


THE *work* HORSE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE KENTUCKY EQUINE  EDUCATION PROJECT

**Horses
work
for Kentucky.**

Kentucky Horse Park Gains Additional National Equine Group



In February 2007, the only national organization devoted to saving land for horses - Equestrian Land Conservation Resource made Lexington, Kentucky and the Kentucky Horse Park its home. The Equestrian Land Conservation Resource, now commonly known as ELCR, was founded in 1997 by a group of concerned horse people who recognized that loss of open land is the greatest threat to the future of all equestrian sport, recreation, and industry. Founded on the belief that the loss of open land is a great and urgent threat to the future of equestrian activities throughout this country, ELCR believes there is a serious need to take action to preserve land for equestrian use. From its inception, ELCR has recognized that if equestrians are to be successful in the effort to stem the loss of open space, they must

take two important steps:

1. Embrace a land conservation focus by educating themselves with regard to key issues and processes related to land conservation, and by making land conservation part of the mission of equestrian organizations.

2. Establish partnerships with individuals and groups outside of their own equestrian constituency, particularly with those groups that represent the conservation community.

"ELCR wanted to be where the horses and horse lovers are, and that is in Kentucky," says Acting Director Carolyn Orr.

Orr is a Certified Professional Animal Scientist, and holds a Ph.D. in Agriculture from Texas A&M University, a M.S. from the University of Tennessee and a B.S. from Ohio State University. For 25 years she has operated a diversified family farm producing horses, cattle, forages, and shrimp in the Bluegrass region of Kentucky. Previously, Carolyn was

Professor and Chair of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Department of Berea College, Berea, Kentucky. She serves as a Board Member and officer for Partners for Family Farms and is a founding member of Kentucky Women in Agriculture.

Disseminating information may be the most valuable service ELCR provides. In addition to cabinets and computer files full of information, ELCR has published several helpful guides to assist with specific circumstances. Of course, the office staff is always available to answer questions, offer advice, and provide networking assistance.

"The need to address this problem is urgent. America cannot afford to lose equestrian sport, recreation, and industry; their economic impact is huge," says Orr.

According to a 2005 *The Economic Impact of the Horse Industry on the United States* by the American Horse Council, the horse industry:

- *Directly produces goods and services of \$39 billion.
- *Has a total impact of \$101 billion on U.S. gross domestic product.
- *Has almost 2 million horse owners, with another 2 million people involved as volunteers or through family affiliation.
- *Sustains approximately 1.4 million full-time jobs.
- *Is comprised of approximately 9.2 million horses, with 3.9 million of those involved in recreation and another 2.7 million participating in horse shows/competitions.

All over the country, there are equestrians who are faced with the impending loss of their open land, but they do not know how to go about land conservation. There are those who are fortunate to have a local conservation group which they can turn for assistance, but very few conservationists have any expertise regarding equestrian issues. The potential impact of adding over a million equestrians to the land conservation movement is enormous.

The whole question comes down to "Where will we ride tomorrow?"

For more information on ELCR visit their website www.elcr.org or contact them by phone (859) 455-8383.

ELCR is also tracking several important bills in Congress. The House and the Senate are considering extensions on the legislation that provides new land conservation tax benefits for land owners, raising the deduction and extending the time for deductions for donating conservation easements. Another important bill to horse landowners is the legislation that will amend the "Superfund" Act to exclude livestock manure as a hazardous waste.

UK Equestrian Team Riders are Headed to Nationals

By Sara Tracy
University of Kentucky

The University of Kentucky Equestrian Team is celebrating as stock seat individual rider Lacey Werczynski and the entire hunt seat team are headed to the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association's (IHSA) national competition in Springfield, Mass., May 3-6.

Throughout the year, Werczynski competed in Open Reining and Horsemanship, which is the highest level of stock seat competition at the college level.

Werczynski and teammate Christi Burrington represented UK in Pomona, Calif., during the "super-zone" semifinals March 24-25. There were 28 schools competing to advance to nationals, yet only the top four in each class could advance. (The regional competition only allows the top two riders to advance to the semifinal competition.) There are only three super-zone shows across the U.S., and each of the schools competing is sent to one of the three areas, Pomona, Findlay, Ohio, and Murfreesboro, Tenn. Werczynski competed in Open Individual Horsemanship in Pomona at the semifinals, and won in a class against 13 other riders, qualifying her for nationals.

"I'm honored and thrilled to be able to compete at nationals. It's a difficult road. You never know which horses you might pull, good or bad, and I have really had to ride and practice hard to get to this point, but it was all worth it," said Werczynski. "Our coach spent long hours helping me practice, and gave me all the encouragement in the world to succeed. It becomes pretty nerve-racking to compete at this level. I couldn't have done this without the support of my friends, teammates, my coach Bennie Sargent, all of our sponsors and our advisor Dr. Coleman. These people were instrumental in making this all possible."

