

THE *work* HORSE

MARCH 2006 VOLUME III

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE KENTUCKY EQUINE  EDUCATION PROJECT

**Horses
Work**
for Kentucky.

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY'S EQUINE INITIATIVE

In May 2005, U.K. President Lee T. Todd Jr. announced an initiative to design ways to work more closely with Kentucky's horse industry.

The UK College of Agriculture Equine Initiative, a partnership between the college and the horse industry, was established through efforts of the Gluck Equine Research Foundation, the Kentucky Thoroughbred Association/Kentucky Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders, and College of Agriculture faculty and administrators. Conducted in concert with the Kentucky Equine Education Project (KEEP) and numerous other equine organizations in Kentucky, the initiative will focus on ensuring that ongoing UK programs are more responsive to the daily needs of the equine industry.

The mission of the group states:

"The UK College of Agriculture is committed to programs that meet the ongoing needs of the multi-breed Kentucky equine industry. We will collaborate with equine-related organizations and people throughout the Commonwealth to enhance Kentucky's reputation as the "Horse Capital of the World" through education, research and service."

UK Sociologist Lori Garkovich, head of the equine planning committee, said, "The Equine Initiative has completed its first stage of listening to persons in the equine industry in Kentucky in order to gather suggestions and ideas on how we can mobilize the resources of the College and the University to support the industry."

In the past nine months the group has made strides but still have big ideas ahead. Some of their accomplishments are:

- Conducted 7 listening sessions with over 70 persons including one for equine veterinarians
- Assessment of existing research, outreach and

educational programs in light of stakeholders' issues and concerns

"It is our intent to support the equine industry ... the same way that we (UK) have supported tobacco and beef producers..."

*-Lori Garkovich,
Head of UK Equine
Initiative Group*

-Enhancement of services at the Livestock Disease and Diagnostic Center

-Phase 1 construction of expanded necropsy facilities

-Equine epidemiologist added to staff and initiated new information system for disease response

-Enhanced research on equine diseases and other issues facing the industry through new and redirected faculty and staff positions

-Expanded current (e.g, Horse College) and developing new (e.g., Master Horsemen) extension/outreach programs to address issues of interest to youth and different segments of the industry

From these first accomplishments, the group is exploring ways to implement the following:

-Establish an Equine Research and Education Center

-Expand current undergraduate and graduate equine programs possibly by establishing a new undergraduate major, an undergraduate minor, and related undergraduate programs

-Enhance communications to both internal and external audiences

-Invest in current and new research and Extension outreach programs of service to the industry such as a forages analysis horse pastures program

-Strengthen and expand partnerships with organizations in the equine industry

Ms. Garkovich added, "We see this as just the beginning. It is our intent to support the equine industry in Kentucky in the same way that we have supported tobacco and beef producers over the years."

To learn more about the UK Equine Initiative or to take the survey visit their website at www.ca.uky.edu/equine/index.htm .

KENTUCKY EQUINE TRAIL RIDERS JOIN FORCES

An umbrella organization representing equine trail riding enthusiasts across Kentucky has been formed to work with state and federal officials to insure the future use of public and private lands.

Trail Rider Equestrians in Kentucky (TREK), representing trail riders of all breeds of horses, was organized on February 7 during a meeting at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington with the assistance of the Kentucky Equine Education Project (KEEP). The organization's goal: to create a coalition of trial riders to preserve, expand, and promote equestrian trails and campgrounds while informing the public of their economic value to Kentucky and protecting the equestrian riders' right of access to these facilities.

Mardy Smith, of Taylorsville, who through the American Quarter Horse Association and the Kentucky Quarter Horse Association organizes one of the largest trail rides in America at Land Between The Lakes, was elected chair of the group.

"This is an exciting opportunity to bring trail riding interests of all breeds together to work for a common cause. Pressure from development and lack of funding is placing enormous pressure on the availability of places for equestrians to ride," Ms. Smith said.

