweets (via Twitter) were sent on behalf of the university

■ The College of Agriculture helped plan event and networking opportunities between Normandy, France, and Lexington business to business interests

Other College of Agriculture WEG-Involvement:

- The UK Equine Initiative was the Official Equine Higher Education Program of WEG
- The College of Agriculture advised WEG on turf grass management, animal waste management, regulatory aspects of hay and feed, and quarantine protocols from Gluck
- Gluck Equine Research Center and Entomology worked to assess the Horse Park for ticks, which can carry equine piroplasmiasis.
- Youth Summit March 2010 attracted almost 6,000 K-12 students from across Kentucky to learn about WEG and its disciplines
- Making the Games "Green" with the Tracy Farmer Center for the Environment
- Stream restoration project at the Kentucky Horse Park and along Cane Run watershed
- Collaborating on Legacy Trail [UK](#)

Holly Wiemers, MS, is the communications director of the University of Kentucky Equine Initiative.

Survey Highlights Need for Equestrian Safety

A September 2010 survey by Saddle Up Safely, a rider safety awareness coalition of 40 community organizations led by the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture's Equine Initiative and UK HealthCare, reveals that equestrians are experiencing many riding accidents that could be prevented or minimized.

Of the 500 equestrians selected from a national search panel, 221 (45.5%) had been injured at least once due to a riding accident or handling injury with an average of four injuries reported. Of the 221 individuals injured, 57% sought medical treatment. A little over a third (35.7%) of riders rode alone the last time they rode, and only 43.8% of all riders wore a helmet. Of those injured, 23% had quit riding for an extended period. Of the 221 that were injured, 66% said it was due to rider error.



“Our study and a number of others have shown that many injuries can be prevented or reduced in severity by practicing safe horsemanship,” said Fernanda Camargo, DVM, PhD, assistant professor and equine extension specialist at UK’s College of Agriculture.

Every year millions of Americans participate in horseback riding activities. Riders are often six feet above the ground on horses weighing more than 1,000 pounds and capable of 35 mile-per-hour speeds. In 2007 78,000 people in the United States were seen in emergency rooms due to horse-related injuries; 9,000 of those were admitted to hospitals for further treatment.

The most common horseback riding injuries are fractures, bruises and abrasions, sprains and strains, internal injuries, and concussions. Injuries are most often caused by falls, but people can also be kicked, stepped on, or fallen on by horses.

“The most severely injured riders are seen here at UK HealthCare’s Chandler Hospital Trauma Center,” said Julia Martin, MD, associate professor in Department of Emergency Medicine at the UK College of Medicine. “If there was one recommended behavior we would like to see, it would be for every equestrian, whether novice or experienced, young or old, to wear an approved, correctly-fitting helmet.”

Saddle Up Safely is one of a number of organizations that are trying to make the sport of horse riding safer. To learn more about what you can do to improve your knowledge of horse riding safety, visit www.saddleupsafely.org or call 859/323-5508. 

Ann Blackford is a senior information specialist in UK Public Relations.

LONGTIME VETERINARY SCIENCE STAFF MEMBER SANDRA COLLINS RETIRES

Sandra Collins, a senior laboratory technician in the laboratory of Gene Lyons, PhD, will retire from the University of Kentucky’s Department of Veterinary Science on Jan. 3 after more than 40 years with the lab.

Collins began working in the classical parasitology laboratory with Lyons and former department chair and faculty member Harold Drudge, DVM, ScD, on June 29, 1970, in the Dimock Animal Pathology building. She recalls wearing a skirt, stockings, and flats on the first day but soon realized, after rounding up horses at the farm, that jeans and boots were more appropriate work clothes.

A Lexington, Ky., native who graduated from Henry Clay High School before briefly attending UK, Collins said when she began working at the university she never planned to stay. She had previously worked at Purcell’s Department Store in inventory control and had left for a slight pay raise.

Since joining the staff, Collins has been what she calls a “utility person” and has many tasks such as preparing anthelmintics (dewormer) in proper dosage, preparing sample cups for parasite collection, and setting up the samples for EPGs (egg per gram) and LPGs (larvae per gram). She also makes sure quality, lab management, and safety are followed in the laboratory, and she gives tours by request.

