

AUGUST

COLLEGE MONTHLY



Kentucky is internationally known for equine, bourbon, KFC and basketball. We know that because of numerous anecdotes from Kentuckians who travel the world and have conversations about the Commonwealth.

We serve two of those signature industries in our college. In 2005, we stepped up our services for the state's \$3 billion equine industry establishing the Equine Initiative, now UKAg Equine Programs. About 10 years later, we similarly increased our services for the \$8.6 billion bourbon industry, first with the establishment of our distillation, wine and brewing studies certificate and more

recently with the formation of the James B. Beam Institute for Kentucky Spirits.

Of course, we serve many other industries and commodities with the same level of dedication. For example, we have a strong commitment to beef cattle, where Kentucky ranks first in cow-calf numbers east of the Mississippi River and poultry, where we are seventh nationally in broiler production. These industries are critical to the state's ag economy, each annually contributing between \$800 million to \$1 billion.

Tobacco was once a trademark crop for our state, contributing upward of \$1 billion in farm gate value to the economy. In the years ahead, it will be interesting to see what other signature agricultural industry makes headlines along with equine and bourbon.

Hemp looked promising. We are leaders in research in this area, but the industry is still evolving and has not found a foothold.

Controlled greenhouse production looks like another candidate, with AppHarvest investing in so many facilities, as well as Fresh Harvest and ColorPoint. This story is being written now.

As a land-grant university, we help all these industries with technical information, research and extension. We also help them educate their workforce. We continually look for opportunities to expand our work in collaboration with existing and emerging industries.

Our sense of service—that commitment to advancing Kentucky—is as strong today as it has ever been. We can and will bring the University of Kentucky into the commonwealth it serves. So, what will emerge as our next signature industry?

Dean Nancy Cox

Employee Survey

The College of Agriculture, Food and Environment surveyed faculty and staff to assess perceptions of effectiveness and well-being in March 2021 as compared to the end of 2019, and to identify potential ideas for helping people. Survey results indicate that although there are common themes of specific challenges and improvements found over the past year, individual experiences and perceptions vary widely. This makes the development of simple solutions common across all employees challenging.

In general, college employees report similar levels of individual and team effectiveness as compared to the end of 2019, lower levels of sense of community and well-being, along with impacts from communication and internet issues. Anxiety and stress were reported at higher levels compared to 2019. Open text responses showed perceptions of improved effectiveness from greater access to technological resources/training and more distraction-free working time, while also noting the need for equitable structures and clear communication of expectations.

The college may deploy the survey again to determine how perceptions across these themes are stable or change over time and in context of the UK@Work survey and/or similar efforts. Results from this survey can be found [here](#).

Research Office Transition

Congratulations to Associate Dean for Research Robert Houtz on his retirement. Bob officially retired on Monday. He began his UK career as an assistant professor in 1985. We would like to thank him for his distinguished career in the college including being a leading scientist and successful department chair prior to serving three years as associate dean.

Jamie Matthews, assistant dean for research, and Lesley Oliver, associate experiment station director, are providing leadership during the transition. They are also reviewing the office functions and capabilities prior to this important position being filled.

Dr. Lisa P. Collins Outstanding Staff Awards Nomination Period Now Open

Nominations for the 2021 Dr. Lisa P. Collins Outstanding Staff Awards may be submitted now through Sept. 6, using [this form](#). Recipients will be announced at the 2021 CAFE Staff Appreciation Day on October 1 and will receive an engraved plaque and \$500. More information about the awards and past recipients is available on the [award website](#). Questions may be directed to Megan Lucy at Megan.Lucy@uky.edu.



4TH ANNUAL
INTERCULTURAL AWARENESS DAY

Urban & Rural Sustainability
within the Local Food System

LEARN TOGETHER, GROW TOGETHER

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1

8:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

E.S. GOOD BARN

DIVERSITY.CA.UKY.EDU

 College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

Extension Diversity Training Requests

The Office of Diversity is happy to support the Cooperative Extension Service with any diversity, equity and inclusion training need. To request a training, complete a request form. Submissions should be received at least 30 days before the training date. The request form can also be found on the Office of Diversity homepage at diversity.ca.uky.edu.

LGBTQ Scholarship

Thanks to donations, CAFE has launched the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Fund—the first scholarship of its kind in the Southeastern Conference. This fund was created with the intention of diversifying Kentucky agricultural and environmental industries. Those wishing to support this newly created scholarship may do so via the University of Kentucky's Network for Good website



Jean and Gene Cravens on a Habitat for Humanity build.

Cravens land-grant service professorship

Long-time supporters of the UK College of Agriculture Food and Environment, Gene and Jean Cravens are establishing a distinguished professorship in the college. The Cravens are donating commercial real estate and cash to fund the Gene and Jean Cravens Distinguished Professorship in Land-Grant Service. Funds generated by the Cravens Family Distinguished Professorship will allow the vice president of land-grant engagement to support innovative initiatives related to community support throughout Kentucky.

