

Founder of Kentucky Equine Research Receives Award

Dr. Joe D. Pagan, founder and owner of Kentucky Equine Research, Inc. (KER), received the American Feed Industry Association (AFIA) Award in Equine Nutrition at the biennial meeting of the Equine Science Society (ESS) held recently in Tucson.

The award recognizes excellence in equine nutrition research and the contributions of an individual to equine feeding management practices and the equine feed industry.

Dr. Larry Lawrence, a nutritionist at KER, nominated Pagan for the award. "Joe was honored for his research efforts and for his ability to pull together nutrition researchers, feed manufacturers, and veterinarians to focus on nutrition and feeding management problems of horses, regardless of age, breed, or use, as well as for his open sharing of all this information," Lawrence said.

"Much of Joe's research is driven by his curiosity as a scientist, and that inquisitiveness makes for innovative research," said Dr. Kathleen Crandell, an equine nutritionist who has worked for KER for several years.

Pagan is the first recipient of the AFIA Award in Equine Nutrition who is not directly involved in academia. Following graduation from Cornell University and a short stint in the private sector, Pagan founded KER with the vision that advances in equine nutrition would find their way to the feed tubs of horses throughout the world. And that vision has come to fruition. Pagan oversaw construction of a research facility in central Kentucky in the late 1980s. Since then, he has conceived and supervised numerous nutrition and exercise physiology studies at the facility. Results of these studies have been published in peer-reviewed journals and proceedings of national and international conferences.

The volume of published research completed at KER rivals that of leading universities. No other private research facility, for example, has contributed more original research to the proceedings of the ESS in the past 15 years.

In addition to conducting research, KER offers consultation services to a network of feed manufacturers across the globe. These companies, called Team Members, produce state-of-the-art feeds formulated by the nutritionists at KER. Formulations are based in part on the results of scientific studies conducted at the company's research facility. Over the past decade, KER has extended its consultation services to include elite performance horses. The company was directly involved in manufacturing feeds for the equine athletes at the past three Olympic Games, and is currently the official equine nutritionist of the United States Equestrian Federation.

For a detailed account of KER's association with world-class competitions and the equine athletes that contend them, please



Dr. Joe D. Pagan received the American Feed Industry Association (AFIA) Award in Equine Nutrition.


read "USEF Names KER as Official Equine Nutritionist" that begins on page 6 of this issue.

Because Pagan believes in educational opportunities for those interested in equine nutrition research, he created and maintains an internship program at KER. Individuals from the United States as well as several foreign countries have spent time, usually six months to a year, at the research farm learning the ins and outs of a working research facility. Past interns have used the knowledge gained from their experiences at KER as a springboard for employment in both the feed industry and academia.

Pagan joins a list of highly respected scientists that have previously won the award including his mentor, Dr. Harold "Skip" Hintz.

As recipient of the AFIA Award in Equine Nutrition, Pagan received an honorarium, which he donated to the ESS to promote the graduate student programs of the association.

The ESS was established in the late 1960s to promote quality equine nutrition and physiology research. One primary goal of the association is to establish effective communication among researchers, teachers, extension, and production personnel regarding equine research. For more information on ESS, log on to www.enps.org.

According to its official Web site, the AFIA "is the only national organization devoted exclusively to providing strong, highly qualified leadership representing the business, legislative, and regulatory interests of the animal feed and pet food industries and their suppliers." 



Fueling Champions Across the Globe

Kentucky Equine Research congratulates Kim Severson and Phillip Dutton on their one-two finish at the prestigious Kentucky Rolex Three-Day Event. Severson and Dutton, both of whom rode multiple horses in the competition, use state-of-the-art feeds supplied by Pennfield.

Becky Young



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