In addition to Werczynski, UK's only rider who will attend nationals in individual competition, UK's hunt seat team has also qualified for team competition. Although there were no competitors from the hunt seat team who qualified for individual competition, the team as a whole qualified for nationals as one of the top two teams in the zone competition during the weekend of March 31-April 1.

UK's hunt seat team consists of Meghan Blackburn, Louise Bowden, Diana Glenney, Aleshia Mathis, Molly Peyton, Kathleen Reed, Callie Schott and Becka Wichard. For some of these riders, this won't be the first national competition they've attended on behalf of UK. Reed won nationals in her hunt seat class in 2006. Glenney has attended nationals the past four years and placed in the top 10 each year.

In addition to riding as part of the UK team, Schott will also be competing in the Cacchione Cup Championship. Schott qualified for this prestigious competition by being the top rider in the region for combined Open Flat and Open Fence points. This competition is composed of a jumping portion and an equitation portion, followed by a test of the top riders at the conclusion of those phases.

According to faculty advisor Bob Coleman, the team's success is a direct reflection of the hard work and time spent by the team's two coaches, Michelle Zimmer and Bennie Sargent. The hunt seat team is coached by Zimmer and rides at Robert Murphy Stables. The stock seat team is coached by Sargent and rides at High Point Equestrian Center.

"I am truly excited for our team and individual riders. They have all worked extremely hard to get this far and will be an outstanding representation of the quality of the University of Kentucky's Equestrian team at the IHSA Nationals," said Megan Carter, UK Equestrian Team president.

Established in 1967, IHSA encompasses 29 regions in nine zones and has more than 300 member colleges in 45 states and Canada, representing more than 6,500 riders in both hunt seat equitation, western horsemanship and reining. In IHSA, horses are provided by the university hosting the horse show. Riders randomly draw a horse's name directly before competing. They are then required to compete on the unfamiliar horse, without a chance to practice before they are judged. According to the IHSA web site, "The organization was founded on the principle that any college student should be able to participate in horse shows, regardless of his or her financial status or riding level...The objective of IHSA competition is to offer the opportunity to riders in their first years of riding as well as to students with show experience. Eliminating the expense of shipping or even owning horses puts IHSA competitions within reach of many who would otherwise miss the equestrian experience."

The UK Equestrian Team, a College of Agriculture club team, has approximately 60 riders. UK competes in Zone 6, Region 2. Region 2 is made up of Miami University of Ohio, Midway College, Morehead State University, Ohio University Southern, University of Cincinnati, University of Kentucky, University of Louisville, Wilmington College and Xavier University.

Reprinted with Permission. Contact Information: Bob Coleman 859-257-9451 or Holly Wiemers 859-257-4883



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE HORSE PARK

DRIVING LESSONS



Starting a Horse to Drive, \$55.00, Apr 22. Learn how to introduce a horse to harness, fit the harness, put the horse to the cart, and pulling weight, holding back, training to shafts, as well as other beginning driving information.

Introduction to Single Driving, \$75.00, May 6. In this class you will be shown the basics and safety of single horse driving, how to fit harness, learn about collar and breast collar harness and how to choose, put the horse to cart, basic driving skills, balance of cart, and more.

Introduction to Team Driving, \$65.00, Sept 2. Learn the basics and safety of team driving, how to fit harness to a team, adjust lines, hook the team, choices of vehicles, choosing a team, basic driving skills, balance and more.

For additional information and registration, contact Tracy Walker, Equine Driving Trainer/Instructor at 859-259-4262 or twalker@kyhorsepark.com.

COUNTDOWN TO FOALS!

Only 1 month until the KHP foals begin to arrive! The foals are always great crowd-pleasers and love to show off for our park guests. The foals will be on view as soon as they start being born in mid-April, and we also have our daily Mare and Foal Show, May 31-July 31 which affords great educational and photo ops. For information call 859-259-4206 or email education@kyhorsepark.com.



Park's Popularity with Horsemen Puts Strain on Grounds

Due to the increasing popularity of horse shows at the KHP and the subsequent increase in the number of horses and competitors, we must focus more attention on the care and custody of our 1,200 acres and the horse show grounds. We've seen a dramatic increase in the number of competitors who leave their horses in – or near – their trailers during horse shows, rather than renting stalls for the day. Standard practice at most equestrian facilities around the country is to charge a Trailer Grounds Fee. Until now, the park has never charged this type of fee, although the managers of some horse shows do. In order to repair the accidental damage done to the park and to keep our show areas clean and well maintained, we are implementing a Trailer Grounds Fee for all competitors who compete at the park without renting a stall, which can be purchased through the show office for \$20 per day or \$75 for the season. For information, contact Sheila Stovall, 859-259-4205 or Sheila.stovall@ky.gov.

THE MUCK'S ON US

Grab a shovel or pitch fork and head for the KHP muck pile to get all the "garden amendments" you need, free of charge! Your 'taters and 'maters could get a little organic shot-in-the-arm from John Henry, Cigar, Staying Together, Gypsy Supreme and other famous – and not so famous – horses here at the park. No reservations required. Just come out any day during park hours and wind your way to the composting site.

