

UF/IFAS

# Range Cattle Research & Education Center NEWS

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fall 2019

## IN THIS ISSUE

### New Bermudagrass Announced at Field Day - 'Mislevy'

by Andrea Dunlap



'Mislevy' bermudagrass. Photo credit, Jaime Garzon.

Although many do not think of forage as an exciting topic, it is one of utmost importance when it comes to running a productive and profitable cattle operation. Forage was the focus at our October 24 field day which included the release announcement of the new Bermudagrass cultivar, 'Mislevy.' It's namesake, Paul Mislevy, Professor Emeritus (UF/IFAS RCREC, Forage Agronomist, 1971-2007), was on hand to give a few remarks about his and his assistant, Jose Moreno's (now the UF/IFAS Gulf Cost REC Farm Manager) discovery of the plant and the early work done in its development.

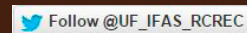


For many years new forage varieties and management techniques have been sought to improve forage quality for Florida cattle. In his field day presentation, Joao provided a few facts regarding UF's forage release history. In total, 107 forage cultivars have been released by the University of Florida since 1892. That year the first variety released was Natalgrass. A few of the others that followed include: Common bahiagrass, 1915; Pangola digitgrass, 1936; Pensacola bahiagrass, 1943; Bigalta limpograss, 1978; Ona stargrass, 1979; Floralta limpograss, 1984; Florakirk bermudagrass, 1994; and in 2014, Kenhy and Gibtuck limpograsses.

Today, agronomists like Joao Vendramini continue a search began more than a century ago by early forage researchers seeking to provide producers with the best quality and most efficient forage varieties, providing increased production with minimal nutrient input. This new variety was derived from a bermudagrass plant found by Paul and Jose in a plot of Tifton 85 being used for a light study in 2000 ([hear the story here](#)). They multiplied the plant and experimented with it until Paul's retirement in 2007, passing their findings on to Joao, who began at the Center in 2006. It was shared with the North Florida REC in Marianna for testing in clipping and grazing trials where it did well, having greater forage yields compared to Jiggs, Tifton 85, and Tifton 44, in early spring.

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This cultivar provides producers an additional bermudagrass option (for grazing, silage, hay production, etc.) that, when properly managed, is higher yielding in early spring (March – May) than other cultivars, has good nutritive value, and lower susceptibility to spittlebug infestations. See Joao’s article, ‘Mislevy Bermudagrass’ in the [field day proceedings](#) for details on the clipping and grazing studies.

Plant material will be available in summer 2020 from various locations. Those who would like to acquire

some are encouraged to seek out a source early, as availability may be limited the first year of release. To get on the request list at the Center in Ona, contact Joao at [jv@ufl.edu](mailto:jv@ufl.edu) or call 863-735-1314 ext. 205. Dependent upon the quantity available in June/July, the forage will be divided up between each person requesting it so that they can establish their own seedbed (approximately enough material to plant 1 to 5 acres). If you need assistance finding a source in Central or North Florida, contact Jose Dubeux Jr. at the UF/IFAS North Florida REC, [dubeux@ufl.edu](mailto:dubeux@ufl.edu) or call

850-526-1618. You may also speak to your local County Extension representative for assistance. [Click here](#) to find your local office.

Source:

Mislevy, P. and Qusenberry, K. H. (1999) Development and Short Description of Grass Cultivars Released by the University of Florida (1892-1995). Soil and Crop Science Society of Florida, Proceeding 58, 12-19. <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00067243/00043>

### October 24, 2019 Field Day Video Recordings - Morning speakers

Click the links below to view each presentation or access them online at <http://rcrec-ona.ifas.ufl.edu/virtual-classroom/field-days/>

#### [Field Day Welcome](#)

- Brent Sellers, Professor & Interim Center Director



#### [Florida Cattlemen’s Association Remarks](#)

- Matt Pearce, President



#### [Exploring long-term trends in beef cattle markets](#)

- Chris Prevatt, State Specialized Agent II  
Beef Cattle and Forage Economics



#### [UF/IFAS Florida Agricultural Experiment Station Remarks](#)

- Jerry Fankhauser, Assistant Director



#### [Using fire! How much does it influence cattle grazing behavior](#)

- Raoul Boughton, Assistant Professor  
Rangeland Wildlife and Ecosystems



#### [‘Mislevy’ Bermudagrass](#)

- Joao Vendramini, Professor  
Forage Management





**Field Day Video Recordings - Afternoon field speakers**

[Supplementing cows during late gestation](#)