“I’ve worked with various animals in parasitology

(SANDRA COLLINS ...)

over the years including rabbits and guinea pigs in the lab and some cattle and sheep in field experiments,” Collins said.

Collins said what made her stay in the lab all these years was “the horse contact.”

“I’ve always been interested in Saddlebreds,” she said. “I started out riding hunter/jumpers and then I owned Saddlebreds. I got to where it cost more to board the horse than me. So, (I got my horse fix) by working here.

“Because of my interest in horses, this is my way of giving back with the little bit that I do,” Collins said. “It may not be for some people, but we all find our niche. And if you find it, utilize it to the best of your ability and to the ability of what you’re doing.”

Throughout her time in the department, the most interesting things she saw were various cases when horses (and even a few two-headed lambs) were brought to the animal pathology building. Although one of the most interesting things related to parasites she said she has seen is how they adapt to anthelmintics and become drug-resistant over time.

“There for awhile, they were having to come out with new anthelmintics every seven to eight years because the animals (worms) were adapting to them so quickly,” she said. “Then when the anthelmintic class ‘ivermectin’ came on the market, everyone thought it was the ‘everything forever’ dewormer. Animals have recently started to adapt to it. It’s just amazing. You think you’ve got (parasite control) handled, but you don’t.”

One of the biggest changes Collins witnessed within the equine industry is how horses have become more of a companion animal. Horses used to be more heavily used in other venues and have since been replaced by machinery.

Collins said what she will remember most is the people she has worked with over the years, from the old pathology building to moving into the Gluck Equine Research Center. Visiting scientists in the parasitology laboratory have hailed from about 11 countries.

“I’ve met so many people from foreign countries and have made so many friends,” Collins said. “You find out people are the same, no matter what country they’re from. They all want to do their jobs well, have better lives for their families, and most of them share an interest in horses.”

In her retirement, Collins said she plans to work on a book, on photography, and paint watercolors, acrylics, and oils. She also plans to attend more Saddlebred shows on the Kentucky County Fair circuit. [UK](#)

Jenny Blandford is the Gluck Equine Research Foundation assistant at the Gluck Center.

ARCTIC COLD DANGEROUS FOR KENTUCKY LIVESTOCK

Kentucky is in the throes of an early season arctic blast that could cause problems for livestock operations.

A blast of arctic air recently filtered into the lower Ohio Valley, resulting in highs only in

the 20s for most Kentucky locations. These temperatures combined with gusty winds have caused an extended period of livestock cold stress in the danger and emergency categories. Livestock producers should take precautions and try to understand how these conditions could impact their animals.

Low ambient temperatures can increase horses’ energy requirements as they compensate to maintain core body temperature. Horses might need additional food, especially if they are kept outside, said Laurie Lawrence, PhD, University of Kentucky College of Agriculture equine researcher and professor.

“Because a large change in the grain portion of the diet can increase the risk of digestive upset, horse owners should focus first on increasing the amount and/or quality of the hay that is used,” she said. “In general, horses will obtain more calories from alfalfa or alfalfa-grass mix hay than from plain grass hay. If horses have already reached maximum hay consumption, then an increase in grain can be implemented. However, all changes to grain intake should be made gradually.”

According to Lawrence, regular body condition scoring is also recommended for horses. Heavy hair coats can often camouflage weight loss, so horse owners should check the amount of fat cover over the ribs and spine regularly, she said. If the bony structures start to feel more prominent, the horse is likely losing weight and his diet should be changed.

(ARCTIC COLD ...)

Lawrence offered another tip: “Sorting horses by age, body condition, and nutrient requirements makes it easier to feed each group of horses appropriately. Horses are less efficient at digesting low-quality hay than cattle, so it is very important to offer them good-quality hay in adequate amounts. Under normal conditions adult horses will usually consume 20 to 25 pounds of good quality hay per 1,000 pounds of body weight each day. During cold weather this allocation should be increased by 30-50%, depending on the severity of the weather.”

Lawrence also emphasizes the importance of making sure animals have adequate water. “When water availability decreases, food intake usually decreases as well,” she said. “So even if horses have plenty of food available they may not eat enough if their water source is frozen.”

