

TESTIMONY TO PARI-MUTUEL WAGERING TAXATION TASK FORCE

OCTOBER 4, 2021

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Supporting Kentucky's Horse Industry Through **UK Ag Equine Programs' Mission**

- **Workforce-ready Graduates**
 - Alumni leave campus ready for a career or to continue their education in graduate or professional programs.
- **World-renowned Research**
 - Impacts all horse breeds and disciplines, provides answers for horse owners, equine operations and industry stakeholders.
- **Service to the Industry and State**
 - As a land-grant university, we push innovation and new knowledge into practice.



UK's Equine Research Programs are Dedicated to **Addressing Major Industry Issues**

- **2022 Kentucky Equine Survey**

High-quality, county-level data are being generated to support the equine industry and enable informed policy decisions.

- **Response to Novel Rotavirus**

UK responded promptly to identify this new virus, develop a diagnostic test and provide control recommendations.

- **Anti-Doping and Medication Research**

Regulatory and testing policies that prioritize the health of equine athletes and provide integrity for all equestrian sports.

- **Track Surface Research and Testing**

Pioneering advanced knowledge on racetracks and other competition surfaces to improve safety.





Empowering Kentucky Horse Owners Through **Outreach and Engagement**

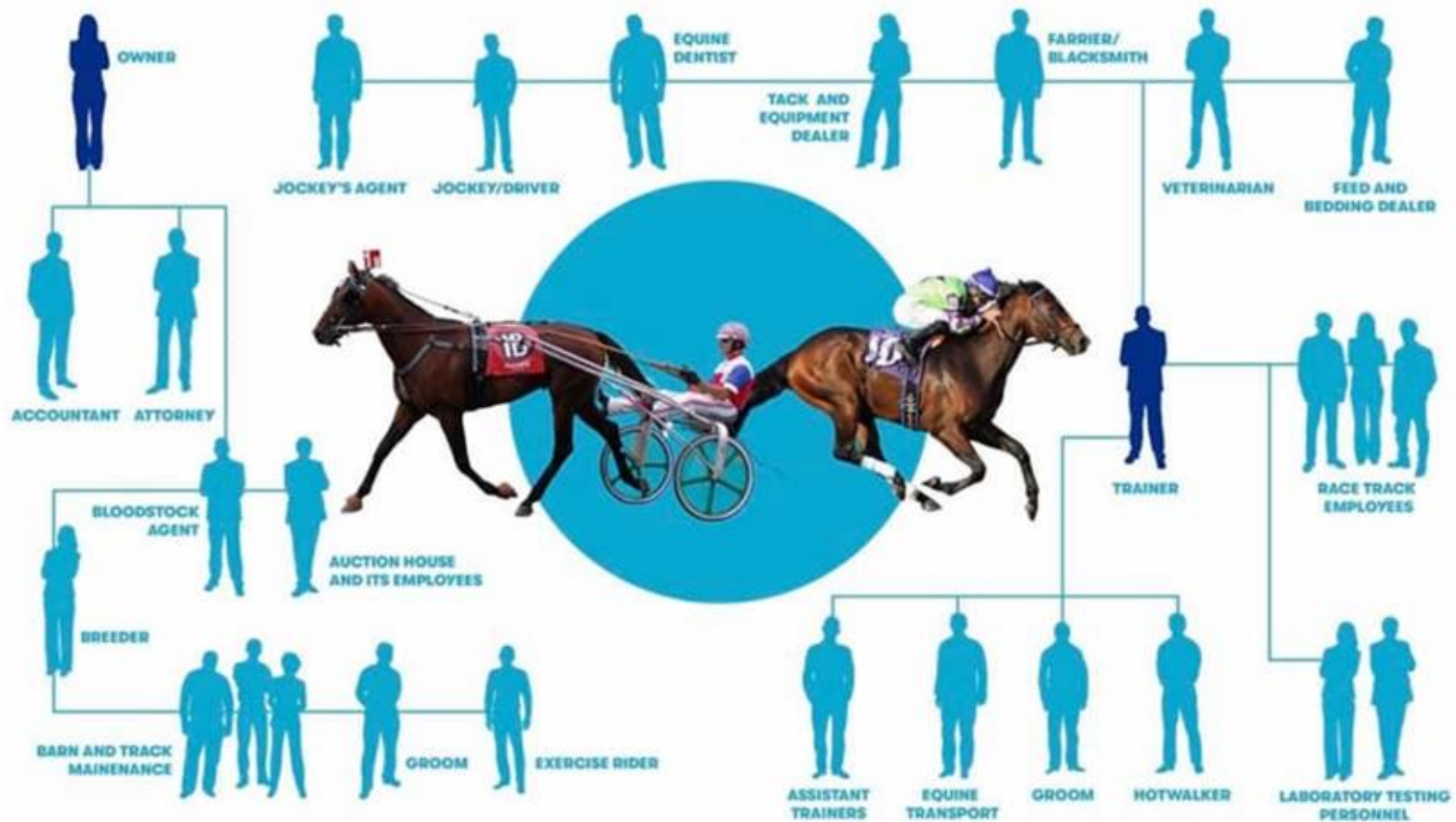
- **UK's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory**
 - The busiest diagnostic laboratory in North America for horses, currently accepting 200,000 equine submissions each year.
- **UK's Horse Pasture Evaluation Program**
 - Helping equine producers and horse owners improve the management of their pastures and environmental stewardship.
- **Master Horse Owner**
 - Comprehensive educational program that has directly engaged horse owners in more than 100 Kentucky counties.
- **Cooperative Extension**
 - Workshops on pasture and forages across the state. The 4-H Horse Program is one of the nation's largest with more than 4,500 participants.



