



The First Class

This past fall, UK's College of Agriculture welcomed the inaugural class to its new undergraduate degree program in equine science and management.

QUICK FACTS:

- 46 students enrolled this first year
- Approximately 65 percent are from out-of-state
- Female-to-male ratio is 21 to 2

Students came from as far away as California. They have experience ranging from hunter/jumper events to breed-specific horse shows to the racing industry, said Bob Coleman, the program's director.

"I came to UK for horses," said Audrey Jarrett, an equine student from Belfast, Maine.

Said Jarrett:

"I had always known Kentucky as the 'horse capital of the world.' Why would I want to be anywhere else?"

THE PROGRAM was created as part of the University's Equine Initiative, which began in May 2005.

It offers two separate tracks, which students will take as independent study coursework until final University approval occurs. **THE EQUINE SCIENCE TRACK** focuses on the biological sciences and day-to-day activities of horses. **THE EQUINE MANAGEMENT TRACK** focuses on the business, economics, and marketing aspects of the equine industry.

"The classes are fun, interesting, and help me not just with my degree but also my horses at home," said Mackenzie Brewer, an equine freshman from Wolfe County.

A new teaching pavilion has been built at UK's Maine Chance Equine Campus north of Lexington (at Maine Chance Farm) to serve the students. Plans are under way for further expansion of facilities on the farm for research as well as teaching.