



College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

April

Monthly College Newsletter

Message from the Dean



As we seek a new director for Extension, we can reflect on a number of challenges that we have faced in recent years, particularly with respect to field programs. Among these challenges have been an unexpected budget reallocation in FY 2017, an audit that said we needed to focus on financial compliance and management structure, and the general image of Extension within the university. I am happy to say that in 2019, we have a much stronger system. As I have always said, our "front door," where our agents and staff meet our clientele, is excellent. Our problems were with financial management and the amount of supervision and support we were able to provide at the county level. We are also lucky to have outstanding faculty specialists who are at the top of their game.

As of today, we have received a report from UK Internal Audit that recognizes the specific progress made in financial compliance and the plan to provide a more supportive management structure. I see this as a very good audit report, and I thank everyone in the system for their help.

We will soon have a new director, a consultant's report on management structure that we will review and implement, an announcement on the statewide return on investment from Extension, and some outstanding new collaborations with other

UK colleges. Another way I think about this is that we have always been the front door to UK, but now other colleges at UK are seeing partnership opportunities for outreach and student recruiting. I believe that county offices can and do provide an avenue for recruiting students to UK and look forward to expanded opportunities in college readiness preparation as well as recruitment. The fact that we have an extension philanthropy director is a huge plus as we transform our public face and solidify support for our programs.

I am grateful to Provost Blackwell as well as President Capilouto and Executive Vice President Monday for listening to and understanding the unique and vital missions that these programs provide to the citizens of Kentucky. I appreciate our administration's willingness to consider the challenges we face in meeting the three land-grant missions – teaching, research and service –and the way we integrate those missions in everything that we do.

Right, now, I ask that you please provide feedback for the Extension director search!! Further information is below.

Extension director candidates

We are just about in the middle of interviewing candidates for the position of associate dean and director of the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service. This search is vitally important to the future of the Kentucky agricultural economy, health and well-being of youth and families, economic development and the environment. There are many opportunities and challenges ahead for our state and for Extension. Finding the right person to lead this diverse organization is crucial. I hope you are participating in this important process.

Each candidate has given or will be giving presentations. These presentations are being recorded and will be available to view on April 15 at <http://extension.ca.uky.edu/extension-director-search>. The website contains candidate profiles and a location to provide anonymous feedback for each of the candidates. The five candidates are:

- **Richard Coffey**, Chair, Department of Animal and Food Sciences, University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
- **Laura Stephenson**, Assistant Dean of Extension and Department Chair of Family and Consumer Sciences, University of Tennessee
- **Roger Rennekamp**, Director, The Ohio State University Extension and Associate Dean of the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences
- **Jennifer Hunter**, Assistant Extension Director for Family and Consumer Sciences, University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
- **Ivory Lyles**, Associate Dean for Engagement/Director of Cooperative Extension at the University of Nevada, Reno

I would like to thank Montgomery, Warren and Hopkins counties for hosting the presentations and Bath and Barren counties who were also willing to assist. By offering two locations for each candidate and recorded presentations, our hope is to have as much of our expansive Extension community participate as possible. I look forward to your feedback.

News

Motor Pool update

UK Transportation Services is continuing its expansion of periphery parking along College Way near the Motor Pool. Ongoing construction and reallocation of existing spaces in this area has resulted in adjustments to Motor Pool operations, which limit anyone who rents vehicles to leaving only one personal vehicle in the fenced Motor Pool area. However, additional spaces are available immediately adjacent to the facility in the new College Way West parking lot. Individuals with a valid university parking permit (excluding remote tier) are authorized to park in this periphery designated lot.

While overall parking space has been reduced, there should be no impact to regular car rental operations. Cars and a limited number of minivans and SUVs are still available at the Motor Pool on College Way. However, all large vans and trucks have been moved to the college's Maine Chance Farm at 2349 Turner Place and can be picked up there 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Reservations are still handled through the current on-campus office, but keys for vehicles at the Maine Chance location must be picked up at the farm.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact the Motor Pool office at 859-257-3119.

Staff Professional Development Fund

Take advantage of this opportunity to step outside of traditional on-the-job training for professional learning and growth. The Staff Professional Development Fund may be used to support training and goal-oriented professional development activities that will increase the employee's skills in areas specifically related to their major job responsibilities. For more information, [click here](#). Applications may be submitted now through May 1 by [clicking here](#).

Graduation Farewell Event

The CAFE Alumni Association, along with Dean Nancy Cox, will host The Graduate Farewell at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 2 in the Gatton Student Center Grand Ballroom.

Please encourage our soon-to-be graduates to attend. All graduates, along with two guests, can attend free of charge. You are also invited to attend to support our new graduates.