Faculty promotions

Congratulations to the following faculty members:

- Sunday Adedokun, promoted to associate professor with tenure, Department of Animal and Food Sciences
- Dawn Brewer, promoted to associate professor with tenure, Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition
- Roger Brown, promoted to associate professor with tenure, Department of Agricultural

Economics

- Elizabeth Combs, promoted to senior lecturer, Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition
- Jeffrey Lehmkuhler, promoted to professor, Department of Animal and Food Sciences
- David McNear, promoted to professor, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences
- Martin Nielsen, promoted to professor, Department of Veterinary Science
- Wei Ren, promoted to associate professor with tenure, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences
- Karen Rignall, promoted to associate professor with tenure, Department of Community and Leadership Development
- Jian Shi, promoted to associate professor with tenure, Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering
- Jill Stowe, promoted to professor, Department of Agricultural Economics
- Nicholas Teets, promoted to associate professor with tenure, Department of Entomology
- Paul Priyesh Vijayakumar, promoted to associate professor with tenure, Department of Animal and Food Sciences
- Jennifer White, promoted to professor, Department of Entomology
- Jian Yang, promoted to associate professor with tenure, Department of Forestry and Natural Resources

Awards/Honors

Jonathan Furnish, CAFE associate director of alumni engagement and communications, has been appointed to a one-year term on the board of directors for the National Agricultural Alumni and Development Association. Furnish will serve as the communications and marketing chair and be responsible for providing guidance on marketing initiatives and materials used to promote the organization to various stakeholders including current members, prospective members and sponsors.

The organization provides education and support for professionals, volunteers and student leaders who are dedicated to serving land-grant colleges of agricultural sciences and related programs.

The following faculty were recognized at the Equine Science Society's 2021 Virtual Symposium:

- Distinguished Service Award – **Craig Wood**, assistant director of agriculture and natural resources extension. The award recognizes outstanding contributions to equine science and is the most prestigious honor that ESS bestows.
- 2020 ESS -ASAS Award – **Bob Coleman**, extension horse specialist, Department of Animal and Food Sciences. This award recognizes outstanding achievement in extension, research, teaching or agribusiness.
- 2021 ESS-ASAS Award – **Kristine Urschel**, associate professor, Department of Animal and Food Sciences. This award recognizes outstanding achievement in extension, research, teaching or agribusiness.

From the Woods Kentucky, a Department of Forestry and Natural Resources podcast, received the 2021 gold award for podcast/radio from the Association of Natural Resources Extension Professionals. The weekly program contains information about woodlands and wildlife. The podcasts are available through iTunes, Libsyn or online at <http://www.FromtheWoodsKy.org>. Forestry department members involved in the production include Bobby Ammerman, Chad Niman, Ellen Crocker, Laura Lhotka, Laurie Thomas,

New Extension faculty in College of Design



Jeff Fugate has been appointed associate professor of Extension in the College of Design's Urban & Environmental Design Program. A city planner and urban designer, Fugate has a two-decade career in community and economic development in both urban and rural settings. As president of the Lexington Downtown Development Authority, he successfully funded and implemented multiple public space projects, garnering national media coverage in CityLab, Landscape Architecture Magazine, The Architects Newspaper, Curbed.com, and NextCity.com. Fugate holds degrees from UK and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. This is the second Extension faculty position funded by colleges other than CAFE. Al Cross, professor in the College of Communication and Information, was the first in 2011.

Event Resources

The College of Agriculture, Food and Environment has transitioned event work orders and bus requests to Ag Events. Both reservation processes can be found on the Event Resources page. Bus requests are limited to instructional use, and travel is limited to within 25 miles of the UK main campus. To ensure adequate time for scheduling, both work order requests and bus requests must be submitted 30 days prior to the date of use.

In the news

- Craft Distilleries Aim to make Whiskey an Experience New York Times - Seth DeBolt, Department of Horticulture, James B. Beam Institute for Kentucky Spirits
 - The Japanese Beetles Are Back, New York Times – Daniel Potter, Department of Entomology
 - Survey shows stability in horse ownership statistics, Equus Magazine - Jill Stowe, Department of Agricultural Economics
 - Poison hemlock, wild parsnip flourishing, Farm World - Michelle Arnold, Department of Veterinary Science
 - Grain farmers talk about adapting to new climate normal – Farm Progress – Matt Dixon, Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering, Chad Lee and Carrie Knott, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, Kiersten Wise and Carl Bradley, Department of Plant Pathology, and Ric Bessin and Raul Villanueva, Department of Entomology.
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Spotlight

Kenny Burdine



Associate Extension Professor, Agricultural Economics

We asked Kenny 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?

I started working in the Ag Econ department immediately after completing my bachelor's degree in 1999. I was 21 years old and worked as an extension associate on several grant projects with Lee Meyer. I worked part-time to complete my graduate degrees, taking advantage of UK's Employee Education Program. My extension role evolved over time, and I was able to complete my doctorate in 2011. Shortly

after that, I was fortunate to be offered a faculty position in the department, and I have been in that position since then.

What is your favorite thing about working in CAFE?

No question, it's the people. We are blessed to have outstanding faculty and staff. I have been able to learn a lot from many amazing people, and so many of them have gone out of their way to support and encourage me as I developed an extension program.

What is one thing about yourself that might surprise people?

Outside of work, I really enjoy spending time outdoors. Hiking is probably my favorite recreational activity, but I also enjoy strength training. I am also a huge sports fan – UK athletics, especially football, as well as the Cincinnati Reds and Bengals.

Calendar of Events

August 19-22

K Week

August 19-29

Kentucky State Fair

August 21

National Honey Bee Day

August 23

First Day of Classes

August 27

Last Day to Add a Class

Helpful Links

[Giving](#)

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THE AMBASSADOR

College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Alumni Association

July 2021



University of
Kentucky

TOM HAMMOND
'67, '18 Animal Sciences

[Read The Ambassador](#)

