

**Block and Bridle Club
University of Kentucky
208 W. P. Garrigus Building
Lexington, KY 40546-0215**



September 1, 2009

Fellow Block and Bridle Club Members:

On behalf of the University of Kentucky Block and Bridle Club, we would like to invite you to attend the **90th National Block and Bridle Convention** to be held **November 12-14, 2009** in **Louisville**, the largest city in **Kentucky**. We have been working hard to plan a convention that has something for everyone, and we hope you'll come and see that, in the Bluegrass State, it's all about *raising 'em strong, running 'em fast*.

The 90th National Convention will be held in conjunction with the **North American International Livestock Exposition** (NAILE). Located at the **Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center**, NAILE is the world's largest all-breed, purebred livestock show. Ten different species of livestock compete in the exposition, and the purebred beef and sheep events are the largest in the world. Accompanying the event, the **North American Championship Rodeo** features the invitational finals for the Pro Rodeo Cowboy's Association (PRCA). The **Giant Country Store**, with its 150 commercial vendors, provides NAILE visitors a place to shop for everything from jewelry to farm supplies. The food's not too bad, either!

While many of our events will take place at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center, we will be headquartered at the newly renovated **Galt House Hotel**, which is located on the riverfront in the heart of downtown Louisville. The Galt House is a name long associated with southern hospitality. **Fourth Street LIVE** is just minutes away and with its fun shops, various dining and entertainment options, the **Louisville Slugger Museum** and the **Muhammad Ali Center**, you'll never be lacking for things to do during your free time.

The 90th National Convention will kick off on Thursday night at the Galt House with an entertaining, yet thought-provoking, program followed by a fiesta-style reception, that's sure to evoke memories of last year's great convention in San Antonio. On Friday, attendees will enjoy day-long tours to various locations around the Commonwealth, including **Churchill Downs**, **Keeneland Race Course**, **The Thoroughbred Center**, **Alltech Biotechnology**, and **Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital**, just to name a few. Also, most of the tours will feature stops that are located along Kentucky's famous **Bourbon Trail**. And, even though you may associate wine country with California, some of you will learn that Kentucky has a wine country of its own. Along the tour routes, you'll be able to see horses grazing on the rolling pastures of the Bluegrass. Horsepower of a different kind will be highlighted in a tour of the "**Home of the Corvette**." And, don't worry, beef, dairy and sheep enthusiasts won't be left out.

We are also excited about the participants we have lined up for Saturday morning's professional program at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center. They represent the best and brightest of Kentucky's sons and daughters, and include **Mr. Warren Beeler**, Director of the Division of Value-Added Animal and Aquaculture Production for the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Frankfort, **Dr. Karl Dawson**, Director of Worldwide Research for Alltech Biotechnology, Nicholasville, **Dr. Jennifer L. Garrett**, President of JG Consulting Services, Dowling, Michigan, **Dr. Barb Glenn**,



Managing Director of Animal Biotechnology in the Food and Agriculture Section of the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO), Washington, D.C., **Dr. Pearse Lyons**, founder and President of Alltech, and **Dr. John Stika**, President of Certified Angus Beef, LLC (CAB), Wooster, Ohio. Each of these nationally-recognized individuals are great speakers. They all share our passion for animal agriculture and are guaranteed to make you think about the future of the industry—and the surprising role you might play in that future. There will be plenty of time for questions before the program concludes.

If you're looking for some fun, don't worry. We have made time for entertainment throughout the 90th National Convention. During Thursday night's dance at the Galt House, we'll find out which chapter has the best dancers in **"Shakin' it up in the Bluegrass."** On Friday night, we'll attend the **North American Championship Rodeo**. This will be followed by a dance at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center. On Saturday, some of you may choose to test your handicapping skills on the optional trip to **Churchill Downs** for an afternoon of Thoroughbred racing. You may choose to stay at the **North American** to watch the beef and sheep junior shows, attend the draft horse, mule and donkey shows, or just shop at the **Giant Country Store**. Some of you may even prefer to go back downtown and take in the sights and sounds of **Fourth Street Live**. Discounts are available to convention attendees for many of the Fourth Street activities. The 90th National Convention will end on Saturday night with the **Awards Banquet** followed by a dance featuring the music of **Bordertown**. Whatever your interest, we're sure there will be something entertaining for you at the 90th National Convention. The two and a half days you are in Kentucky will be jam-packed with fun and educational activities.