Turn left on Cigar Lane, then left again across from the riding concession. Go over the bridge and wind around until you see the compost pile on the right. Call 859-259-4289 for more information.



UK's Pasture Management Program Begins Third Year Serving Central Kentucky Horse Farms

By Holly Wiemers

The University of Kentucky's Pasture Management Program, returning for its third year with significant enhancements, is now accepting applications from central Kentucky horse farms interested in a professional evaluation and detailed recommendations for their pastures.

The Pasture Evaluation Program, which began in 2005 as a pilot program from UK's Plant and Soil Sciences Department, provides area horse farms with a comprehensive assessment of their pastures. The assessment includes soil type and soil productivity, types and ratios of grasses and weeds present in each pasture, an estimation of forage (food) available, and a laboratory evaluation of endophyte, a fungus commonly found in tall fescue, and associated levels of ergovaline, a compound toxic to pregnant mares.

Because of the overwhelmingly positive response generated during its first two years, this year's program has expanded the services it provides to area farms.

Enhancements for this year include increased acreage (up to an entire farm if requested), a fecal egg count, a grazing distribution map and follow-up measurements of ergovaline.

Findings will then be presented in a customized and detailed report to each farm. That report will include a satellite photograph of the farm; explanation of soil type and recommended horse numbers per acre; overall percentage of all grasses found; information about how to interpret percent of endophyte and ergovaline levels; general guidelines for tall fescue removal, weed control and soil fertility; and information on grazing management, renovating pastures, re-establishing grasses and grass-legume pastures. The final report also contains more than 20 publications related to managing horses on pastures.

This year's program, which runs now through October, will provide services to horse farms in Fayette, Bourbon, Woodford, Scott, Jessamine and Clark counties. Also new this year is a limited participation of counties outside of those five central Bluegrass counties.

Participation in the program is on a first-come, first-served basis, and the cost is \$750. The team providing pasture evaluation includes Ray Smith, UK forage extension specialist, and Tom Keene, UK hay specialist.

"The equine industry sorely needs the monitoring and consultation being provided with this service. It's very gratifying to know that UK is addressing the issues that are important on horse farms in central Kentucky," said Steve Johnson, former Kentucky Thoroughbred Farm Managers' Club president and current president of Margaux Farm. Johnson was one of the participants in the program's 2005 pilot phase.

Since its launch, the program has evaluated 31 horse farms in central Kentucky.

"The UK forage extension team has been extremely pleased with the success of the Horse Pasture Evaluation Program in 2005 and 2006," Smith said. "We thoroughly enjoyed working with everyone on the farms who enrolled in

the program and were very impressed with the professional animal care and handling that we observed on all farms. The majority of farms are to be commended for the good job they are doing in their pasture management programs."

From the 31 farms analyzed in the past two years, Smith noted some general areas where there was room for improvement. Those areas included the need for general weed control and the need to maintain sustainable horse-to-pasture ratios. Additionally, the percent of tall fescue on several farms was high enough to warrant control methods such as herbicide treatments or total replanting.

Smith said he suspected those trends hold true for many of central Kentucky's horse pastures and offers a few tips that will be useful to large horse farms as well as those that have only a few head of horses on a handful of acres. Those tips, which include steps in spring, fall and winter, are as follows:

- Take soil samples. Work with your county extension agent to determine fertilizer requirements, and apply recommended lime and potassium and phosphorus fertilizer at any time of year. Nitrogen should be applied in late fall for cool-season grasses.

- Avoid damaging pastures during the winter and early spring. Periodically move hay feeding areas and limit vehicle traffic on wet soils. Establishing a sacrifice paddock will also be helpful.

- Prepare during the fall for spring seeding. Line up desired seed in advance (for instance, orchardgrass seed supplies are in short supply this year). Make sure seeding equipment is ready to go. Remember, late winter and early spring seeding is best for clovers, while fall seeding is best for cool-season grasses.

- Control broadleaf weeds. Spray in early spring when weeds are actively growing but still small. Use recommended herbicides for your state (Kentucky's recommendations can be found at www.uky.edu/AG/Forage). Be sure to review herbicide labels before reseeding to avoid residues.

- Rotate horses between pastures. This will enhance stand recovery, interrupt parasite cycles, out compete weeds, and increase grass growth and carrying capacity.

- Contact your county extension agent for assistance with all general agricultural questions.

Farms interested in enrolling in this year's Pasture Management Program should contact Keene at 859-257-3144, tom.keene@uky.edu, or Smith at 859-257-3358, raysmith1@uky.edu. The team will then make an initial visit to participating farms to explain program details. More information can also be found by visiting www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage.



UK College of Agriculture, through its land-grant mission, reaches across the commonwealth with teaching, research and extension to enhance the lives of Kentuckians.