The evening will include a buffet meal and program featuring Dean Nancy Cox, Alumni Association president Sue Whitaker, and keynote speaker, Warren Beeler, executive director of the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy. The Alumni Association hopes to make this an annual event. Purchase tickets for \$20 through April 25 at www.ukalumni.net/CAFEGraduateFarewell.



One Day for UK

UK will rally its alumni, friends and fans to support One Day for UK on April 17 for a 24-hour day of giving where donors can support the college, unit or cause of their choice. The College's designated fund is the CAFE General Undergraduate Scholarship Fund, but you are encouraged to give to whatever fund you choose.

As a thank you for participating, faculty, staff and student donors to CAFE on One Day for UK are invited to a picnic lunch at the E.S. Good Barn from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Just show your email confirmation or make a gift on site at the Good Barn using your phone or a computer that will be set up on-site. Click [here](#) to give.

In the news

- **Farmers hope for hemp riches despite risks** – Tyler Mark, Department of Agricultural Economics, multiple outlets including the Chicago Tribune
 - **UK study: Affordability will determine autonomous machinery adoption by grain producers** – Jordan Shockley; Carl Dillon, Department of Agricultural Economics, multiple outlets including Farm Progress
 - **Eastern tent caterpillar egg hatch underway** – Daniel Potter, Department of Entomology, multiple outlets including the Paulick Report
 - **KYH2O podcast entertaining way to learn about water resources** – Carmen Agouridis, Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering, and Amanda Gumbert, extension water quality liaison, multiple outlets including MidAmerica Farmer Grower.
 - **UK launches fitness app** – Natalie Jones, extension specialist for family health, multiple outlets including Kentucky Ag Connection
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Spotlight

David Williams

Director, Robinson Center for Appalachian Resource Sustainability



We asked David to share a little about his passions, his career path and what led him to us.

Tell us about your background and what led you to your current roles at UK?

I'm a native of West Virginia and came to Kentucky as an undergraduate at Eastern Kentucky University. I earned a bachelor's in Technical Horticulture there and began a career in turfgrass management. After a few years, my mentor at EKU suggested I consider an academic career and connected me with the turf and forage group at UK where I earned both my master's and doctorate. I joined the UK Agronomy faculty working in turf research and teaching from 1997 to 2015. In 2015, my research assignment became 100 percent hemp and my teaching assignment

broadened. In 2016, I became the director of the UK Robinson Center for Appalachian Resource Sustainability—a wonderful fit for me considering my own heritage. I remain at RCARS today with my research assignment still in hemp. I have enjoyed my role in hemp so very much. It has provided opportunities to me that would have otherwise never been available.

What is your favorite thing about working in CAFE?

I'm clearly very biased, but in my opinion, RCARS is the best place in all of UK to work. The entire staff take their work deeply seriously. They want so very badly to contribute to the positive welfare of the people of Appalachia just as our mission statement requires. They genuinely care about our mission. It shows every single day. As a result, we have a wonderful relationship with our community and region. It is a very different role than the other sub-stations in the Experiment Station system, but I think in the most positive of ways. I genuinely love working here. It is my favorite thing about working in the CAFE by far.

What is one thing about yourself that might surprise people?

I must use hearing aids if I am to communicate well with people who have voices in upper frequencies. My audiologist tells me this is due to my long history of attending rock concerts, I guess beginning in 1972 or so and continuing today. Most of those, of course, without any hearing protection at all and as near the stage as I could afford. I have no genetic disposition towards poor hearing at high frequencies. It is a common ailment of rock musicians. I still love rock shows, but I do use hearing protection now.

Calendar of Events

April 1-5

[UK Pride Week](#)

April 3

[Urban Forest Initiative Speaker Series - Florence Williams](#)

April 4

[Celebrating the Seasons: Spectacular Spring at the Arboretum](#)

April 5

[First Friday](#)

April 5-26

[Keeneland Spring Meet](#)

April 10

Ag Awareness Day

April 11, 18 & 24

[Spreading Roots Workshop Series](#)

Helpful Links

[Giving](#)

[One Day for UK](#)

[College Weekly for Faculty & Staff](#)

[College Weekly for Students](#)

[The Ag Magazine](#)

[The Ambassador](#)

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April 12
OAK Field Day: Irrigation System
Considerations & Installation

April 18
UK Field Day

April 20
Expanding Your Horizons

April 22
Earth Day

April 26
Arbor Day

April 27
Call to the Post Derby Bash

April 29 - May 3
Finals Week

May 2
Graduate Farewell

May 3
Commencement

May 4
Kentucky Derby



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