- Philippe Moriel, Assistant Professor  
Beef Cattle Nutrition and Management



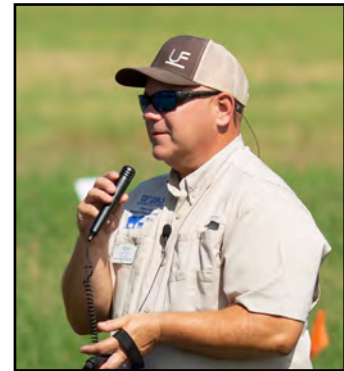
[Agronomic and environmental impacts of land application of biosolids](#)

- Maria Silveira, Professor  
Soil and Water Science



[Weed management during forage establishment](#)

- Brent Sellers, Professor & Interim Center Director  
Pasture and Rangeland Weed Management



*In commemoration of the release, Joao Vendramini presents Paul Mislevy with a framed photo of them in a field of 'Mislevy' bermudagrass.*



*In memory of Dr. Elver Hodges (1912-2019), 39 pangola plants were given away in remembrance of his years of service to UF/IFAS as a Forage Agronomist at Ona from 1941-1980.*



*Sponsor Booths*



*Student Research Posters*

## Student News



**Elizabeth 'Liz' Palmer, PhD Student**

Liz, who is advised by Philippe Moriel, was recently selected as an Animal Sciences Grinter Fellowship Award recipient. She will receive \$2000. Congratulations Liz!

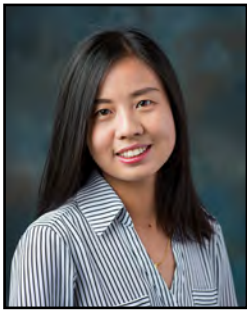
This fellowship was named in honor of Dr. Linton E. Grinter, Dean of the Graduate School from 1952 to 1969.



**Jack Morrison, Veterans Florida Agriculture Program, Intern**

At the 12/3 meeting of the Governor and Cabinet, Commissioner Nikki Fried was proud to name U.S. Marine Corps veteran Sgt Jack Morrison as the FDACS Veteran of the Month. Sgt Morrison is a UF College of Agricultural and Life Sciences alum, now learning about cattle, forages, and soil science through a Veterans Florida program at UF IFAS Range Cattle REC, in Ona. We're thankful for his service and his contributions to Florida agriculture!

Pictured above are Attorney General Ashley Moody, Governor Ron DeSantis, Sgt Jack Morrison, Commissioner Nikki Fried, and Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis. Photo taken by Veterans Florida.



**Yanyan Lu, PhD Student**

Yanyan is one of two in the Soil and Water Sciences Department who were recently awarded the V.W. Carlisle Fellowship (Graduate - \$1000 recipient). She is advised by Maria Lucia Silveira.

## Staff News

### UF/IFAS Range Cattle REC Superior Accomplishment Award

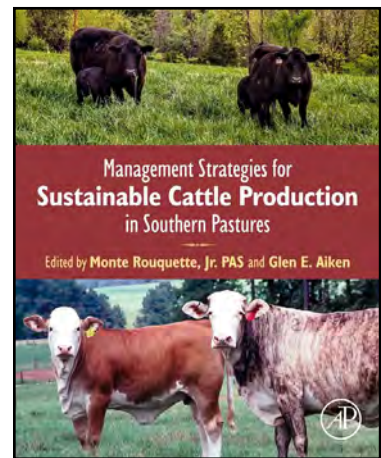
**Bethany Wight** has been selected to receive this year's UF/IFAS Range Cattle REC Superior Accomplishment



Award. She will receive a certificate and cash award at our annual awards and recognitions ceremony in

December. Bethany, a biological scientist II, has been employed at the Center since 2014, working with Dr. Raoul Boughton in the rangeland wildlife and ecosystems program. Her work includes assisting Dr. Boughton and his students in the various areas of their program's activities which includes, among many other things, serving as the Center's only drone pilot. Through her work with aerial imagery, last year Bethany spent extended time and effort updating the Center's 2,840 acre aerial map. To produce the map, she learned new software enabling her to include labels and associated acreage of individual pastures in the map. Bethany has now been nominated for the UF/IFAS Superior Accomplishment Award. We wish her much success!

## Faculty News



**Drs. Joao Vendramini, Maria Silveira, and Philippe Moriel** are contributing authors of the new book published in August, "Management Strategies for Sustainable Cattle Production in Southern Pastures." Learn more about this helpful resource and how to purchase it, [click here](#).

**Faculty News** Continued

Recent blog post, 'Tracking wild pigs in real time and understanding their interaction with agro-ecosystems' highlights work involving **Raoul Boughton**, UF/IFAS Range Cattle REC and **Samantha Wisely**, of the UF Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Department, who are two of the many authors taking part in the work.

The ESA Blog posted by Zoe Gentes on 10/10/19, tells of work done to bring together multiple data sets to understand feral swine resource selection associated with ag damage. View the article online, [click here](#).