KEEP Trails ~

information on Kentucky Trail Riding



Trail Riding Equestrians in Kentucky (T.R.E.K.) held it's first Spring trail ride and membership meeting at Red Hill Horse Camp in Livingston, Ky March 30 through April 1. It was a successful event. The camp ground was full with over 100 riders from all areas of Kentucky. There were door prizes and a raffle drawing for a very nice grooming kit, which was won by Doris Thompson of Bardstown, Ky. Ben Rose cooked breakfast and dinner which was great as usual. The weather was fantastic and everyone had a great time. The question of the day was "*Why doesn't Kentucky have more campgrounds?*" TREK has the same question and we are working towards the goal of more private or local gov. operated campgrounds. We are looking forward to the Fall ride, so please contact TREK with any questions (www.trek-ky.com).

2007 TREK Officers and Directors

President - Jerry Hancock

Treasurer - Caroyln Kenton

Director - Mardy Smith

Vice-President - Phyllis McQuire

Secretary - Brenda Hancock

Director - Dave Stefanic

Director - Roy Cornett

YOUTH COUNCIL NEWS

Don't miss the next Meeting

April's meeting is scheduled for April 21st at the Hardin County Extension Office. Officer Elections will be held. If you are interested in filling an officer position, contact Jessi at KEEP. Ryan Corbin of Main Trailer Sales, Kentucky, will be giving a Trailer Safety Demonstration at the meeting. All are invited to attend.

Date: Saturday, April 21, 2007

Time: 11:00a.m. – 3:00p.m.

Location: Hardin County Extension Office

201 Peterson Drive

Elizabethtown, Kentucky 42701-9370

Tentative Agenda:

11:00 Registration, welcome, and intros

11:30 Discussion of Officer Nominees

12:00 Lunch (Potluck)

1:00 Officer Elections

1:30 Trailer Safety, Ryan Corbin

2:30 New Business (upcoming shows & events, etc.)

3:00 Adjourn

For more information on the Youth Council, you can email Cara at cstewart@horseswork.com, or call KEEP at 859-259-0007.

Harrodsburg Owner and Breeder Roger Sims, has Kentucky Breeders Incentive Fund Champion Hackney Pony



Johnny Walker Red

The Breeder's Incentive Fund Champion Hackney Pony Yearling Colt, *Johnny Walker Red* was owned, bred, and shown by Roger L. Sims of Harrodsburg, Kentucky.

Roger has been involved with the breeding and showing of Hackneys since 1960 and has sold his ponies from California to the Netherlands. The Hackney Pony is considered the "Aristocrat of the Show ring" with their high action in both front and back legs, snappy motion, proud, disciplined carriage of the head and tail and alertness displayed in the ears and eyes. They are shown in the following divisions: Hackney (Cob-Tail), Harness, Pleasure Driving, Road Pony to Bike and the newest division, Road Pony to Wagon, which had its origin by Kentucky Exhibitors. The first class for this new division was held at the Kentucky State Fair this past summer. This is an exciting new division with speed and performance. Its superior growth potential will fill a void for the larger Hackney Ponies.

Roger is the current President of the South Central Hackney Association, a regional organization of Hackney Pony breeders and exhibitors with thirty-two sanctioned horse shows in Ohio and Kentucky. He is also a former board member of the national American Hackney Horse Society based in Lexington at the Kentucky Horse Park. As the President of the regional organization and past member of the national board, he has strived to improve and promote this "bouncy-beloved-breed." He feels the Kentucky Horse Breeders' Incentive Fund will positively improve the participation in the breeding and showing of Hackney Ponies in Kentucky, and salutes the founders that had the foresight to include the non-racing breeds in the distribution of the generated funds.

KENTUCKY QUARTER HORSE RACING ASSOCIATION INDUCTS FIRST MEMBER OF HALL OF FAME DURING AWARDS BANQUET

Lifelong horseman Marcus Connelley became the first member of the Kentucky Quarter Horse Racing Association Hall of Fame when he was honored during the association's annual awards banquet on February 3 at the Red Mile racetrack in Lexington.

Connelley, 83, who lives in Salyersville, Kentucky, is a retired plumber who earned three Bronze Star Medals while serving in General George Patton's Third Army during World War II. Connelly said he saw his first sprinter compete 57 years ago at the fairgrounds in Louisville, Kentucky. He has bred, owned and trained horses that competed at recognized and non pari-mutuel tracks throughout the Midwest and often was called "Mr. Tough" for his success as a trainer.

"I'm a bushtracker," Connelley said of his career in American Quarter Horse racing. "Most of the time, I had to go where the races were."

One of Connelley's most accomplished runners was Lucky Amanda, a Kentucky-bred daughter of the Thoroughbred What Luck who won 18 races, including 11 recognized races, set three track records and finished second in the 1986 Michigan Futurity at Mt. Pleasant Meadows. Connelley bred Lucky Amanda with his son, Richard, who exercised racehorses for his father and currently serves as vice president of the KyQHRA. The Connelleys' other horses have included Kentucky-bred Birds Quarterflash, a son of Direct Moon Jet who won the Paducah Downs Premier Futurity at Blue Grass Downs in Kentucky in 1984.