Enclosed is specific information about the 90th National Convention, including **Registration Form** and **Dance Contest Entry Sheet, Hotel Information, Tour Descriptions, Schedule of Events,** and a **Promotional Brochure about NAILE**. The cost of registration for the 90th Convention is **\$200** per person. Your registration will include the fiesta-style reception on Thursday night, breakfast, lunch and snacks on Friday and breakfast and the banquet on Saturday, all tour costs, rodeo tickets for Friday night, transportation to and from all events, and a long-sleeved convention t-shirt. The deadline for registration is **October 13, 2009. Remember, National Block and Bridle requires at least one advisor to attend convention and pay a registration fee. Chapters will not be able to pick up registration packets at the convention site unless they are accompanied by an advisor.**

If you have any questions regarding the 90th National Block and Bridle Convention, you may contact **Dr. Debra Aaron** at **(859) 257-7553** or any of the planning committee members listed below. We are excited about the upcoming convention and believe that we have something planned for everyone. So, come to Kentucky and let us show you what southern hospitality is all about.

Sincerely,

Miranda Schack,
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90TH National Block and Bridle Convention

HOTEL INFORMATION

The 90th National Block and Bridle Convention will be headquartered at the Galt House in downtown Louisville. Guest room costs are \$120/night for single/double occupancy and \$135/night for triple/quad occupancy in the RIVUE Tower. You may up-grade your guest room to the SUITE Tower for \$140/night (single/double). When making reservations please say you are with the **Block and Bridle Convention**. **The deadline for the convention rates is October 13, 2009.**

Galt House Hotel

140 N. Fourth Street
Louisville, Kentucky 40202
502-589-5200 or 1-800-THE-GALT
<http://Galthouse.com>



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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|--------------------|--------------------|--|
| November 12 | 3:00 - 7:00 pm | Registration |
| (Thursday) | 7:00 pm | Opening Session (<i>Dress is business casual.</i>) |
| | 8:30 pm | Fiesta Reception |
| | 9:30 pm - Midnight | "Shakin' it up in the Bluegrass" Dance with DJ Max Meiners |
| | | <i>All Thursday activities are at Galt House.</i> |
| November 13 | 6:00 - 8:30 am | Leave for tours (<i>Dress is casual.</i>) |
| (Friday) | 5:30 pm | Free time at NAILE (<i>supper on your own</i>) |
| | 7:30 pm | North American Championship Rodeo |
| | 10:00 pm | Dance with DJ Max Meiners at Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center |
| | 1:00 am | Return to Galt House |
| | | <i>Shuttles will run from Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center to Galt House starting at conclusion of rodeo until 1:00 am.</i> |
| November 14 | 7:00 am | Leave for Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center |
| (Saturday) | 7:30 am | Kentucky Proud™ Breakfast |
| | 8:30 am | Professional Program (<i>Dress is business casual.</i>) |
| | Noon- 5:00 pm | Free Time (Racing at Churchill Downs, NAILE, downtown Louisville; lunch on your own.) |
| | | <i>Shuttles will take ticket-holding attendees to "the Downs" for an afternoon of racing and back to Galt House. Those who did not purchase tickets may stay at NAILE or return to Galt House to take in shops, dining, and museums on Fourth Street Live. Shuttles will run from fairgrounds to hotel throughout the afternoon, with the last shuttle leaving at 5:00 pm.</i> |
| | 5:00 - 7:00 pm | Group Pictures (Galt House) |
| | 7:30 pm | Awards Banquet at Galt House (<i>Dress is business professional.</i>) |
| | 9:00 pm - Midnight | Dance featuring music of Bordertown (Galt House) |