According to Jeff Lehmkuhler, MS, PhD, University of Kentucky College of Agriculture beef specialist, the lower critical temperature (LCT) value for cattle is the lowest temperature or windchill at which no additional energy is required to maintain core body temperature. This same principle applies to horses.

“As the temperature declines below this lower critical value, the maintenance energy value for the animal is increased to maintain core body temperature,” Lehmkuhler said. “Animals maintain core body temperature by increasing their



Low ambient temperatures can increase horses' energy requirements as they compensate to maintain core body temperature.

metabolism, resulting in greater heat production, as well as other heat conservation strategies such as reducing blood flow to the extremities, shivering, and increasing intake.”

Lehmkuhler explained the hair coat acts as insulation similar to home attic insulation that traps air. If the hair is wet and full of mud, air is excluded, reducing the insulating value and increasing heat loss from the skin to the environment. The hair coat's density and its moisture level impact the wind chill temperatures at which cold stress is considered mild, moderate, or severe. As little as 0.1 inch of rain can immediately impact cold stress severity by matting the hair down and reducing its insulating ability. Acclimation time, hide thickness, fat cover, and other factors will also influence the degree of cold stress animals experience.

“Another factor that can influence LCT is the size of the animal,” Lawrence said. “Smaller animals have a greater surface area relative to body weight and thus a larger area that can lose heat. Therefore, weanling horses may reach their LCT before a mature horse. Horse owners should be aware that cold weather can slow growth because calories are diverted from weight gain to temperature maintenance. To minimize a growth slump during very cold weather, young horses should be given more calories by increasing hay quality and quantity and by providing adequate grain supplementation.” **UK**

Aimee Nielson is an agriculture communications specialist at the University of Kentucky. Laurie Lawrence, PhD, is a professor in UK's department of animal and food sciences.

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YOUR GUIDE TO EQUINE HEALTH CARE

UK EQUINE INITIATIVE'S HORSE MANIA HORSE COMES HOME

Shortly after the gavel fell and “sold” was uttered Dec. 3 in the Keeneland sales ring, Hip No. 20 began his journey home. The equestrian- and agricultural-themed member of the 2010 class of Horse Mania horses had now been twice purchased by a syndicate on behalf of the UK Equine Initiative.

Affectionately named “Big Blue,” UK’s horse was brought to life by Winchester, Ky., artist Jennifer Conrad-Barber. Proceeds from the fiberglass horse’s purchase will support Lexington’s developing public arts program and student equine programs at UK.

For the sale, UK’s Equine Advisory Committee and a smattering of supporters of UK’s equine programs stepped up, chipped in, and purchased Big Blue for \$5,000 on behalf of the Equine Initiative. The deal might not have happened at all without committee member and long-time supporter Mike Owens, who rallied the troops late on the day of the sale and formed a group of buyers. Owens chipped in and got 15 others to do so as well.

Big Blue’s purchasing syndicate included NAERIC (North American Equine Ranching Information Council) and Norm Luba; Cobra Farm; Mike Owens; Kimberly Brown; Craig and Ronda Carter; Edith Conyers; Nancy Cox; Mary Ann Cronan; Dick Lockhart; James and Kathleen MacLeod; Marilyn Owens; Tom Riddle; Shawhan Place under Matt Koch and Ted Kuster; Reese

Koffler-Stanfield; David Switzer; Kim Turlington; Holly and Bryan Wiemers; and Walter Zent.

Big Blue will reside in the soon-to-be-completed UK Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, or UKVDL (formerly called the LDDC) and will make guest appearances at special events on behalf of the College of Agriculture.

“Big Blue will soon be the official greeter at the main door to the glass-front foyer of our beautiful new administration wing, where everyone from veterinarian clients, farmers, UK faculty, delivery persons, seminar attendees, job applicants, and more will enter,” said Craig Carter, DVM, PhD, Dipl. ACVPM, director of the University of Kentucky

Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. “We also know that he will be a cheery and colorful presence for some animal owners that may have just lost their beloved horse, dog, cat, or other precious animal companion. Everyone at UKVDL is so thankful that Mike Owens of Cobra Farm, the folks of the Equine Initiative advisory committee, and many others thought that our lab would make an appropriate, comfortable home for him. He will bring life to a place that never sees a living animal and at the same time give us hope that the work we do to obtain an accurate diagnoses will help keep animals healthy around Kentucky.”