KyQHRA Vice President Dr. Richard Connelley, Hall of Fame inductee Marcus Connelley and Eucklie Henson, KtQHRA President.



Connelly (in middle) with the Kentucky Quarter Horse Racing Association Board of Directors.

Update from Kentucky Racing Authority

When Governor Ernie Fletcher signed House Bill 272 on March 18, 2005, he approved the most extensive reform of Kentucky's tax code in more than half a century. Included within this tax modernization package was a section to promote the horse industry within the state of Kentucky. Beginning with tax periods due on or after June 1, 2005, sales and use tax generated on the fees paid for breeding a stallion to a mare in Kentucky are deposited in a fund administered by the Kentucky Horse Racing Authority (KHRA) in accordance with KRS 230.800.



**KENTUCKY
HORSE RACING
AUTHORITY**

Breeders continue to file and pay the sales and use tax due each period on their Kentucky Sales and Use Tax Return. Along with this return, they are required to file a supplemental form pursuant to regulation 27:240 on which they report only the amount of fees collected for the breeding of a stallion to a mare in Kentucky and the amount of tax collected on these sales. The supplemental form allows the Department of Revenue (DOR) to set aside these amounts for transfer to the KHRA. The Kentucky Sales and Use Tax Equine Breeders Supplementary Schedule (Form 51A132) may be submitted via Fax (502-564-2041) or electronically via email to KRCWEBResponseSalesTax@ky.gov. Failure to report this information will affect the transfer of the appropriate amount of funds to the KHRA. After the first 20 months of this initiative, over \$32 million has been transferred to the KHRA by the DOR.

KRS 139.531 was amended effective June 1, 2005 so that the sales tax collected on the fees for the

breeding of a stallion to a mare in this state will be divided into three different funds to be administered by the KHRA. A Kentucky thoroughbred breeders incentive fund will receive 80 percent, 13 percent will be transferred to a Kentucky standard bred breeders incentive fund, and 7 percent will be transferred to a Kentucky horse breeders incentive fund. The KHRA sets forth the conditions and criteria for distribution of the money from these funds.

Any horse breeder that is not currently registered to collect sales and use tax may print a copy of the registration application at <http://revenue.ky.gov/business/register.htm>. Anyone who needs information regarding the filing of the supplemental form or needs copies of the form may access them at the DOR's Web site www.Revenue.ky.gov/business/salesanduse.htm or you may contact the Division of Sales and Use Tax at (502) 564-5170. Additional questions regarding the funds and the distribution of the money collected should be addressed to the KHRA at (859) 246-2040. The DOR and the KHRA pledge their cooperation to make this historic legislation an effective program for equine breeders.

UPDATE: On April 11th the Breeder's Incentive Fund Advisory Committee of the Kentucky Racing Authority met and approved nine of the Non-Race Breed Plans. These plans will now be reviewed by the KRA Board later this month.

BENEFITS OF A KEEP MEMBERSHIP

- Receive all KEEP newsletters, press releases and updates
- Free admission to Kentucky Pari-mutuel Race Tracks (excluding the Kentucky Derby, Kentucky Oaks and the Breeders' Cup) through December 2007
- Free admission to the Kentucky Horse Park through December 2007 and 15% discount at the Horse Park Gift Shop

THE KEEP MISSION

The Kentucky Equine Education Project (KEEP) was formed to build broad-based education and grassroots initiatives to increase awareness of the benefits of Kentucky's horse economy, including all breeds, and to promote and preserve jobs and economic opportunities within the equine industry for Kentuckians throughout the Commonwealth.

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

If you have an idea for a story in The Work Horse, contact Cara Stewart at cstewart@horseswork.com.

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER

- Join online by visiting www.horseswork.com
- Call our office toll free at 866-771-KEEP

HAVE A CHANGE OF INFORMATION?

If your address, email or phone number changes, contact Jayson at jpage@horseswork.com or 866-771-5337

FROM THE VET...

FOCUS ON HEALTH OF THE FOAL TURNS TO CARE OF THE MARE

Bradford G. Bentz, VMD, MS, DACVIM, DABVP (Equine)
Hagyard Equine Hospital

Over the past 15 to 20 years, our understanding and expertise of caring for the newborn foal has improved dramatically. That evolution continues and now appears to focus much of our attention away from the events that occur during and after foal birth, to those events and situations encountered by the mare during her pregnancy.

With improvements in our abilities to support and treat compromised neonatal foals after their transition from life inside the uterus to life in the outside world, advanced equine practices now engage in active monitoring of the mare during her pregnancy in order to help ensure normal development and neonatal health of the foal. Significant evidence now exists associating the health of the neonatal foal with such maternal factors as prenatal nutrition, maternal illness, history of previous pregnancy difficulties/abnormalities and placental health. Because of the advances made in equine perinatology, equine veterinarians are now able to monitor these maternal factors with increasing efficiency and expertise. Perinatal monitoring techniques have continued to progress in equine practice.