Jerry Hancock, of Spencer County, who has Kentucky Mountain Saddle horses and Quarter

horses, was elected vice chair. Carolyn Kenton, Paris, an owner and breeder of Tennessee Walking and Mountain horses and a trail rider, was elected secretary and treasurer. Phyllis

McGuire, a Rocky Mountain breeder from Henry County; Buck Winburn, who breaks and trains trail horses of Estill County; David Stefanic, co-owner and General Manager of the Kentucky Mountain Saddle Association and a Mountain horse breeder, of Georgetown and Greg Jones, a member of the Kentucky Horse Council Board and an endurance rider, from Mt. Sterling, will serve as members of the executive committee.

Plans call for a series of committees to be formed with equine trail riding enthusiasts from across the state participating to address various areas of concern such as loss of equine trails in national parks and a lack of trail riding opportunities in state parks.

"TREK wants to work with existing trail riding organizations around the state as points of contact," said Ms. Smith. "This is the Horse Capital of the World. It should be the trail riding capital as well."

Ms. Smith said TREK representatives will be contacting equine trail riding organizations in the near future to encourage TREK membership at \$10 individual and \$15 family. The funds would be used for organizational expenses and marketing.

*"This is the Horse Capital of the World. It should be the Trail Riding Capital as well."
- Mardy Smith,
Chairperson of TREK*

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 2006
- Free admission to the Kentucky Horse Park/American Saddlebred Museum through December 2006 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.



VOLUNTEER TRAINING SEMINAR AND DAY AT THE HORSE PARK

KEEP's Volunteer Training Seminar is being held to help educate our volunteers on the mission and upcoming activities of KEEP. During the spring and summer months KEEP has a tremendous amount of events to attend and our volunteers play a critical role in spreading KEEP's message around Kentucky. All potential volunteers are invited to this seminar to learn about the volunteer program. The day will include a morning talks about KEEP and volunteer goals and strategies. After the morning seminar volunteers will be treated to lunch and then will be free to tour the park with family and friends. All attendees must present their KEEP card with photo ID at the gate, parking is not included.

Date: April 1, 2006 9:00am - 12:00pm
Location: Kentucky Horse Park
Speakers: Rachel Fowler & Cara Stewart

For reservations and more information:
Please contact KEEP at 1-866-771-5337 or www.horseswork.com.
4047 Iron Works Parkway, Lexington, Kentucky 40511

Agenda

- 9:00- Sign-in and refreshments
- 9:30- Speakers Introductions
- 9:45- KEEP: Mission, Goals, and Accomplishments, What you need to know.
- 10:30- 15 minute break refreshments
- 11:00- Volunteer Goals and Strategies
- 11:45- Question and Answers
- 12:00- Conclusions and Lunch
- 01:00- Visit the wonderful Horse Park with family and friends!

DEADLINE APPROACHES TO APPLY FOR JOURNALISM SCHOLARSHIPS

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Officials with The Race for Education said students have until March 31 to apply for four National Turf Writers Association-Youbet.com journalism scholarships to be awarded this spring.

Undergraduate or graduate students may apply for the annual grants, which provide \$10,000 per year for up to four academic years. The 2006-'07 academic year is the inaugural year of the program.

The scholarship is designed to help qualified students earn college degrees in the hope that they might later make positive contributions to horse racing and journalism. Students must attend accredited colleges or universities and be in pursuit of either majors or minors in journalism.

Students whose parents are licensed racetrack workers or who themselves have made a contribution to the sport of horse racing are given preference in the selec-

tion process. All journalism students that exhibit an interest in horse racing are given consideration.

The scholarships, funded by online wagering company Youbet, are awarded each year by a selection committee of The Race for Education that includes representatives of Youbet and the National Turf Writers Association. Selection is based on academic potential, citizenship, and financial need, and the quality of essays students are required to submit with their applications.

Applications and submission guidelines can be found at The Race for Education website, www.racingscholarships.com.

A BREED APART - AMERICAN PAINT HORSE

The American Paint Horse's combination of color and conformation has made the American Paint Horse Association (APHA) the second-largest breed registry in the United States based on the number of horses registered annually. While the colorful coat pattern is essential to the identity of the breed, American Paint Horses have strict bloodline requirements and a distinctive stock-horse body type.