An Afternoon of Racing CHURCHILL DOWNS

On Saturday afternoon, attendees can go to Churchill Downs to watch the Thoroughbreds run. If you choose to go to “the Downs,” buses will leave Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center at the conclusion of the professional program at noon. Lunch will be on your own. Buses will depart Churchill Downs at 5:00 pm for Galt House. **NOTE: This is an optional activity and tickets (\$15/person) must be purchased at the time attendees register for convention (see Registration Form).** Ticket price includes transportation and admission. A limited number of spaces are available so tickets will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Ticket costs will be returned if all spaces have been reserved prior to receipt of a chapter’s registration.



DRESS CODE

Casual

Includes comfortable, appropriate clothing that excludes plummeting necklines, midriff exposure, and clothing that is too short. Please wear clothes that are representative of the classy students who are members of Block and Bridle. Long pants and closed-toed shoes or boots will be required for tours.

Business Casual

Nicer than jeans but not as nice as business professional clothing. This could include khakis and a nice shirt or sweater and nice shoes or boots.

Business Professional

Implies something you would feel comfortable wearing to a job interview. Men should wear blazers with a tie and women should wear slacks or a skirt. No jeans should be worn to business professional events.

Banquet Attire

Business professional for men and business profession or dresses for women.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Members attending the National Block and Bridle Convention must recognize and take responsibility for conducting themselves as professionals at all times. In doing so, members will follow the dress code, participate in all scheduled Block and Bridle events, including but not limited to the opening session, tours, the speaker/workshop sessions, and the Awards Banquet. Members are expected to arrive on time for all Block and Bridle events. Furthermore, members are expected to maintain a reasonable noise level when socializing and to have the utmost respect for the hotel and its guests at all times. This includes not bringing any outside alcoholic beverages into the hotel and not having alcoholic beverages in public areas (lobby, hallway, elevators, etc.) of the hotel. Members must realize it is truly in their best interests to present themselves positively as they represent not only their college or university but National Block and Bridle and the chapter hosting the event.



TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

Kentucky ... raising 'em strong, running 'em fast. It's all that you imagine it is. Tours for the 90th National Convention will allow you to experience the rolling hills of Bluegrass pastures and miles of freshly manicured landscapes on scenic drives like no others. You'll drive down country roads bordered by piled stone walls and there might still be a little color to the trees.

Choose your tour from the five described below. Be sure to indicate your 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices on the Registration Form.

1. "CENTER OF IT ALL" TOUR

The "**Center of it All**" Tour begins with a light breakfast on the bus. The first stop will be 30 miles east of Louisville in **Shelby County, Kentucky**, the "**American Saddlebred Capital of the World!**" Centrally located, like the hub of a wagon wheel, Shelbyville is the right place to start this tour. Acres and acres of rolling hills, black fences and horses of many breeds dot the surrounding landscape. More than 40 Saddlebred establishments call Shelby County home.

The "saddle horse" has been part of Kentucky's history since the 1760's when Daniel Boone and his brother, Squire, traveled to Kentucky on "*American Horses*," the forerunners of the modern Saddlebred. So, it's only fitting that the first stop on this tour will be at **Undulata**, one of the most famous American Saddlebred farms in the state. This hour and a half stop will allow you to come face-to-face with the American Saddlebred during training, observe its two "man-made" gaits (the slowgait and the rack), see mares and foals up close and take a walk through the barns and breeding facility. You'll also have the opportunity to peruse the 1890's home, which was built by one of the founders of the breed.