Perinatal monitoring techniques commonly employ fetal transabdominal ultrasound examination of the mare in order to evaluate fetal heart rate, heart rate variability, fetal activity, fetal fluid volume and character, placental attachment, uteroplacental thickness, placental edema and placental separation. Machines used to monitor near term pregnancies in women (tocometers) may also be utilized in the mare in order to record fetal heart rates, fetal activity and uterine contractions over time. A simple electrocardiograph machine can also be utilized to obtain a fetal heart rate over time through placement of the limb leads on the mare's abdomen. Generally speaking, heart rates



Dr. Bentz of Hagyard Equine Hospital

in the fetus should be variable. They should increase with fetal activity and fall with rest. Fetal heart rates that are either persistently too high or too low may suggest fetal stress or fetal decompensation. This is often associated with reduced fetal movement, growth retardation (over time) and other abnormal fetal and placental findings. As the normal fetus approaches a term delivery, the heart rate is expected to fall to an average of 60 beats per minute. Hormone levels of progesterone and estrogen may serve as helpful monitors of maternal and fetal well-being.

Close attention of maternal well-being also means good vaccination for enhancement of colostral antibody and prevention of maternal illnesses due to infectious disease. Nutritional requirements are not significantly different in the mare during the first two trimesters, however the nutritional requirements increase significantly during the third trimester when the fetus undergoes significant growth and organ maturation. Specific requirements include increased calcium, phosphorous, protein as well as the amino acid lysine. Other clinical indications of a potential problem with a pregnancy include; early development of an udder and signs of premature labor. The most common causes of these signs at an inappropriate time of pregnancy include twinning and placentitis. Your veterinarian can evaluate your mare for these conditions and others. Therapy is available in order to help facilitate the delivery of a viable foal. For more information on this topic, contact your equine veterinarian.



Northern Kentucky Horse Center Opens in Walton

Some of the happiest times come at the end of long, hard-worked days. Partners Barb and Sean Fox, Diane and David Dineen, and Joanne Toebbe are living out their dream in creating the Northern Kentucky Horse Center. The team proudly owns and operates the 200+ acre full service equine facility in Verona, Kentucky.

The center offers traditional services such as riding lessons, boarding, training, horse shows, etc., but also delivers a unique venue for birthday parties, school field trips, and other group events.

A menu of services and prices are detailed on their website (www.nkyhorse.com). As Barb Fox puts it, "We offer just about anything and everything to get folks to the farm and on a horse. It's all about getting people close to horses in northern Kentucky."

It all started several years ago when the Foxes went in search of riding lessons for their daughter. They began looking around for lessons and a place to ride, they searched and searched but didn't find what they were looking for. Although their quest didn't turn up the perfect horse farm or stable, it did lead them to Diane Dineen, a 20-year horsewoman whose dream "every minute, every day" was to have her own horse business.

Long before the barn doors opened, the Foxes and Diane teamed up to develop a business plan. The partners settled on an open model and decided not to limit their services to one particular breed or discipline. From there, one thing quickly led to another, and the Northern Kentucky Horse Center was officially formed in March 2004. The partners closed on the property, erected a barn, indoor arena and fencing, and opened for business by July 2004.



Diane give a lesson to one of the young riders at NKHC.

management, sales and marketing. The Dineen's live on the property with Diane in charge of operations and "all



Barn one at the NKHC where many activities take place

Assembling the right team has been key to their early success. The center benefits from the unique blend of experience of the partners. The Foxes call upon their business experience in project manage-

things horse" while David focuses on facilities and equipment maintenance. Another entrepreneurial partner and horsewoman, Joanne Toebbe handles special projects and provides overall support to the team.

"We all have our chores as owners and partners," Fox points out. "We are a very hands-on group, share the love of horses and are completely passionate about what we do."

The entrepreneurial wheels are again in motion as center partners address the challenges of success and potential for growth. Boarding and lessons are at capacity with waiting lists.

"Growing income levels in Kentucky means more people can afford to be a part of the horse industry," said Gene Clabes, Equine Director for KEEP. "As the state's big population centers grow, there are fewer and fewer farms for people to visit to learn to ride."

While the Foxes declined to say how much they spent to get the farm up and running, Clabes estimates that the investment was substantial. The partners had to buy the land and then build the barn, an indoor arena and other facilities. "These things all add up, and quickly," said Clabes.

But the Foxes and their partners say they don't expect to make big money immediately with the Northern Kentucky Horse Center venture. The Foxes see it as a way to satisfy their entrepreneurial urges with a business that lends itself to spending time with their four young children. Toebbe views it as a way to fulfill her life-long dream of owning a horse farm, whereas Dineen views the business as a way for her to be her own boss while she does what she loves, working with horses. "It's definitely a lot of work. No question," adds Fox. "But it's totally worth it. We couldn't be happier."

For more information on Northern Kentucky Horse Center email them at info@nkyhorse.com or call 859-485-NKHC (6542)



Visitors of the NKHC take advantage of the 200+ acres of potential trails.