The original syndicate of 20 who made it

possible for UK Equine Initiative to participate in Horse Mania included Marci Hicks, Craig and Ronda Carter; Nancy Cox; Lowell and Joan Bush; Fernanda Camargo; Equine Initiative Agents Working Group; Dan Fick; Lori Garkovich; Gloria Gellin; Rhonda and Kevin Hagan; Robert and Susan Harmon; Laurie Lawrence; James and Kathleen MacLeod; Lesley Oliver; Michael and Jeanne Owens; Bob Perry; Scott Smith; Keith and Jill Stowe; Holly and Bryan Wiemers; and Bill and Mary Witt.

“Horse Mania was positive for the College of Agriculture on many levels,” said Nancy Cox, PhD, associate dean for research, director of the Kentucky Agri-

cultural Experiment Station, and administrative leader for UK’s Equine Initiative. “One aspect is that it showed our commitment to the community by placing a horse on campus. Another is that the original purchase was underwritten by many generous faculty and staff as well as our valued stakeholders. Still another is that our Equine Advisory Committee, led by syndicator Mike Owens, bought the horse at the auction. We appreciate their placing value in our equine student programs, which will benefit from their investment.” UK

Holly Wiemers, MS, is the communications director of the University of Kentucky Equine Initiative.



“Big Blue” will reside at the UK Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR KENTUCKY BREEDERS' SHORT COURSE

Registration is now open for the second Annual Kentucky Breeders' Short Course, which will be hosted by the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture in partnership with the University of Minnesota. The Kentucky Breeders' Short Course will be held Jan. 21 and 22 at The Red Mile harness race track in Lexington.

This year's course will offer a Veterinarians' Day for equine practitioners on Jan. 21 and a Horse Owners' Day on Jan. 22 for owners and managers of all horse breeds, or anyone with an interest in learning more about the industry.

The Veterinarians' Day and Horse Owners' Day will each include a half-day session on equine metabolic syndrome (EMS) as part of a research project between faculty at the University of Kentucky and the University of Minnesota.

To register, visit www.ca.uky.edu/gluck/NewsShortCourse2011.asp. Early bird registration (by Jan. 13) for the Veterinarians' Day is \$100 and for the Horse Owners' Day is \$35. 

Jenny Blandford is the Gluck Equine Research Foundation assistant at the Gluck Center.

SCHEDULE: VETERINARIANS' DAY, JAN. 21	
7:30-8 a.m.	REGISTRATION AND COFFEE
8-9:00	Basic Equine Genetics and Inherited Equine Diseases Molly McCue, DVM, MS, PhD, Dipl. ACVIM, University of Minnesota
9-10:00	Identifying and Managing Equine Metabolic Syndrome Ray Geor, BVSc, PhD, Dipl. ACVIM, Michigan State University
10-10:30	BREAK
10:30-11:30	Managing Carbohydrates in Equine Diets Laurie Lawrence, PhD, UK Department of Animal and Food Sciences
11:30-noon	Equine Metabolic Syndrome Project and Related Research Molly McCue, DVM, MS, PhD, Dipl. ACVIM, University of Minnesota
Noon-1 p.m.	LUNCH
1-1:45	Summary of Studies Provided at the 10th International Symposium on Equine Reproduction Ed Squires, MS, PhD, UK Gluck Equine Research Center
1:45-2:30	Toxicology Prevention in Horses Cindy Gaskill, DVM, PhD, UK Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
2:30-3	BREAK
3-4:00	Diseases of the Scrotum and Testis in the Stallion Barry Ball, DVM, PhD, Dipl. ACT, UK Gluck Equine Research Center
4-5:00	Emergent and Re-Emergent Diseases: An Ever-Present Threat to Equine Industries Worldwide Peter Timoney, FRCVS, PhD, UK Gluck Equine Research Center
5-5:15	QUESTION/COMMENTS
5:30-6:30	RECEPTION WITH CASH BAR