**Graduate Highlight - Neha Rana**

Dr. Neha Rana graduated from UF CALS in 2012 with a PhD in Agronomy. During her studies, she was advised by Brent Sellers. Her dissertation title was, "Biology of Small Smutgrass (*Sporobolus indicus* var.

*indicus*) and Giant Smutgrass (*Sporobolus indicus* var. *pyramidalis*) and Long Term Management of Giant Smutgrass."

Neha works for Bayer Crop Science as a North America Dicamba and Roundup Herbicides Technical Manager in St Louis, Missouri. She is responsible for developing North American product recommendations to optimize the performance of the Bayer crop protection portfolio.

During her time with Bayer Crop Science, her major accomplishments include:

- demonstrating proof of concept of BioDirect weed control on glyphosate resistant waterhemp

in the field.

- supporting the launch of XtendiMax® herbicide with VaporGrip® Technology by conducting technical training presentations to marketing, sales reps, field reps and agronomists in all the major North American regions.

- representing Bayer Crop Science at Regional and National Weed Science Society meetings on features and benefits of XtendiMax herbicide with VaporGrip Technology in Roundup Ready® Xtend Crop System and use of XtendiMax herbicide with residual herbicides in pre-emergence and postemergence applications.

**CONNECT WITH US****Articles Published in The Florida Cattleman & Livestock Journal:**

View these on our website at: <http://rcrec-ona.ifas.ufl.edu/publications/>

**Ona Reports**

"Misleavy' Bermudagrass" by Joao Vendramini, December 2019

"Recent Studies on Developing Replacement Beef Heifers in South Florida" by Philippe Moriel, November 2019

"Integrating Stocker Cattle Grazing Warm-Season Annual Forages into Cash Crop Rotations" by Chris Prevatt, October 2019

**Florida Cattle Market Price Watch**

This helpful resource is provided monthly by Chris Prevatt, State Specialized Agent II, Beef Cattle and Forage Economics.

View a complete listing of past reports on our website, [click here](#).

**Ona Highlights**

Save the date and join us for an upcoming Ona Highlight webinar. These informative presentations are held in the Grazinglands Education Building each month. They begin at 11:00 a.m. and last about 45 minutes. To attend in person, call 863-735-1314. To attend by webinar, access the registration links online [here](#).

**Recent recordings:**

"Burrowing Owls on Florida Cattle Ranches" - Liz Rose, PhD Candidate, 12/10/2019

"Assessing the Effect of Prescribed Fire Frequency and Association with Chopping on Sustainability of Southern Florida Rangelands" – Marta Kohmann, Postdoctoral Associate, 11/19/2019

"Fetal Programming Studies in Florida" – Philippe Moriel, Assistant Professor, 10/8/2019

"Differences in Selenium and Copper Metabolism between Brahman and Angus Cattle" – Juliana Ranches, PhD Candidate, 9/10/2019

Past webinar recordings are available in our [Virtual Classroom](#).

Listen or download the latest **Joe What? Podcasts:**



- Shane Platt of Farm Credit of Central Florida and Kissimmee Park Properties, in St. Cloud. They discuss Farm Credit's financing services and Shane's family ranch, including it's 2013 NCBA Regional Environmental Stewardship Award. (Published Nov. 2019; run time 10.26 min.)



- Alex Johns the Director of Natural Resources for the Seminole Tribe of Florida. They discuss Alex's experience as President of the Florida Cattlemen's Association and the challenges of maintaining beef cattle production in South Florida. (Published Oct. 2019; run time: 12.54 min.)



- Dr. Alec Wynne and Joao discuss the value of a good education. Alec acquired his Animal Science BS from the University of Florida and his DVM from Texas A&M. They also discuss the benefits of having an animal science education as a beef cattle producer in Florida. (Published Sept. 2019; run time: 9.17 min.)

These monthly podcasts can be found on:

[Podbean](#)      [YouTube](#)      [UF/IFAS Range Cattle REC Website](#)

## Upcoming Events

### **Florida Cattlemen's Institute and Allied Trade Show**

- Jan. 16, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
 "Ranching in the year 2020 and beyond"  
 Turner Agri-Civic Center, 2250 NE Roan Street, Arcadia. For more information contact Bridget at 863-519-1048. Registration is free; for event details and to register visit Eventbrite, [click here](#).

### **Ona Weed Science Program Highlight with Brent Sellers**

- Jan. 14, 11:00 - 11:45 AM  
 Brent will be presenting, "Whitehead broom management."

### **31st Annual Florida Ruminant Nutrition Symposium**

- Feb. 3 - 5  
 Best Western Gateway Grand, Gainesville  
[Click here](#) to visit the online site for the brochure, to register, and for info on the speakers, sponsors, accommodations, and more.

### **Ona Agronomy Program Highlight with Joao Vendramini**

- Feb. 11, 11:00 - 11:45 AM  
 Joao will be presenting, "Additives and inoculants to improve warm-season grass silage quality."

