



Message from the Dean



Having just celebrated the Labor Day holiday and with the Kentucky State Fair in the books for another year, I am reminded of the vast work that this college does to support the state fair. I am grateful to the many folks who work so hard at all levels to continue the fair traditions many of us remember from our own childhoods. To our college, the fair is a celebration of all that the land-grant college does, and it is most of all a celebration of youth.

Extension agents from all program areas are unsung heroes preparing our youth to participate in many activities at the fair. Then it is all hands on deck getting the 4-H exhibits checked in at Cloverville as well as helping with daily activities that run in this area and other locations throughout the fair. The new Cloverville is a cornerstone of the new AgLand area.

AgLand itself is a joint effort of many commodity groups, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Kentucky Farm Bureau, FFA, the two land-grant universities, Kentucky State and UK, and the Kentucky State Fair Board. This new exhibit showcased agriculture, families, community, economic development and related programs in a modern, spacious venue and was staffed by all the agriculture and agribusiness community. It was a quantum leap forward in telling the story of agriculture.

Thanks to many folks from all parts of the college for working our booth. With a new location this year in the improved AgLand area, we needed more people than ever before. Additionally, groups from campus as well as from locations around the state showcased some of the exciting opportunities and work taking place here. We were very glad to have Family and Consumer Sciences finally included in this area. I won't share who was afraid of our snake or diagnostic lab exhibits, but you know who you are!

The livestock show is a cornerstone of the state fair, and without agents, the show couldn't run. Walk through the livestock area at the fairgrounds, and you see that the fair is powered by the dedication of the extension agents, specialists and others working the show rings, teaching and advising youth and jumping in wherever they are needed to ensure everything runs smoothly.

Overall, about 1,500 staff and volunteers representing the college worked throughout the 11-day run contributing 20,000 hours. This is no small endeavor for the college, with a cost of more than \$650,000. And that is only during the fair; it doesn't represent the year-long set of activities that leads up to the fair. After all, what better group than folks from the land grant university to provide leadership and service at an event that highlights this state's great heritage of youth development, agriculture, families and community?

I am grateful for the hard work and dedication of those who played such important roles in making this year's fair a success. For many of our extension family, this is a very busy time, but for many it is also a labor of love. Service really is in our DNA.

News



Staff Appreciation Day

Mark your calendar and plan to join your colleagues for the 20th College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Staff Appreciation Day, Wednesday, Sept. 26, under the Roundup tents at the E.S. Good Barn.

Activities begin at 9:30 a.m. and meal lines open at 11:30 a.m. Outstanding staff awards will be announced following the meal. Comedian Carl Hurley will provide entertainment.

Christine Tarne, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, is the new chair of the CAFE Staff Council. Departments and units select individuals for three-year terms on the CAFE Staff Council to provide representation for all college and Cooperative Extension staff. They inform administrators about policy matters and other issues affecting staff. In addition, the council provides a way to inform staff about various campus issues, university developments and higher education needs.



CAFE Staff Council supports several annual and ongoing community initiatives. For a full list of council members and activities and initiatives, click [here](#).

Awards/honors

- The Community and Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky was awarded the 2018 Distinguished Extension/Outreach Program Award at the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association's recent annual meeting in Washington, D.C.
- The Department of Agricultural Economics' Academic Bowl team recently earned their third national championship in as many years. UK team members are Erica Rogers, Josey Moore, Zoe Gabrielson, Abby Clas, Alex Cochran, Paige Mattingly and Beth Osbourne. UK graduate student Will Fox coached the team and UK agricultural economics professor Leigh Maynard was the team advisor.
- Faculty in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences recently brought home several national awards including:

American Society of Animal Science

- Kyle McLeod, recipient of Growth and Development Award
- Suman Surendranath, recipient of Meats Research National Award
- Darrh Bullock named Fellow in the Extension Category
- Richard Coffey named Fellow in the Administration Category

Southern Branch American Dairy Science Association

- Donna Amaral-Phillips, recipient of Award of Honor

In the News

- Will Snell, Department of Agricultural Economics, was recently quoted in the Washington Post article [Congress is about to legalize cannabis. Just not the kind that gets you high.](#)
- Lisa Vaillancourt, Department of Plant Pathology, was mentioned in multiple publications including Seed World for her recent \$1.25 million grant to study corn anthracnose. [Kentucky Researcher Receives Grant to Study Corn Anthracnose.](#)
- Jimmy Henning and Krista Lea, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, were mentioned in multiple outlets for their collaboration with a Kentucky horse farm. [Horse Farm Sees Success from Pasture Renovations.](#)

- A new study underway by Jian Shi, Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering, Seth DeBolt, Department of Horticulture, and Yang-Tse Cheng, UK College of Engineering, has been highlighted in several media outlets. [Can peach pits, walnut shells power your cell phone?](#)
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Spotlight

Orlando Chambers

Assistant Director for Administration



We asked Orlando 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 role at UK?

My undergraduate degrees were in math and economics from Berea College. I started at the University of Kentucky as a graduate student in 1986 and received both my master's and doctorate in agricultural economics. Following my education, I worked at the Kentucky Tobacco Research and Development Center for 22 years; the last seven as the director. Working with great teams of people and finding ways to do interesting things is what led me to my current role.

What is your favorite thing about working in CAFE?

The people I am privileged to work with and the wide range of projects that I get to be involved with are my favorite things about working in CAFE. I have made great friendships over the years and am always impressed to learn about all the various projects and programs here in the college. For instance, I have driven past the beef research unit at the C. Oran Little Research Center numerous times, but recently was able to tour that facility and hear about some of their research. It was great. This same thing happens with every new person I meet and program I learn about. During the first week in my new role, I dealt with a whole range of issues from ants and spiders in offices to discussions of long-range infrastructure planning for the college and I heard a lot of frustrations and concerns regarding parking. Every day is something new.

What is one thing about yourself that might surprise people?

My original ambition in life was to be a high school math teacher and basketball coach. I don't think Coach Calipari has anything to worry about.

Calendar of Events

September 4, 10, 11
[4-H Forestry Field Days](#)

Helpful Links

[Giving](#)
[College Weekly for Faculty & Staff](#)
[College Weekly for Students](#)

September 6

[Late Season Field School](#)

September 7

[First Friday](#)

September 12

[Last Day to Drop a Course](#)

[Resume Roundup](#)

September 15

[Small-scale Logging Equipment](#)

[Demonstration](#)

September 17-22

[Mountain Ag Week and Field Day, RCARS](#)

September 18

[Campus Community Emergency](#)

[Response Team \(C-Cert\) Training](#)

September 19

[Ag Career Fair](#)

September 20

[UK Beef Bash](#)

September 23

[Last Day to Change a Major](#)

September 25-26

[Grazing School](#)

September 26

[Staff Appreciation Day](#)

[Business and All Majors Career Fair](#)

September 29

[UK Roundup](#)

October 3

[Fragipan Field Day](#)

[The Ag Magazine](#)

[The Ambassador](#)

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We've got Maple Fever! Click the image above to read about the maple syrup industry in Kentucky, as well as a myriad of other exciting things happening within the college, in the latest issue of The Ag Magazine.