The Other Side of the Fence - A Stillness in Ocala Where is the Real "Horse Capital of the World?"

By Bob Goddard

Lexington, Kentucky calls itself the
"Horse Capital of the World."

Ocala, Florida also calls itself the
"Horse Capital of the World™."

Both are aware of the other's claim. Who in the world is right?

I had the opportunity to visit each of these wonderful cities in 2006. I thought they were both great. All I can say is that I wouldn't want to be the one who had to decide which city has the stronger claim. This is a friendly rivalry, but it is a rivalry. It's never a good idea to get between a wildcat and gator, even friendly ones.

I say let the two cities settle this little dispute themselves. Let them duke it out tête-à-tête, mano a mano, city-to-city.

So without further ado, ladies and gentlemen, allow me to introduce the contestants:

In the left corner, wearing the blue and white silks and weighing in with a healthy international thoroughbred sales in excess of \$750 million annually, MIGHTY LEXINGTON, "HORSE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD!" ... And in the right corner, in the blue and orange jersey, tipping the scales with 1200 horse farms and 50 known breeds of horses, THE AMAZING OCALA/MARION COUNTY, "HORSE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD!™ "

Okay cities, I want a good, clean fight. State your cases!

Lexington: Ocala? That's located somewhere south of here, right?

Ocala: Yes, Lexington. South is the direction you send your horses for training. If you knew how to ride, you could keep 'em home.

Lexington: Already off topic, Ocala? Allow me to get you back on track. I have a true international industry here. The world is my playground. You heard what the announcer said: \$750 million annually in thoroughbred sales!

Ocala: That makes you the Thoroughbred Capital of the World. The U.S. Department of Agriculture says that Marion County has more horses than any other county in the United States.

Lexington: Yeah, that's nice. I have Kentucky Horse Park.

Ocala: I have Florida Horse Park and Austin Horse Park.

Lexington: I have Keeneland.

Ocala: I have the Greenway Trail System.

Lexington: I bred eight of the eleven Triple Crown winners.

Ocala: I bred the last one.

Lexington: I host the Rolex Kentucky Three Day Event.

Ocala: I host "Horse Shows in the Sun." It's a five week event.

Lexington: I have two world renowned equine clinics: Hagyard Equine Medical Institute, and the Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital.

Ocala: Did you notice that I have the trademark on "Horse Capital of World™?" Yep, trademark registration number 2,522,220. That's from the United State Patent and Trademark Office. Are you going to challenge the federal government?

Lexington: In Kentucky, we consider challenging the federal government a form of entertainment.

Ocala: Oh yeah? Like in 1861? Couldn't quite make up your mind, huh? Do you know I have a magazine called Horse Capital Digest?

Lexington: Yeah, and then you take out ads in my newspaper inviting people to experience "Ocala: The Horse Capital of the World™"

Ocala: Heh, heh.

Lexington: Did you know I have an airport which offers non-stop flights to 13 major hubs?

Ocala: I also have a ... um ... Gators 26, Wildcats 7.

Lexington: Football? As long as you're going off topic again, why not talk about the sport that really matters: I have seven national championships in basketball.

Ocala: I have the last two.

Lexington: I'm hosting the 2010 FEI World Equestrian Games.

Ocala: ... **Ocala:** ... **Ocala:** ...

Oh my, that had to hurt! And it looks like Ocala is down for the count!

I'm sorry™, Ocala. Hosting the WEG is kinda hard to beat. That's WORLD Equestrian Games. The only way you're going top that is to steal the 2012 Summer Olympics from London. Please, let me know if there is anything I can do to help. You will always be my "Horse Capital of the World." Although after this, I doubt I'll be allowed to set foot in Marion County ever again. *Go Gators?*

