



# College of Agriculture, Food and Environment



**JUNE**

*Monthly College Newsletter*

## Message from the Dean

### **Extension audit and review updates**

Provided with assistance from Gary Palmer and Tim West

I want to share a brief update on the audit of Cooperative Extension conducted by UK's Internal Audit Division, and the ongoing review of Cooperative Extension commissioned by Provost Tim Tracy. The audit pointed out that processes were not sufficient to ensure full financial accountability. It is important to note that the audit had nothing to do with performance of programs. I and the college administrators continue to support and promote the great programming our agents, specialists and other experts conduct throughout Kentucky.



Internal audit delivered its final report to the UK Board of Trustees in May 2017. Speaking broadly, the audit demonstrates that the college must make a greater investment in financial administration to ensure that county agents, support staff and district directors are in a position to be successful in their very important work. Fiscal oversight, in particular, is an area where the audit identified the need for additional resources. The college has responded fully to the audit and

shared that response with the UK Board of Trustees audit committee. In response to the need for greater attention on fiscal oversight, Chris Shotwell was named extension director of financial operations and tasked with building a financial team to assume responsibility for fiscal management within CES. This team will provide dedicated financial expertise to CES to enhance business procedures training, increase accountability throughout the organization and provide more strategic management of CES financial assets. The team will ensure that fiscal responsibility underpins all aspects of CES operations.

As the audit process draws to a close, the review of CES is also concluding. The five subcommittee chairs convened in Lexington May 19 to share the results of their work and to begin crafting recommendations regarding organization structure, programming, communication, marketing/external relations and fiscal oversight. The committee anticipates having final recommendations to present to the administrative team by the end of June. As these recommendations take their final form, a series of listening sessions this summer will allow university and college leadership to present the recommendations, gather feedback and to respond to questions or concerns.

To understand further context for this discussion, recall that a recurring \$2.6 million budget cut was made by the university to the field programs budget for the current fiscal year. College leadership has been committed to managing this cut without a reduction in force. However, state funds for agent hires are reduced by the cut, such that filling positions has slowed. The final Extension Review Committee report will consider the budget cut and the audit report in view of maintaining and enhancing Kentucky Cooperative Extension.

The College of Agriculture, Food and Environment is committed to helping Extension become more fiscally responsible and sustainable to better serve Kentucky citizens for years to come. It is my belief that without a strong foundation of financial accountability, we can't be our very best. So we hope to provide a better platform to promote the strong tradition of creativity and service that is the hallmark of Kentucky Cooperative Extension. Please be prepared to provide feedback as we all try to make a great system better.

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## Ag North fire Q&A session

On Wednesday, May 31, there was a small fire on the top floor of Ag North that was quickly extinguished but resulted in water damage to offices on several floors. The fire marshal and an employee from Environmental Health and Safety will be providing a question and answer session on the recent fire and asbestos mitigation. The session will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday June 7, in Cameron Williams Auditorium in the Plant Science Building. Please place this opportunity on your calendars.

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## News



## What's bugging you?

Media outlets had their audiences feeling a bit itchy in May. Stories on ticks and mosquitoes have been getting a lot of interest. So too have spiders, bagworms, cicadas and armyworms. Fortunately for Kentucky and beyond, we have the experts to help keep these pests away from us, our pets, yards and fields. Here's a [link](#) to one of many media outlets that featured one of our experts - entomologist Lee Townsend.

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## New faces in the college's research office

Tom Hanna brings more than 26 years of UK experience to his role as assistant director of the Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station. He will provide financial oversight and account management of internal funding programs, award competitions and programs. He will also assist with annual and periodic reporting of research productivity and accomplishments. As administrative support associate, Cathy Bowers is responsible for office communications, scheduling, event planning and coordination, correspondence. She is also a liaison for college units and the business center, among other duties, to ensure service and responsiveness to the college. Bowers previously worked in the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences. Please join us in welcoming Tom and Cathy to the Research Office.

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## Seeing the forest amongst the concrete

The Urban Forest Initiative is a working group of UK's Tracy Farmer Institute for Sustainability and the Environment, whose mission is to advocate for and elevate the function, value and perception of urban forests in the Bluegrass Region. The initiative's founding members are Mary Arthur and Lynne Rieske-Kinney, professors of forest ecology and forest entomology.

Thanks to the hard work and creative efforts of these two professors, the initiative is putting down solid roots.

[read more...](#)



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## Congratulations!

- Assistant professor Roger M. Brown was chosen by his University Senate peers as the recipient of UK's 2017 Outstanding Senator Award. Brown teaches agricultural marketing, technical communication and resource economics in the college and serves as the Department of Agricultural Economics director of undergraduate studies.
- Professor Ole Wendroth, plant and soil sciences department, is the recipient of a University Research Professorship Award, honoring faculty who have demonstrated excellence in scholarship and creative work that addresses scientific, social, cultural and economic challenges in our region and around the world.

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## Spotlight

### Steve Workman

Associate Dean for Administration



We sat down with Steve, who works closely with the Dean on facilities and college operations, to learn a little more about his passions, his career path and what led him to us.

#### **Tell us about your background and what led you to your current role at UK?**

I came up through the faculty ranks in the UK Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering after five years with the Soil Drainage Research Unit of U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service in Columbus, Ohio. Two of the more recent associate deans for administration (John Walker and Linus Walton) were agricultural engineers, so it seemed like a good fit after serving as assistant dean for research. I don't think any of my previous roles fully prepared me for my current role. My open door policy

makes me approachable and I think that is useful for this position. I've learned a lot about the college; from a pothole in the Gluck parking lot to the development of our new Master Plan. Every week seems to produce a new wrinkle--and not just to my face.

### Share your favorite thing about working in CAFE?

I couldn't do this job well without a lot of cooperation and teamwork throughout the college. I came to UK in 1995 when financial conditions were more positive. Recent budget times have drawn us all together. I interact with many new staff who breathe a sigh of relief when they start working for the college primarily because they have reached a college where cooperation and teamwork are valued.

### What is one thing about you that might surprise people?

I enjoy a community folk dance called contra dance. I spend many weekends at a contra dance locally or wherever my travels may take me. With roots in Appalachian folk dance and early agricultural gatherings, it seems like a natural fit to the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. It is no wonder that there are usually additional faculty, staff and students from the college at the local dance. I hope to dance in every state.

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## Calendar of Events

**June 5 - Sept 25**

[KY Horse Park Run/Walk Club](#)

**June 8**

[UK Equine Farm and Facilities Expo](#)

**June 9 - 10 & June 18**

[Hilary J. Boone Center Pre-Concert Buffet](#)

[Dinner for Grand Night](#)

**June 12-15**

[4-H Teen Conference](#)

**June 17 - 18**

[Honey Bee Beekeeping Workshop](#)

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