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Office of the President
December 7, 2010

Members, Board of Trustees:

NAMING OF UNIVERSITY PROPERTY

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve naming the UK College of Agriculture farm in Woodford County as the C. Oran Little Research Center.

Background: The 1,500 acre farm in Woodford County was received by the University of Kentucky in 1991. It had long been known as Pin Oak Farm; however, Mrs. Josephine Abercrombie moved that name, along with her equine operations and residence, west on route 60 a few short years prior to the University's state-funded purchase of the land.

Near the conclusion of Dean Charles Barnhart's term, the Coldstream Farm in Fayette County was repurposed by the University of Kentucky to become the University Research Campus. Coldstream had long been the primary location for research on animal husbandry in the College of Agriculture. Charles Oran Little, himself a nationally distinguished animal nutrition researcher, became Dean of the College in 1988. Early in his administration he established the replacement of Coldstream Farm and the development of a worthy successor to be among the highest priorities for his term in office. His stated goal was to develop a cutting-edge research and education facility that made possible programs encompassing, but reaching far beyond, traditional production agriculture studies.

Dean Little led the successful efforts to convince decision-makers and the general public of the need and tremendous opportunity for a new research farm. He united the statewide agricultural leadership behind this initiative. When the Pin Oak Farm became available, the Legislature appropriated funding to first acquire the farm property, and soon after, to replace the aging farm structures with modern research buildings. Throughout his 12-year term, Dean Little was fully engaged in the planning, design and development of the new research farm. When he completed his term at the end of 2000, the farm at Woodford County could reasonably claim to be among the best, most sophisticated facilities of its kind in the world.

The farm's primary mission is research on food animal health, nutrition, reproduction and management. During its still relatively short history, this research has enhanced our comprehension of animal physiology while spinning off significant management innovations for producers. The farm includes research facilities for beef cattle, swine, and small ruminants.

Some horse research is also conducted at this location. The intensive beef research center offers some of the best facilities anywhere. The farm's impact is also notable on issues of environmental quality, particularly the influence of animal agriculture on water quality.

More than a research center, the Woodford County farm is an invaluable asset for the teaching and extension missions of the College. Hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students have relied on the farm – through formal and informal teaching, internships, employment, and student research projects – to gain the indispensable hands-on experience that is so much a part of agricultural education. Farmers from every part of Kentucky and many other states have attended the frequent field days, demonstrations, and other extension events that are scheduled at the farm throughout the year.

The naming of this valuable and highly visible University of Kentucky research and education center in honor of C. Oran Little is clearly appropriate and much deserved. Dean Little's distinction as an animal scientist, his achievements as dean and as a preeminent leader of Kentucky agriculture, and, most important, his dedication to and remarkable success in making the Woodford County farm a world-class research and education facility all strongly argue in favor of this honor.

The Advisory Committee on Naming University Property has reviewed the request and found it to be in compliance with university policy AR 9:5 and recommends approval of this name designation.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____