

College of Agriculture, Food and Environment



February

Monthly College Newsletter

Message from the Dean

With the ongoing federal budget issues affecting the country, I wanted to share with you the many ways the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment depends on the federal government to meet our mission. We receive capacity funds, competitive grants and have vital research and outreach collaborations with many federal agencies. During the recent shutdown, our team reviewed the potential impact on our college, and we thought this was a good time to share the impact of a loss or suspension of federal funds.

The United States Department of Agriculture is our largest federal partner as a land-grant college of agriculture. USDA capacity or formula funds such as Smith-Lever, Hatch, McIntire-Stennis and other federal funds amounted to a payroll expense of more than \$1 million in December. All or part of the salaries of at least 625 individuals are paid through these partnerships including county extension agents, Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) staff, graduate students and a few faculty positions. More than 100 additional faculty and staff are funded in whole or in part by federal competitive grants, including the large Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) grant. We also reviewed competitive grants, and have received reports, outside of our college, of several programs asked to suspend research.

We also rely on these funds to pay for certain operating expenses such as travel, supplies, motor pool and printing. Most of these accounts contain carry-over



funding to last for several months, however, another lengthy shutdown may place some of our funding mechanisms in peril for the short term. We are working with university offices to identify processes that could be implemented to avoid any adverse effects on our faculty, staff and students if another lengthy shutdown should occur.

It is important for us to remember that we have many partners that play a role in our teaching, research and extension missions and that what happens with our partners impacts us as well.

We also appreciate that university officials are working with our congressional delegation to keep us updated on issues impacting the college. For us, it is critical to keep up the important work we do every day for the citizens of Kentucky and beyond. Thank you for all you do.

News

Upcoming administrative change

Larry Grabau, associate dean for instruction, will be stepping away from his administrative role to be a full-time member of the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences effective Aug. 1. He joined the CAFE faculty in 1984 and has served as associate dean for instruction since 2011. Suggestions, nominations and self-nominations are being accepted for an interim, ideally to work side-by-side with Dr. Grabau for a time before he steps down. These should be sent to Dean Nancy Cox.

CSA registration

Registration is now open for the 2019 season of the Community Supported Agriculture Project. All UK faculty, staff and students are eligible to enroll in the program, which provides members with fresh vegetables from May 23 through Oct. 17 from the USDA-certified organic unit of the UK Horticulture Research Farm in Lexington. For more information on the CSA program, email uk.csa@uky.edu or go online to <https://sustainableag.ca.uky.edu/csa>. To register online, go to <https://www3.ca.uky.edu/sustainable-ag/csa/new.php>.

In the news

- **Siemer Milling gives \$1M to UK Grain and Forage Center to support Kentucky crop operations**, Chad Lee, director, Grain and Forage Center of Excellence and extension professor in the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, multiple outlets including *The Lane Report*.
- **Ready Clarabelle For Her Close-Up: UK Scientists Need Pictures Of Cows For Research Project**, Josh Jackson, assistant professor, Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering, multiple outlets including *MidAmerica Farmer Grower*.
- **New Study Tracks Nutritional Pitfalls Of Online Grocery Shopping**, Alison Gustafson, associate professor and director of graduate studies, Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition, *WUKY*.

- **Hemp Has a Research Problem**, David Williams, professor, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, and director of the Robinson Center for Appalachian Resource Sustainability, multiple outlets including *The Atlantic*.
 - **Vaping Puts a Choke Hold on the Last of America's Tobacco Farms**, Will Snell, professor, Department of Agricultural Economics, multiple outlets including *Bloomberg*.
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Awards

At the recent annual convention of the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians, **Erdal Erol** received the 2018 BIOMIC Excellence in Diagnostic Veterinary Microbiology Award. This national award recognizes distinguished scientists for research accomplishments in the field that can be applied for the betterment of veterinary medicine. Dr. Erol has led the diagnostic microbiology unit of the UK Veterinary Diagnostic Lab since 2010.

The American Forage and Grassland Council recognized **Krista Lea**, research analyst in the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, with the 2019 Early Career Award. This award is presented to an individual who has made significant contributions to the forage and grassland industry as a relatively new member of the field.

Esther Fleming was awarded the Excellence in Advising Award for Region 3 of the National Academic Advising Association (The Global Community for Academic Advising). Fleming was recognized by the UK Advising Network last academic year as the recipient of the 2018 Ken Freedman Outstanding Professional Advisor Award. She serves as the academic coordinator for the Agricultural and Medical Biotechnology program.



The **Forestry and Natural Resources Cooperative Extension** team recently won the Comprehensive Family Forests Education Award presented by the National Woodland Owners Association and the National Association of University Forest Resources Programs. UK Forestry and Natural Resources Extension team (l-r) Chad Niman, Jeff Stringer, Matthew Springer, Briana Fortunato, Bobby Ammerman, Billy Thomas, Renee Williams, Laurie Taylor Thomas, Eric Gracey, Ellen Crocker and Terry Connors.

Staff Council

The CAFE Staff Council collected enough food to fill 25 Thanksgiving baskets for needy families in November. In December, they coordinated gift giving for 20 percent of the UK Circle of Love recipients. Click [here](#) to learn more about the staff council.

Spotlight

Antomia Farrell

CAFE Interim Director of Diversity

HR Specialist, Cooperative Extension Service



We asked Mia to share a little about her passions, her career path and what led her to us.

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

I am a native of Louisville. I have a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics from UK, a master's degree in human development leadership from Murray State University. I am currently a doctoral candidate at Murray State University in P-20 and Community Leadership and will defend my dissertation in May: "*An Analysis of Academic Achievement and Student Engagement of Underrepresented Students in CAFE.*" What led me to the roles that I am in has been my passion and experiences that I have been blessed with through the years. I have a passion for educating and

bringing forth awareness about diversity, equity and inclusion. As a leader, I want faculty, students and staff to cultivate each other's differences, while also celebrating our similarities and differences. It is important that faculty, staff and students in our college feel valued where they foster a sense of belonging. As a leader, you must be humble, authentic and a servant. One piece of advice I would give to anyone is to continue to have a strong work ethic, positive attitude, build positive relationships and the rewards will follow.

What is your favorite thing about working in CAFE?

I have been a part of CAFE for 13 years, counting the years as an Agricultural Economics undergraduate student. When I think about the college, the first word that comes to my mind is family because you all have been my family away from home for more than 13 years. Secondly, our college extends to every county in the commonwealth allowing us to impact the lives of many residents.

What is one thing about yourself that might surprise people?

Although I was born and raised in Louisville, around Cardinal fans, contrary to popular belief, I am a diehard UK basketball and football fan.

Calendar of Events

February 5

[Chinese New Year](#)

February 8-18

[Relationship Checkup](#)

February 12

Lincoln's Birthday

February 13-16

[Farm Machinery Show](#)

February 14

Valentine's Day

February 18

President's Day

February 19

[Engineering, Computer Science, STEM Career Fair](#)

February 20

[Spring Internship & Career Fair](#)

February 21

[Alfalfa and Stored Forage Conference](#)

February 22

Washington's Birthday

[Last Day to Change a Major](#)

February 23

[Small Ruminant Grazing Conference](#)

February 28

[Last Day to Apply for an August Degree](#)

March 5

Mardi Gras

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