SCHEDULE: HORSE OWNERS' DAY, JAN. 22	
7:30-8 a.m.	REGISTRATION AND COFFEE
8-9:00	Basic Equine Genetics and Inherited Equine Diseases Molly McCue, DVM, MS, PhD, Dipl. ACVIM, University of Minnesota
9-10:00	Identifying and Managing Equine Metabolic Syndrome Ray Geor, BVSc, PhD, Dipl. ACVIM, Michigan State University
10-10:30	BREAK
10:30-11:30	Managing Carbohydrates in Equine Diets Laurie Lawrence, PhD, UK Department of Animal and Food Science
11:30-noon	Equine Metabolic Syndrome Project and Related Research Molly McCue, DVM, MS, PhD, Dipl. ACVIM, University of Minnesota
Noon-12:30 p.m.	Feed Management; Controlling Feed Waste Krishona Martinson, PhD, University of Minnesota
12:30-1:30	LUNCH
1:30-2:30	Developing a Farm Ron Wallace, Equine Farm Management Inc.
2:30-3:15	Marketing Your Horses Tim Capps, University of Louisville Equine Business Program
3:15-3:45	BREAK
3:45-4:45	What the Horseman Needs to Know About Equine Dental Care Jack Easley, DVM, MS, Dipl. ABVP, private practitioner
4:45-5:15	Gluck Equine Research Center Research Update Mats Troedsson, DVM, PhD, Dipl. ACT, UK Gluck Equine Research Center
5:15-5:30	QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

UK COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE OFFERS ONLINE BUDGET TOOLS FOR HORSE OWNERS

Budgets might seem tedious and onerous to some, but they can also aid in decision-making related to starting a new business, operating an existing business more efficiently, or planning for tax purposes. In addition, for those who have horses but do not necessarily operate a business, budgets can help provide an objective estimate of horse ownership costs.

To give the everyday horse owner or manager access to a set of relatively easy-to-use budgets, the University of Kentucky departments of Agricultural Economics and Animal and Food Sciences have developed online budgeting tools available at www.uky.edu/ag/agecon/pubs/ext-aec/ext2006-03.xls. The budgets found on this website are called enterprise budgets, which provide an estimate

of revenues, costs, and the resulting profits from a single business enterprise. These budgets are interactive and can be modified to accommodate differences in prices and costs across all types of operations as well as overtime.

There currently are four specific equine enterprise budgets available on the website for individuals who:

- Own broodmares and sell yearlings (Broodmare Marketing Yearlings)
- Run a boarding operation (Boarding Operation)
- Have horses for personal use on property they own (Horse Owner on Owned Land)
- Own horses that are boarded (Owner Boarding)

Other budgets will be added as they become available. Detailed instructions for understanding and using these budgets are available at www.ca.uky.edu/cmspubsclass/files/adreum/budgets/equineenterprisebudget.pdf.

Keep in mind that the equine industry is very diverse, and establishing a set of budgets to fit all types of operations is challenging. Thus, while default numbers are included, actual values might

vastly differ. Since these budgeting tools are interactive, however, users can change values to fit their individual needs. **UK**

Jill Stowe, PhD, is an assistant professor in the University of Kentucky Department of Agricultural Economics.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 24-Jan. 2

The University of Kentucky will be closed for the holidays during this time. The Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL) is still reachable at 859/257-8283.

Jan. 13-14

Kentucky Agricultural Industry Trade Show, co-sponsored by the Kentucky Horse Council in partnership with the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association and the Burley Tobacco Growers Co-op, Lexington Convention Center.

Jan. 14, 6 p.m.

Kentucky Equine Networking Association networking and dinner meeting, Hyatt Regency.

Jan. 19-23

United States Equestrian Federation Annual Meeting, Hyatt Regency, Lexington

Jan. 21-22

Second Annual Kentucky Breeders' Short Course, in partnership with the University of Minnesota. To register, visit www.ca.uky.edu/gluck.

BLUEGRASS EQUINE DIGEST 2010

Now in its 19th issue, the Bluegrass Equine Digest continues to provide the latest news on equine research at the University of Kentucky. The UK Equine Initiative (which represents all equine programs at UK) and the Gluck Equine Research Center, together with TheHorse.com and sponsor Pfizer Animal Health, have offered stories about cutting-edge research studies and equine management topics, as well as scientist profiles, regular features, news, and events.

To view past issues of the Bluegrass Equine Digest, please visit www2.ca.uky.edu/equine/bed.



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