The next stop on the "**Center of it All**" Tour will be just down the road in the quaint country town of Finchville, Kentucky. **Finchville Farms** began in 1947 as Robertson's Country Meat, Inc. A lot has changed since the first 25 hams were cured, but one thing has not—Finchville hams are still cured and processed the exact same way as in 1947. Finchville hams are sugar-cured and naturally aged for one year right there on the farm. No nitrates or nitrites are used in the curing process. The ingredients are simple: ham, salt, sugar and pepper. Never tasted real country ham? Don't worry. Before you leave Finchville Farms, you'll have the opportunity to sink your teeth into a Finchville ham prepared by our tour guide, Bill Robertson, Jr., a third generation member of the Finchville family.

Lunch will be prepared and served by the **Shelby County Cattlemen's Association**. After lunch, the "**Center of it All**" Tour will continue to Franklin County where the final stop will be at **Buffalo Trace**, one of the eight distilleries on the famous **Kentucky Bourbon Trail**. Buffalo Trace sits on an ancient buffalo crossing that became a pathway for westward-moving explorers, pioneers and settlers. Buffalo Trace has been producing bourbon for more than 200 years, making it the oldest continuously-operated distillery in the country. It was one of only four distilleries allowed to produce alcohol, for medicinal purposes, during Prohibition. Buffalo Trace is a seven-time winner of "Distillery of the Year." Here you'll get a taste of history, heritage and bourbon balls. The gift shop, filled with handmade Kentucky crafts and unique gift items, will also be open.

2. "BREAKFAST AT THE DOWNS" TOUR

The "**Breakfast at the Downs**" Tour starts off in Louisville with a real southern-style, buffet breakfast at **Churchill Downs**, America's most historic Thoroughbred racetrack and the home of the world's most famous horse race, the **Kentucky Derby**. Churchill Downs was established in 1874 and is the oldest continuously operated racetrack in the U.S. The first Kentucky Derby was held May 1875. The track is a one-mile oval and the facility

covers 166 acres. The grandstand, with its twin Edwardian spires, was built in 1895 and is a National Historic Landmark. The 2009 fall meet runs from late October through late November. After breakfast, you'll get a chance to tour the barns on the backside and catch an early-morning workout on the track. **NOTE: If you'd like to "bet on the ponies," sign up for Saturday's optional afternoon of racing (\$15/person).**

From Louisville, the **"Breakfast at the Downs" Tour** will continue on to Woodford County. In just a little over an hour, you'll be at the **University of Kentucky Animal Research Center** (ARC). The 1,500 acre ARC is a state-of-the-art research facility designed to facilitate and grow swine, beef cattle, sheep, corn, wheat, and soybeans. Special methods for nutrient management and water quality assurance are currently being employed. While at the ARC, you will tour the **Beef Unit**, which is home to a variety of activities that span the spectrum from basic to applied research. The ARC beef cattle herd is used to provide hands-on opportunities for students. You will also tour the 110-acre **Sheep Unit**, which is designed to maximize forage utilization research. The 350-ewe flock consists of Hampshires, Polypays and White Dorpers that are simultaneously used for research and "hands-on" undergraduate and extension activities.

The next stop on the **"Breakfast at the Downs" Tour** will be at **Keeneland Race Course**. This National Historic Landmark is arguably the most picturesque and elegant racetrack in America, just brimming with tradition. Most of the racing scenes in the 2003 movie *Seabiscuit* were shot at Keeneland because its appearance has changed relatively little in the last several decades. Keeneland is uniquely structured in that it is both a Thoroughbred racetrack and an auction company that operates as a non-dividend-paying corporation. All proceeds are used to further the Thoroughbred industry as well as contribute back to the surrounding community. Keeneland has two race meets a year (in April and October), which attract the best Thoroughbreds to its track, but visitors are welcome year-round. On this stop, you'll have the opportunity to learn about the history behind the almost 1,000-acre facility with its 57 barns, check out the proprietary Polytrack surface on the main track, wander the paddock and beautiful grounds, and visit the gift shop.

