

Dr. Nancy Cox
Dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
University of Kentucky

Dr. Nancy Cox became dean of the University of Kentucky's (UK) College of Agriculture, Food and Environment in 2014. As dean, she heads up an organization with 2,700 employees across 120 counties in Kentucky and more than 3,000 undergraduate and graduate students. She provides direct oversight to a \$190M annual budget.

Before becoming dean, Cox served as the college's associate dean for Research and associate director of the Experiment Station for 13 years. Cox has served on numerous national committees and has a history of representing research in public policy arenas. She received her Ph.D. from North Carolina State University in animal physiology.

Cox championed the formation of the UK Equine Initiative (now UK Ag Equine Programs) in 2005, recognizing the importance of the horse industry and the need for UK to provide a suite of services to Kentucky's signature industry. She was also instrumental in the formation of new equine areas the college hadn't typically undertaken.

This program, the fastest growing in the college, now features more than 325 undergraduate students from over 40 states and a handful of countries and has more than 50 faculty and staff teaching and conducting research and extension programming across Kentucky. Equine areas of excellence within the college include the Gluck Equine Research Center, UK Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL), forage management and economics.

Cox has worked extensively with equine organizations to help advance and support the industry. She worked to secure renovated facilities for the UK VDL with a \$30 million state investment. Additionally, she has supported UK as the center for horse and rider safety. Dean Cox recruited Dr. Mick Peterson in 2017 and is helping to establish a research laboratory for surface safety research. The college also recently contracted with the US Equestrian Federation to assume operation of a drug testing facility under the leadership of newly recruited faculty member Dr. Scott Stanley.

She currently serves on the board of the USA Equestrian Trust, Kentucky Horse Park Commission, and as treasurer of the Iroquois Hunt Club.