Our Equine Science & Management Bachelor's Degree Program is **Comprehensive and Experiential**

- Four-year, stand-alone bachelor's degree program.
- Hands-on equine research and service experiences that train students for industry involvement and career success.
- “Path to Professionalism” program builds career-ready skills and confidence.
- Annual Equine Career and Opportunity Fair connects students with equine-affiliated businesses and industry leaders.
- Internship experience helps students to integrate classroom knowledge with workplace skills and applications.

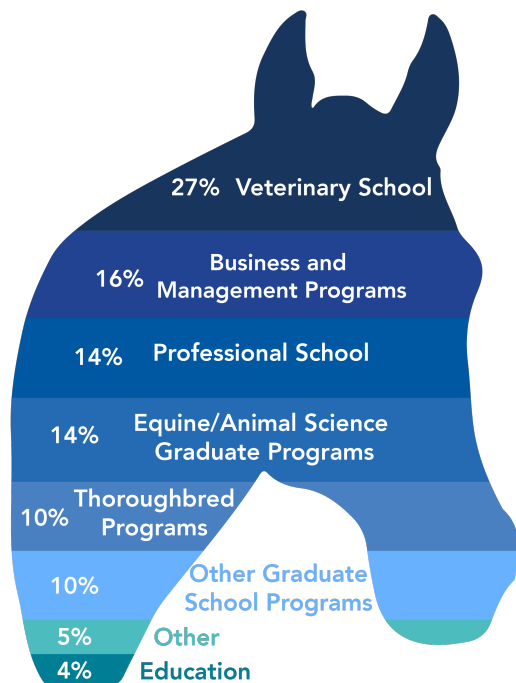
Our Graduates Pursue Careers Across the Industry



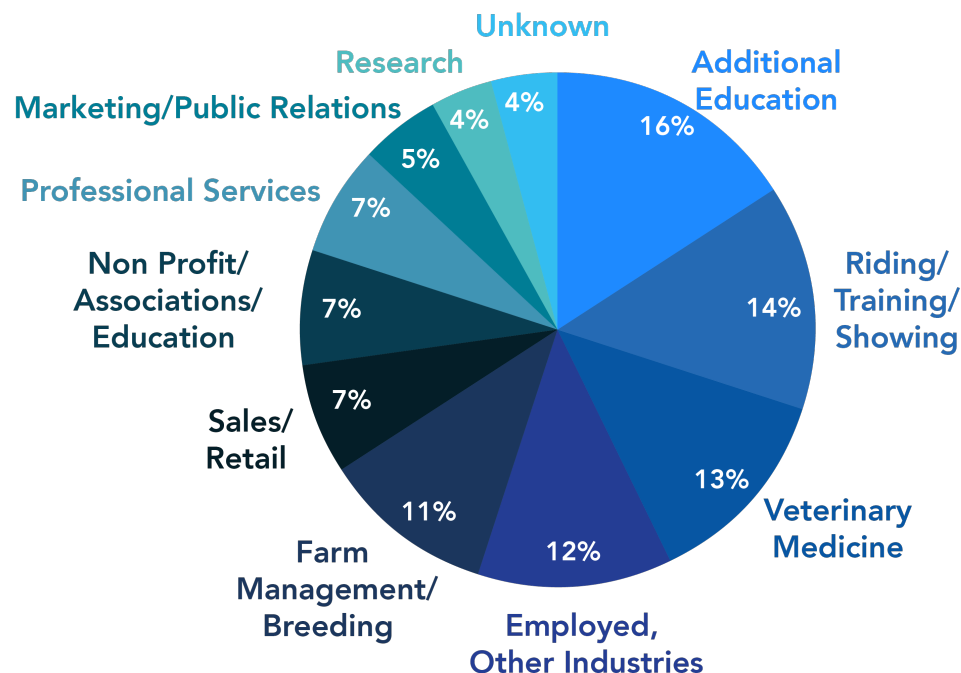
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Filling in the Human Silhouettes and Meeting Industry Demand

