

Kentucky Equine Research Welcomes Larry Lawrence

BY ROBIN STANBACK

Dr. Larry Lawrence has recently joined the staff of Kentucky Equine Research (KER). The Georgia native did his undergraduate work and received a master's in animal science from his home state university and then studied under Dr. Ed Ott at the University of Florida to attain his doctorate in equine nutrition. His studies focused on mineral metabolism and bone physiology in growing horses.

Dr. Lawrence spent five years as a faculty member at the University of Washington before

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accepting a position at Virginia Polytechnic Institute (VPI) and State University in 1991. In his position as an associate professor of animal science and the extension horse specialist there, Dr. Lawrence worked with young horsemen on a regular basis. He said, “I think my greatest contribution was the work I did with young people. Extension specialists have the opportunity to share information and educate people. VPI encouraged me to do that and it was a very satisfying experience.”

As much as he enjoyed the opportunities available at VPI, the appeal of more research-oriented projects was the lure that brought Dr. Lawrence to KER. He said, “Research was a major focus of my life for a long time. I enjoyed the challenges it presented and I found that I missed that. I was well aware of KER's many projects and the company's focus on sharing the information it uncovers. Working for KER will allow me to combine my love of research with my interest in educating horse owners.”

Like many KER employees, Dr. Lawrence brings more to his position than his education and work experience; he is also a dedicated horseman. For many years he was an avid fox hunting enthusiast riding his field hunter, Beau, a draft cross that Dr. Lawrence describes as being “a well-behaved, wonderful animal.” Along with this horse, he brought a two-year-old Quarter Horse to Kentucky. “I'm not certain what my Quarter Horse wants to be when he grows up. He

has grown rather quickly and has the potential to be a real athlete. There is no hurry. I can certainly wait to see where his talents will lie.”

Dr. Lawrence's new position with KER may keep him too busy to enjoy equine sports for a while. He has accepted the responsibilities of leading the KER technical staff and providing support for the company's Team Members throughout the world. He participated as a speaker and coordinator at the most recent KER conference in September and

was tapped the following week to provide his organizational skills for the International Conference on Equine Exercise Physiology, which was held for the first time in Kentucky.

KER President Dr. Joe Pagan said, “We are very happy to have Dr. Lawrence on staff and feel that his contributions will be invaluable.” ☺



Dr. Lawrence addresses a crowd at KER's recent Equine Nutrition Conference.