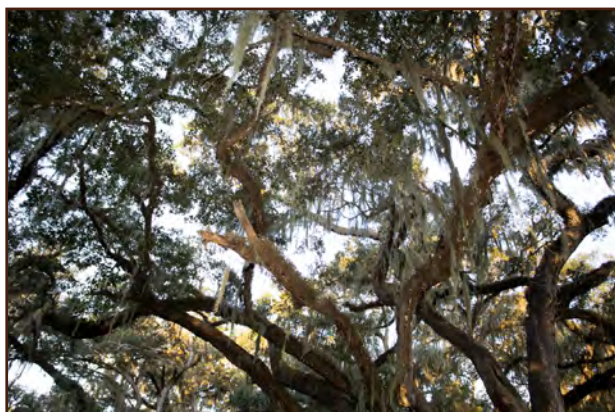
### **Ona Soil and Water Science Program Highlight with Maria Silveira**

- Mar. 10, 11:00 - 11:45 AM  
 Maria will be presenting, "Utilization of biosolids in forage production systems in Florida."

### **Ona Beef Cattle and Forage Economics Program Highlight with Chris Prevatt**

- Apr. 14, 11:00 - 11:45 AM  
 Chris will be presenting, "Searching for the bottom of the cattle price cycle."

To view our online calendar and to register for any of these events, visit:  
<http://rcrec-ona.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar-of-events/>



Oak Canopy, photo by Tyler Jones of UF/IFAS Communications. Tyler also took all of the field day photos in this newsletter.

## Recent Refereed Publications

Risch, A.C., Zimmermann, S. Ochoa-Hueso, R., Schütz, M., Frey, B., Firn, J. L., Fay, P. A., Hagedorn, F., Borer, E. T., Seabloom, E. W., Harpole, W. S., Knops, J. M. H., McCulley, R. L., Broadbent, A. A. D., Stevens, C. J., Silveira, M. L., Adler, P. B., Báez, S., Biederman, L. A., Blair, J. M., Brown, C. S., Caldeira, M. C., Collins, S. L., Daleo, P., Virgilio, A., Ebeling, A., Eisenhauer, N., Esch, E., Eskelinen, A., Hagenah, N., Hautier, Y., Kirkman, K. P., MacDougall, A. S., Moore, J. L., Power, S. A., Prober, S. M., Roscher, C., Sankaran, M., Siebert, J., Speziale, K. L., Tognetti, P. M., Virtanen, R., Yahdjian, L., & Moser, B. (2019). Soil Net Nitrogen Mineralisation Across Global Grasslands. *Nature Communications*, 10, 4981, doi:10.1038/s41467-019-12948-2

Silveira, M. L., O'Connor, G. A., Lu, Y., Erickson, J.E., Brandani, C. B., and Kohmann, M. M. (2019). Runoff and Leachate Phosphorus and Nitrogen Losses from Grass-Vegetated Soil Boxes Amended with Biosolids and Fertilizer. *Journal of Environmental Quality*, <https://doi.org/10.2134/jeq2019.03.0106>

Sanchez, J.M.D.G., Vendramini, J.M.B., Silveira, M.L., Sollenberger, L.E., Dubeux Jr, J.C.B., Moriel, P., Sellers, B., Yarborough, J.K., and Oliveira, F.C.L. (2019). Seeding Strategies of Bahiagrass and Pinta Peanut Affect Pasture Establishment Under Weed Competition. *Grass and Forage Science*, 74, 381-388.

Alencar, N.M., Vendramini, J.M.B., Dubeux Jr, J.C.B., dos Santos, A.C., Sanchez, J.M.D., Silva, H.M., Silveira, M.L., Sousa, L.F., and Neiva, J.N.M. (2019). Impact of Leaf and Stem Proportions in Dry Matter and Crude Protein In Situ Disappearance of Rhizome Peanut Genotypes. *Crop Science*, 59, 1815-1821.

Vendramini, J.M.B., Sollenberger, L.E., Oliveira, F.C.L., Herling, V.R., Carreteiro Gomes, V., Sanchez, J.M.D., and Yarborough, J.K., (2019) Herbage Characteristics of Continuously Stocked Limpograss Cultivars under Stockpiling Management, *Crop Science*, 59, 2886-2892, doi - 10.2135/cropsci2019.05.0299

**We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year !**



*Early morning group photo of faculty, staff, and students taken before the 10/24/19 field day.*

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## ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is a publication of the UF/IFAS Range Cattle Research and Education Center (RCREC) located in South Central Florida in the heart of Florida's cattle country. Our goal is to keep you up to date on RCREC happenings, publications, research, faculty & student news, upcoming events and bring you beneficial information you can use in your beef cattle or forage operation.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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