History and Origin of the Breed

Descended from horses introduced by the Spanish conquistadors, Paints became part of the herds of wild horses that roamed the Western deserts and plains. Once domesticated, because of their working ability and heart, the Paint was cherished by cowboys for cattle work. Native Americans revered the Paint, which they believed to possess magical powers.

While over the years the conformation and athletic ability of those rugged mounts of the Old West have been improved by breeders, the unusual coat patterns and coloring remain the same. The stock-type conformation, intelligence, and willing attitude make the American Paint Horse an excellent horse for pleasure riding, ranch work, rodeo, trail riding, racing, showing, or simply as a friendly mount for the kids

Breed Characteristics

Built for versatility, the American Paint Horse is generally short-coupled, strong-boned and well balanced. Yet Paints display a remarkable degree of refinement and beauty, especially about the head and neck.

The Paint Horse's colorful coat pattern defines the breed, because it is perhaps the most obvious trait. However, Paint Horses must also possess a distinct stock-type conformation. Paints come in an endless variety of patterns. Their coat is always a combination of white with any of the basic colors common to horses: black, bay, brown, chestnut, dun, grulla, sorrel, palomino, gray and roan. Regardless of color, no two horses are exactly alike in coat pattern.

For registration and breeding purposes, American Paint Horses are categorized by three distinctive types of coat pattern. The tobiano pattern is distinguished by head markings like those of a solid-colored horse; their heads may be completely solid, or have a blaze, strip, star or snip. Their spots are regular and distinctly oval or round, extending down the neck and chest, giving the appearance of a shield. The tail is often two colors.

The overo pattern may also be either predominantly dark or white. But typically, the white on an overo will not cross the back of the horse between its withers and its tail. Also notable is that overos have bold white head markings,

such as a bald face. Overos generally have irregular, scattered markings. The horse's tail is usually one color.

Not all coat patterns fit neatly into the tobiano or overo categories. For this reason, a number of years ago the APHA expanded its classifications to include "tovero" to describe horses that have characteristics of both the tobiano and overo patterns.

What is especially fascinating about Paint Horse breeding is that the genetics of coat color inheritance is still not readily understood.

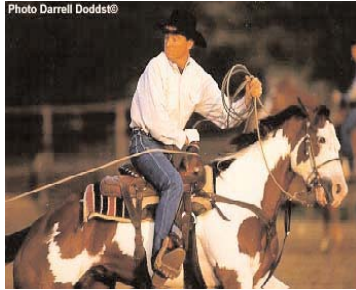
Breed Organization

Not satisfied to be only a color breed based entirely on coat patterns, the founders of APHA also set strict standards of conformation, athletic ability and performance, as well as demanding intelligence, a calm temperament and a willing disposition. As proof of their commitment to these ideals, the founders instituted a stringent stallion inspection program that remained in effect until the breed was well established.

To be eligible for registry with the APHA, horses had to come from stock registered with one of four recognized organizations: the American Paint Quarter Horse Association, the American Paint Stock Horse Association, the Jockey Club, or the American Quarter Horse Association. Today, the three recognized organizations are the APHA, the AQHA and the Jockey Club. And even though solid-colored horses with Paint Horse bloodlines are included in the APHA registry as breeding stock, the association maintains color requirements for registration in the Regular Registry.

Once an organization promoted and operated from a kitchen table in Gainesville, Texas, the APHA now conducts business on a global scale and has become one of the fastest-growing breed registries. While the association's main purpose is to record Paint Horse pedigrees, it is also dedicated to preserving and promoting the history, breeding, training, racing, showing, sales and enjoyment of American Paints.

To learn more about the American Paint Horse Association and its programs visit the APHA website at www.apha.com.



SPOTLIGHT- HARRISON COUNTY TEAM LEADERS

Gary and Kelly Downs, KEEP's Harrison County Team Leaders, breed and raise American Paint Horses on their Cynthiana farm, Downs Hilltop Stables. The husband and wife team enjoys trail riding and plans on showing competitively in the future.

