

APRIL

COLLEGE MONTHLY



The Kentucky General Assembly adjourned the 2021 Regular Session last week, having approved several signature bills, including the state budget, distribution of a portion of federal relief funds, investment in broadband infrastructure, and a few key priorities for the college.

The state budget included a general fund increase to the university that will be distributed through the state's performance funding formula. The budget also maintained level funding for the college's mandated programs for the next fiscal year. These include the Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Experiment

Station, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, Regulatory Services and Kentucky Small Business Development Center. It also included authorization for several capital projects, including the construction of a federal Agricultural Research Service laboratory on campus and on the college's farm in Woodford County.

Two of the college's priority bills received overwhelming support and will advance our teaching, research and extension programs across the commonwealth. Senate Bill 68, sponsored by Sen. John Schickel, allows the James B. Beam Institute for Kentucky Spirits to operate its forthcoming still for teaching and research programs. We appreciate the support of the Kentucky Distiller's Association and Beam Suntory on this bill.

The second, House Bill 209, sponsored by Rep. Jonathan Dixon, expands opportunities for charitable game meat donation to encompass Cooperative Extension for purposes of education and demonstration programs. We appreciate the leadership and support of Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles on this legislation.

The support from these groups represents meaningful partnerships for the college. Our success during the legislative session speaks to the broad support of our elected officials and stakeholders who share in the promise of our land-grant mission. Over the next several months, we'll continue working with our state leaders in preparation for the 2022 legislative session and other partnership opportunities.

New Assistant Dean for Advising



Sarah Ellison began her position as CAFE assistant dean of advising on March 1. Ellison comes to the college from California State University, San Bernardino, where she served as the advising center manager for the College of Arts and Letters. She holds a bachelor's in organizational management, a master's in career counseling, and she is finishing her doctorate in higher education leadership and management. This is a newly created, joint position with UK Student and Academic Life. Her office is in Ag North.

Unconscious Bias training

UK Inclusive Excellence and Diversity in Education has recently launched a revised three-part training for unconscious bias. All three parts of the revised initiative are offered every second and fourth week of the month. Sessions must be taken sequentially, but attendance can be spread out over the course of a month or semester. Sessions are currently scheduled through May. Attendance is capped at 50 people per session. Interested faculty and staff can register for a session through myUK Learning. You can view the [FAQ page](#) to learn more.

A revised two-part unconscious bias series for graduate students is also available. Details and registration links can be [found here](#).

Staff Professional Development Fund

The College of Agriculture, Food and Environment is committed to providing staff with the resources they need to be successful in their role. The [Staff Professional Development Fund](#) is one way in which we strive to help ensure staff success. The fund is available to staff to build on existing skills or to acquire new skills related to their role. The application process is quick and easy. Access additional information and the application [here](#).

UK students, staff rally around Eastern Kentucky ice/flood victims

University of Kentucky students and staff stepped up when they recognized the need to help their fellow Kentuckians who are victims of the recent Eastern Kentucky floods and ice storms. Extension agents in the area coordinated donations for families and farms. Donations were distributed through local offices in conjunction with emergency management. Over \$40,000 in donations have been collected and distributed. Extension staff moved equipment and records for local governments and retirement homes, coordinated deliveries for farm supplies, answered phones and provided support wherever needed. UK faculty, staff and members of the greater Lexington community brought more than \$3,000 in donated supplies to UK Agricultural Communications Services' Agriculture Distribution Center, and volunteers delivered them to the area.

Additionally, 19 CAFE students from the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity spent two days helping businesses and individuals clear away flood damage in Beattyville and Manchester.



One Day for UK



On April 21, UK will host its third One Day for UK, where alumni, friends, and fans can support their favorite college, cause or area during 24-hours of giving. It is a day to celebrate the University of Kentucky's achievements and ensure the university's future success. The College of Agriculture, Food and Environment will feature the General Undergraduate Scholarship Fund, but participants are encouraged to give wherever they are called. One for Day UK has helped raise more than \$80,000 for funds across the college, including these flexible scholarship dollars that have been used to immediately assist in lessening the financial burden on our students.

New this year, the university will also feature the Arboretum Development Fund. A staple of the Lexington community, the Arboretum has served as a place for education, research and conservation for years. The Arboretum Development Fund helps provide necessary dollars to ensure the Arboretum has the resources to serve its mission. We hope all faculty, staff and friends will help spread the word about this exciting day of giving. One Day for UK is a digitally driven event, so make sure you are following along on the college, university and Arboretum social media platforms. Follow along for day-of challenges and share what you love about UK.

In the news

[UK researcher Wei Ren to study climate-smart-agriculture practices along the Mississippi River basin with prestigious NSF award](#)

[UK students share nutritious food with peers, community](#)

[Bourbon Industry Conference explores diversity, equity and inclusion in the spirits' sector](#)

[Spring calves bring rush of management duties for producers](#)

[Billions of cicadas will return to Kentucky in late spring](#)

Spotlight

Carrie Knott

UKREC Managing Director and Grain Crops Extension Agronomist

UK Research and Education Center in Princeton, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences



We asked Carrie 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 role at UK?

I grew up on a very small family farm in Daviess County, where I always enjoyed working outside and helping on the farm. As soon as I found out that "agronomy" was a career path, I was sold!

What is your favorite thing about working in CAFE?

My favorite thing about working in CAFE is the ability to work with and for Kentucky producers and stakeholders. Our producers and stakeholders are some of the most innovative people I have ever met. It is truly a joy and honor to go to work each and every day to be challenged by them and to work with them to solve complex problems that will benefit Kentucky.

What is one thing about yourself that might surprise people?

One thing that may surprise many is that I spent a little more than six years at the beginning of my professional career as an applied researcher specializing in coastal restoration in the Gulf Coast. That experience changed me forever. It provided a much different perspective of environmental stewardship that I think greatly benefits me today.

Calendar of Events

April 6

National Student Athlete Day

Helpful Links

[Giving](#)

[College Weekly for Faculty & Staff](#)

[College Weekly for Students](#)

April 7
World Health Day

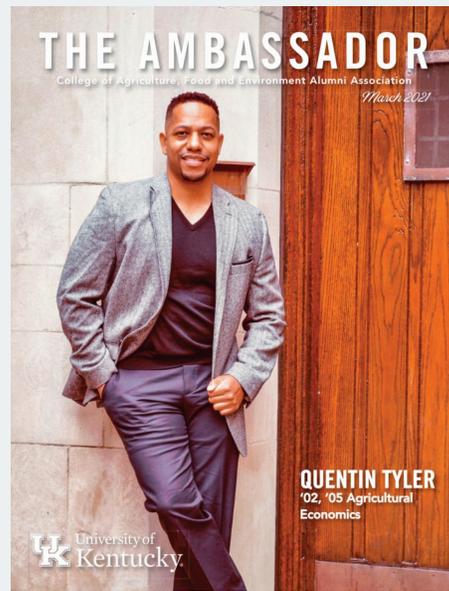
[The Ambassador](#)
[Contact Us](#)

April 9-15
National 4-H Conference

April 12-20
UK 4-H & FFA Field Days

April 21
One Day for UK

April 22
Earth Day



[Read The Ambassador](#)

