

Kentucky Equine Research (KER) is an equine nutrition, research and consultation company that serves both the horse owner and the feed industry. Its goal is to advance the industry's knowledge of equine nutrition and exercise physiology and apply this knowledge to produce healthier, more athletic horses. Dr. Joe D. Pagan, who received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Cornell University in equine nutrition and exercise physiology, founded the company in 1988. While at Cornell, Dr. Pagan conducted a great deal of research into the energy requirements of horses. He continued this research at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences Veterinary College. When he returned to the United States, Dr. Pagan entered the feed industry as an equine nutritionist for a major American feed manufacturer. While working in this capacity, Dr. Pagan realized that a void existed between the basic research conducted at universities and the implementation of this information by horsemen. Too often, research results never made it to the horse's feed tub and horsemen didn't benefit from this increased knowledge.

Dr. Pagan formed KER to fill the void between the research world, the feed manufacturer, and the horse owner. Since its formation, KER has grown to be a diverse, international company. Each year veterinarians, university researchers, horse owners, and feed manufacturers attend an equine nutrition conference hosted by KER that features an international cadre of speakers.

The company has grown considerably since its inception, and the added responsibilities have been met by the addition of highly respected equine nutritionists and veterinarians. Dr. Stephen E. Duren joined the staff in 1994. He received his M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky where he conducted research in equine nutrition and exercise physiology. Dr. Duren is stationed in southwestern Idaho and consults with western and mid-western clientele.

Dr. Peter Huntington received his veterinary degree from the University of Melbourne in Australia in 1981. He worked in a private equine practice and then became a horse specialist veterinary officer for the Australian Department of Agriculture where he conducted research on


equine nutrition. In addition to being a popular speaker, Dr. Huntington is a prolific writer and is the author of the book *Horse Sense - The Australian Guide to Horse Husbandry*. Dr. Huntington is an external lecturer and examiner at the University of Melbourne Veterinary School and holds many other appointments in the horse industry. He is currently the Director of Nutrition for KER Australasia and corresponds with clients in Australasia and the Far East.

In 1997, Dr. Kathleen Crandell joined the KER staff. She received her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University where she conducted research in equine nutrition, exercise physiology, and reproduction. She is located in Middleburg, Virginia and assists with technical support and consultation for KER's eastern United States, South American, and Central American clientele.

In addition to expanding its staff of researchers and veterinarians, the company has also added a staff of writers and copy editors who produce two publications designed to help disseminate nutrition information to a wide variety of readers.

In late 2000 KER began a comprehensive project that saw the redesign of its research facility. The

new facility, completed in the spring of 2001, features a state-of-the-art treadmill, laboratory, stabling, and an observation deck that allows researchers and guests to monitor the horses as they perform on the treadmill.

The company hosts an internship program that brings students from across the globe to Kentucky to participate in the company's research. Interns have come from England, France, Ireland, New Zealand, and the United States. Their assistance is vital to the ongoing research and provides them the opportunity to work with leading researchers and to publish their findings in numerous scientific journals. One of the company's hallmarks is the prolific publication of its research. At the quadrennial International Conference on Equine Exercise Physiology held in Japan in 1998, 40 percent of the papers that related to performance horse nutrition were produced by KER. Since 1991, only three universities have published more research in the proceedings of the Equine Nutrition and Physiology Society meetings than has KER. 

Research and Experience Combine to Make Kentucky Equine Research a World Leader in Equine Nutrition

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