Graduates Pursue a Diverse Set of Academic Programs

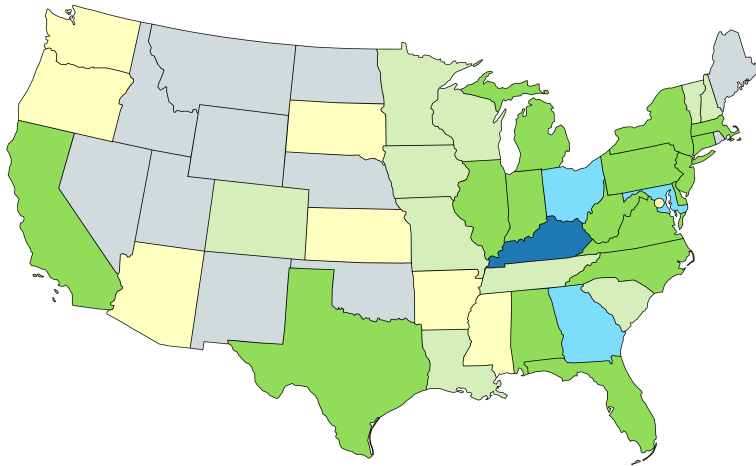
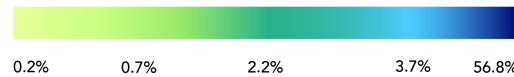


541 Alumni Work in Various Equine-affiliated Career Paths

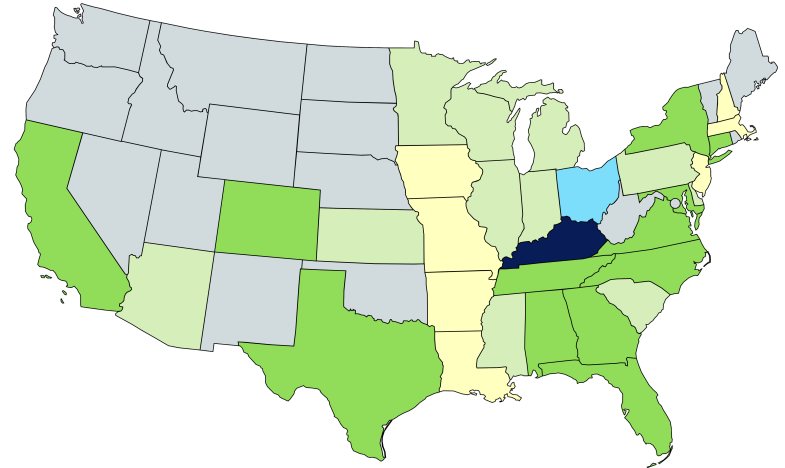


88% of alumni are currently working with horses or have equine-related career paths.

UK Equine Programs Creates A "Brain Gain" for Kentucky and the Industry



69.7% start as out-of-state students



56.8% of graduates stay in Kentucky

Current Enrollment Averages 300 Students:

- 22% – First-generation students
- 16% – Under-represented minority students
- 93% – Student retention rate between freshman and sophomore years



UK Equine Programs Alumni are **Leaders in their Field**

Natalie Voss, '10

- Editor-in-Chief of the Paulick Report.
- Originally from Virginia, now lives and works in Kentucky.
- Three-time Eclipse Award winner.
In 2020, won both writing award categories, becoming only the second turfwriter in history to do so and the first woman.
- Personal interest in off-track Thoroughbreds (OTTBs) and preparing to compete in the Thoroughbred Makeover next week.





Current Budget Resources

Consistent Support Will Be Transformative

- **Current Budget**

- Operational budget currently totals \$500K annually.
- The program was built and is currently sustained on internal re-allocated college funding.
- CPE trust fund support is shared across five universities and restricted to teaching infrastructure, large equipment.

- **Priorities for New Investment**

- Graduate programs, including MBA and business degrees.
- Expand youth education programs, including equine science STEM initiatives for K-12.
- Enhance infrastructure.
- Stabilize operational budgets.

UK Ag Equine Programs is Committed to Keeping Kentucky the Horse Capital of the World