After a light box lunch, the final stop on the **"Breakfast at the Downs" Tour** will be at **Four Roses**, one of the eight distilleries on the famous **Kentucky Bourbon Trail**. Four Roses distillery is located on the banks of the scenic Salt River near Lawrenceburg, Kentucky and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Spanish Mission style architecture will be your first hint of the unique and mellow experience of Four Roses. At this stop you'll learn about the bourbon-making process from one of their distillery experts. You'll also have a chance to visit the Four Roses Gift Shop.

3. **"HEART OF THE BLUEGRASS" TOUR**

The **"Heart of the Bluegrass" Tour** begins with a light breakfast on the bus as you travel to Hubble, Kentucky. **Akers Farm, LLC**, is owned by Hal Akers, a graduate of the University of Kentucky with a major in Animal Sciences, and his parents, Harold and Toni Akers. Akers Farm originally started as a commercial beef operation. In 2000, they shifted from commercial to purebred and Angus cattle were procured from two sources: Thomas Ranch of Baker, Oregon and Ohlde Ranch of Palmer, Kansas. Currently, 600 Angus cows calve in either a fall or spring calving program. Embryo transfer is utilized extensively and all embryo transfer work is conducted on the farm by the resident veterinarian, Dr. Stan Carnes, a graduate of Auburn University School of Veterinary Medicine. Cattle are managed exclusively on forage using rotational grazing through much of the growing season. During the winter season, cows receive hay/baleage and weaned calves and yearling cattle are fed specific corn silage rations. Akers Farm hosts an annual spring sale that typically offers yearling bulls, yearling heifers, bred cows and cow/calf pairs. Akers Farm has devoted great effort to developing cattle working facilities whereby a minimum of personnel can pen, sort and process cattle with minimal stress to cattle and personnel.

From Hubble, you'll travel up the road to Nicholasville to visit the headquarters of **Alltech Biotechnology**. Founded by Dr. Pearse Lyons in 1980, Alltech is now one of the leading animal health companies in the world. Their superior range of natural products and

solutions for the feed industry is proven, reliable and traceable. On this stop, you will be treated to the “Alltech Experience,” one that embodies education, innovation, passion and involvement. You’ll also tour the world’s first Animal Nutrigenomics Centre, a 20,000 square foot facility that involved a \$20 million investment and is based on the study of the impact of nutrition on gene expression. Over a complimentary lunch, you’ll learn about the **Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games 2010**.

The final stop on the “**Heart of the Bluegrass**” Tour will be in Woodford County. **Woodford Reserve**, one of the eight distilleries on the famous **Kentucky Bourbon Trail** and a National Historical Landmark located on Glenn’s Creek, is the only distillery still using the traditional copper pot still method of producing bourbon. It sits nestled amid the rolling countryside of central Kentucky, noted for its beautiful and renowned horse farms. You will see two of Kentucky’s most legendary icons—bourbon whiskey and Thoroughbred horses—maturing side by side. On your guided educational tour through the distillery, you will learn everything from the history of bourbon to the maturation and bottling process. At the end of the tour, you’ll have a chance to spend some money in the gift shop.

4. “A LITTLE BIT NORTH” TOUR

On the “**A Little Bit North**” Tour, you’ll travel first to Lexington for juice and donuts and a “behind the scenes” tour of one of its best kept secrets, **The Thoroughbred Center**. The Thoroughbred Center is nestled among the most lavish horse farms in Lexington, home to hundreds of Thoroughbred racehorses. You’ll get an up close and personal tour of this beautifully landscaped 240-acre working facility. You’ll visit one of their two training tracks to see exercise riders conditioning horses and stop at a working barn to visit with a trainer. This hour and a half tour will let you experience a typical day in the life of a racehorse.

The next stop on the “**A Little Bit North**” Tour will be at **Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital**, which sits on 24 acres in northwest Lexington. Rood and Riddle is a full-service equine hospital established in 1986 as a referral center for horses requiring specialized medical and surgical care. Today, Rood and Riddle is known and respected throughout the world for innovative and highly skilled treatment of horses. On this stop, you’ll see their full range of services, including surgery, internal medicine, advanced diagnostic imaging, podiatry, and specialized reproductive care.