"All horses are beautiful, but the color variations led us to Paints." Kelly says. The Downs' team specializes in breeding black/overo horses. Their stallion,

Max Mccue EF (son of Blue Max) has made the job easy. His first foal, named Sam, can be seen playing in the field at the farm. Max is said to be so gentle and intelligent that some times the two play together in the field, though not at the Downs' choice. Max had learned to open Sam's stall door to let him out, before turnout time.

Juggling time for the family is much easier, when everyone is at the barn together. The Paint Horse breed allows the family to train for their different events. The family plans to compete in events from reining and halter class, to barrel racing for their six year old daughter, Taylor. Taylor has grown up on a horse and is waiting for the chance to run by herself.

The couple also has a 3 month old son, Trey.

The family currently has four Paint horses on the farm; one for each, you would think, however, with breeding every year, the horse and rider combination changes often. As someone who grew up without horses, Gary states, "One thing is for sure, every family member will have their own horse."

To see more of their farm visit www.downshilltopstables.com

"All horses are beautiful, but the color variations led us to Paints." Kelly says.



The Downs' Daughter, Taylor is seen feeding Sam, one of the new additions to the farm.

ATTENTION KEEP MEMBERS! IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING YOUR NEWSLETTER SERVICE

In an effort to keep membership dues at a minimum and benefits at a maximum, KEEP has decided to mail the "The Work Horse" only to those requesting it. By providing it via email and on-line, we will be able to increase the number of pages as well as the variety of topics we cover in this newsletter. Look for new features in upcoming issues of "The Work Horse".

This will be the last issue of "The Work Horse" that will be mailed unless you call and request, "I want to continue to get the newsletter via mail". If you receive this by email, no worries, you will continue to get this as you always have. If you have email and would like to receive the publication that way please call and let us know. You can contact the KEEP staff by calling toll free 1-866-771-5337 or emailing info@horseswork.com.

We hope you enjoy this and the other benefits of your KEEP membership and thank you for your continued support of the Kentucky Equine Industry.

KEEP CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

MARCH 2006

March 4th	Young Guns Tack Auction, Boone County Extension Office, 6:00 pm
March 7th	Union County Fairboard Meeting, 6:00 pm
March 11th	Kentucky Barrel Horse Association Horse Show, Muhlenberg County Agriculture and Convention Center.
March 11th	Society for Arabian Horses in the Bluegrass Area Meeting, LaGrange, 1:00 pm
March 14th	Morgan County Farm and Home Night.
March 15th	Kentucky Quarter Horse Association Meeting, Simpsonville, 8:00 pm
March 16th	Center for Rural Development, Equine Committee, Somerset, 10:00 am
March 17th	3rd Annual Bluegrass Farms Chaplaincy Prayer Breakfast at Keeneland
March 18th	Kentucky Arabian Horse Association Meeting, Louisville, 6:00 pm
March 20th	Kentucky Racing Authority, 1:00 pm

APRIL 2006

April 1st	KEEP Volunteer Day at the Kentucky Horse Park
April 1st	University of Louisville Ranch Horse Classic, Kentucky Fair & Exposition Center
April 2nd	Helping Hands for Animals, Charity Horse Show, Morgan County
April 6th	Boyd County 4-H Horse Club, 6:00 pm
April 8th - 9th	Kentucky Wrangler Division Rodeo
April 21st -23rd	Kentucky High School Rodeo Association
April 21st	KWHA Ladies Auxiliary Spring Jubilee Charity Horse Show, Mercer County Fair Grounds.
April 24th	Economic Impact of Horse Industry, St. Michaels School, Louisville, 9:00 am
April 29th - 30th	South Kentucky Ranch Horse Association Horse Show, Western Kentucky University Ag Expo Center, Bowling Green

MAY 2006

May 5th - 6th	Bluegrass Buckskin Horse Association Horse Show, Lakeside Arena, Frankfort
May 11th	Kentucky 4-H Foundation, "Celebrating Youth and Its Alumni", Lexington Convention Center
May 15th	Grant County Chamber of Commerce, Country Grill, Dry Ridge, 8:00 am

*All times are local.

Kentucky Equine Education Project

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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