Kentucky Equine Education Project

4037 Iron Works Parkway, Ste 130

Lexington, KY 40511

Phone: Toll free 866-771-KEEP

Main Phone: 859-259-0007

Fax: 859-259-0501

E-Mail: info@horseswork.com

Patrick Neely, Executive Director

email: pneely@horseswork.com

Gene Clabes, Equine Director

email: gclabes@horseswork.com

Cara Stewart, Field Director

email: cstewart@horseswork.com

Jessica Kingkade, Field Representative

email: jkingkade@horseswork.com

Jayson Page, Director of Administrative Support

email: jpage@horseswork.com

KEEP CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL 2007

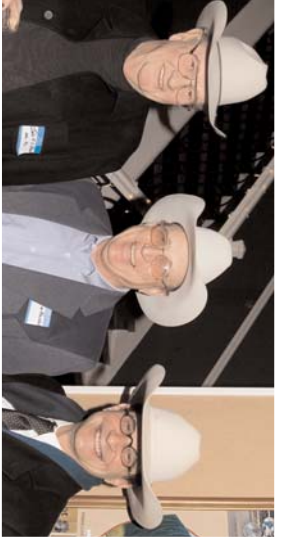
- Apr. 3 KEEP Team Leader Training, Mountain Home Place, Paintsville, 6:00 pm
Apr. 6 Mercer County 4-H Horse Camp, Mercer County Fairgrounds, Harrodsburg.
Apr. 6-27 Keeneland Racetrack Spring Meet
Apr. 7 Horse Health Day, Red Barn Arena, Taylorsville, 10:00 am
Apr. 9 Whitley Co. 4-H Horse Club, Whitley Co. Ext Office, Williamsburg, 6:30pm
Apr. 10 Estill County 4-H Horse Club
Apr. 11 Thoroughbred Farm Managers Meeting, Embassy Suites Hotel, Lexington
Apr. 14 South Central Kentucky 4-H Horse Camp, WKU Ag Expo Center, Bowling Green.
Apr. 14 West Ky Appaloosa Club Horse Clinic, Mayfield Auction Barn, Mayfield
Apr. 14 Helping Hands for Animals Horse Show, Morgan County Fairgrounds, West Liberty
Apr. 17 KEEP Team Leader Training, Madison Co. Exten. Office, Richmond, 6:00 pm (tent.)
Apr. 17 April Two Year Old in Training Sale, Keeneland Sales Pavilion, Lexington, 1:30 pm
Apr. 19 KEEP County Team Leader Training, Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, 6:00 pm(tent.)
Apr. 18-20 National Equine Economic Development Summit, Tyrone N.C.
Apr. 21 KEEP Youth Council, Hardin Co. Extension Office, Elizabethtown, 11:00 am
Apr. 21-22 Three Phase Event Gaited Horse Challenge, UMH Gaited Versatility Challenge, UMH Equestrian Center Winchester.
Apr. 21 Purina Mills Pro Event with Stephen Bradley, Georgetown (*more info esteseli@msu.edu*)
Apr. 21 Young Mt Riders 4-H Horse Club Trail Ride and Auction, Kentucky Saddle Horse Game Club, Whitley County. 10:00 am. (*more information call Kathy 606-539-0021*)
Apr. 21 Licking River Riders / KMSHA Juvenile Drill Team 3rd Annual St. Jude Children's Charity Trail Ride, Murder Branch Trail in Menifee Co.
Apr. 21 Wayne Co. Horseman's Association Horse Show, Monticello Wayne Co. Memorial Park
Apr. 24 KEEP Team Leader Training, Boone County Extension Office, Burlington. 6:00 pm(tent.)
Apr. 26 KEEP Team Leader Training, Mason Co. Exten. Office, Maysville, 6:00 pm(tent.)
Apr. 16-19 Rolex 3-Day Event, Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington
Apr. 28 Lee County Saddle Club Horse Show, Beattyville.
Apr. 27-29 South Kentucky Ranch Horse Association Show, Western Ky Expo Center, Bowling Green.

MAY 2007

- May 4 Kentucky Oaks, Churchill Downs, Louisville
May 5 Kentucky Derby, Churchill Downs, Louisville
May 5 4-H Horse Camp, Sturgis
May 5-7 Kentucky Mid-State ApHC, Lakeside Arena, Frankfort
May 7 Young Mt Riders 4-H Horse Club , Whitley County Extension Office, Williamsburg 6:30 pm
May 10 Ag Explorium Day, Western Ky Expo Center, Bowling Green, 9am-1pm
May 11-12 Hardin Co. Trailblazers 4-H Horse Show, Hardin Co. Fairgrounds, Elizabethtown
May 12 Graves County Riding Club, Graves Co. Fairgrounds, Mayfield
May 12 Mammoth Cave Equine Trail Riders Association Benefit Trail Ride
May 12 KyQHA 8th Annual Trail Trials, Smith Farm and Platinum Performance Stables, Taylorsville. Contact Mardy Smith 502-477-1997.
May 18-20 District 5 4-H Horse Camp, Elizabethtown
May 19 Central KY Racking Horse Classic, Liberty
May 19 Rainbow's End in the Bluegrass Horse Show, Scott County Park, Georgetown
May 19 Wilderness Trace Pony Club Horse Show, Masterson Station Park, Lexington
May 20 Gayla Driving Club Banquet, Georgetown, 2pm
May 23 - 27 Kentucky Dressage Association Horse Show, Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington
May 26 First Church of God Youth Group Horse Show, Jackson
May 26 Spotted Saddle Horse Association Horse Show, Owingsville Kiwanis Club Show Grounds, Owingsville

**All times are local- For a complete listing visit WWW.HORSESWORK.COM*

Horses WORK for Kentucky.



Do you know these cowboys?

They are Johnny T. L. Jones, Eucklie Henson and KEEP Board Member and President of the Red Mile, Joe Costa.

KEEPIN UP WITH KEEP



KEEP was very visible at the 164th "Tater Days" in Benton. The wrap-up Parade on Monday, April 2nd had more than 500 horses.



Kentucky Equine Education Project
4037 Ironworks Pkwy, Ste. 130
Lexington, KY 40359
www.horseswork.com

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