From Rood and Riddle, you’ll travel northeast to Stamping Ground, Kentucky to meet **Daniel Smith**, a graduate of the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture and the product of five generations of Kentuckians who have always been tied to the land. Although the Smith family farm is located in the heart of horse country, it’s not horses but cows—about 700 of them—that keep Smith busy. During the summer months he’ll add 300 to 400 stockers. “We do raise some alfalfa hay for horses, and some corn and soybeans, too,” but he’ll also tell you, “this is a cattle business.” In addition to farming, Smith is an active member of the Cattlemen’s Beef Board. And, he’s raising a family, possibly the sixth generation of Kentucky farmers. He and his wife, Alison, have a son, Creighton. Alison keeps beef in the family by working for the Kentucky Beef Council. On this stop, you’ll get to meet the Smith’s and learn why running a family farm has a lot of things going for it.

The last stop on the “**A Little Bit North**” Tour is located among the rolling hills of Northern Kentucky in Owenton. **Elk Creek Vineyards**, established in 2003, is Kentucky’s largest winery. They produce a wide range of award-winning wines that are bottled on site. In addition, they have a deli, art gallery, bed and breakfast lodging, a gift shop and entertainment at their outdoor amphitheater during the spring and summer months. After enjoying a late buffet lunch, you’ll get to tour the winery and visit the gift shop.

5. “HORSE OF A DIFFERENT KIND” TOUR

On the “**Horse of a Different Kind**” Tour, you’ll have a light breakfast on the bus as you journey 109 miles south to Bowling Green, Kentucky. Here, you’ll see the assembly, from start to finish, of the “dream car” at the **Bowling Green Assembly Plant**. With a strong commitment to quality and excellence, the Bowling Green team has continued the Corvette

tradition since 1981. The Bowling Green plant is proud to be the world's only "**Home of the Corvette.**" It's where *all* Corvettes are manufactured. Your journey will continue to the **National Corvette Museum**, which is a monument to America's love affair with a car. The museum features one of the first Corvettes off the assembly line in 1953, the historic one millionth 'Vette, and full-scale dioramas showing classic Corvette models in period settings. Before leaving the museum, you can pick up a souvenir of your trip at the gift shop.

Your next stop on the "**Horse of a Different Kind**" Tour will be 30 miles east of Bowling Green in Glasgow, Kentucky, Progressive Farmer's #1 Rural Place to Live in 2007! Here, you'll experience southern hospitality as you enjoy lunch prepared and served by the Barren Country Cattlemen's Association and other local civic organizations.

After lunch, you'll make a quick stop at **Bale Tobacco Marketing** in Glasgow, a receiving station for Philip Morris USA. Like horses and bourbon, tobacco has long been a Kentucky icon. Your last stop will be at **Coral Hill Dairy**. Owned by John Douglas of Marshville, Ohio, Coral Hill is one of the fastest growing dairies in the state and a popular stop for agricultural tours. With a new state-of-the-art milking parlor, managers Billy and Brenda Komar will show you how Coral Hill is at the forefront of the dairy industry. You'll hear them discuss expansion of the 1,100 cow dairy and the challenges they faced along the way. In 2007, the Komars took home the Glasgow-Barren County Chamber of Commerce "Farmer of the Year" Award for their efforts toward expansion.



TIME ZONE

Louisville and Lexington, Kentucky are in the **Eastern Time Zone.**

WEATHER

Kentucky experiences four distinct seasons. Most tours will be outside so consider the weather and conditions. According to the University of Kentucky Agricultural Weather Center, the average temperature for November is between 54 and 56° F, but it can be unpredictable so check the Louisville weather before you pack. It is a good idea to bring a coat.

AIRPORT

Louisville International Airport is just 10 minutes from downtown. Transportation to and from Galt House can be arranged through **Sandollar**, a shuttle service located in the hotel (**502-366-2628**). Cost of the service is \$15/person, one-way, and can be billed to your hotel room.