

UF/IFAS

# Range Cattle Research & Education Center NEWS

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spring 2020

## IN THIS ISSUE

### Center Director Named Amid Uncertain Times

by Andrea Dunlap



*Dr. Brent Sellers, newly named Center Director of the UF/IFAS Range Cattle REC.*

We are happy to share that the Center Director search is complete! The official announcement was made by UF VP of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Dr. Jack Payne, on April 14 and an official press release was shared on the 21st. Dr. Brent Sellers is officially the 5th to serve as the Center Director (CD) of the UF/IFAS Range Cattle Research and Education Center. See the press release in Brad Buck's UF Blog.

No stranger to the role, Dr. Sellers was actively serving as Interim CD at the time of the announcement. A position he had filled since April 2019 when former CD, Dr. John Arthington, moved to Gainesville. During this difficult time, it is good to know the Center is in experienced hands.

#### **Covid-19, departure from normal -**

The CD announcement came 2 weeks into Governor Ron DeSantis's stay at home order issued in an attempt to slow the spread of COVID-19. Initially, the Center was reduced to essential activities only with a handful of staff appointed to care for the welfare of our cattle, to maintain critical operations maintenance, ensure security, and attend to the wellbeing of students living at the Center. "Presently," Dr. Sellers states, "the center is operational – at least on the farm side. The entire farm crew has been working this past month maintaining pastures, repairing fences, and working cattle. I have also been on site nearly everyday. If needed, I can be reached at (863) 735-1314 ext. 202. The only thing that isn't normal is that research and in-person extension activities are mostly on pause. Currently, we are allowed to submit some research and extension activities for approval by administration on main campus. Most of what we have submitted has been approved as long as it was not business as usual."

Regarding COVID-19, as far as Dr. Sellers knows everyone who works at the Center is ok. He said, "I think it has been an adjustment for many in both their work and personal lives. Faculty, I feel, have done a good job showing empathy and extending grace to staff and students appropriately. Students who reside at the center are doing quite well, other

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than being bored.” Thankfully faculty and staff who have not had to come in, have been able to work from home.

The University is formulating a plan to return activities to some form of ‘normal,’ in stages. At the time of our conversation, Dr. Sellers said a plan was being drafted to resume research. He said, “There are 5 stages within this plan beginning with stage 0 where essential activities (plant and animal maintenance) is allowed. As of May 6, research and education centers and remote field sites may submit requests (Stage 1) to conduct critical activities or those that continued pause or deferral would lead to catastrophic delay or loss of research results and subsequent success. Laboratory work is still prohibited at this time until main campus enters Stage 1, which we are hopeful will be very soon. This would allow us to resume forage analyses for our clientele.”

With many unknowns about the future, I asked Dr. Sellers what his initial short-term goals were for the Center. He said he is hopeful that the upgrade to the internet will happen by the end of the summer which should allow for the upgrade to the Centers aged phone system. He is also working with the research coordinator and herdsman to prioritize immediate infrastructure needs of the farm.

**If you don’t know him -**

Dr. Sellers grew up on his family’s farm in Bourbon, a small town in northern Indiana. They produced corn on approximately 500 acres to feed their farrow to finish swine operation. At peak production, they had approximately 3,000 feeder pigs. Their farm also produced eggs, having 8,500 laying hens. After high school, Brent obtained his BS in Biological Sciences and MS in Weed Science at Purdue University (1995 and 1999, respectively) and his PhD in Weed Science from the University of Missouri (2003). After graduation, Dr. Sellers worked for a short time

as a post-doctoral associate at the University of Missouri.

His career with the University of Florida began in Ona in December 2004. When he first visited the Center for his interview, it had been just 10 days since the passing of Hurricane Charley (8/13/04) – the Center was still operating on generator power. Since being hired as an assistant professor, Dr. Sellers advanced to associate professor in 2011, then associate professor and associate center director in 2014, followed by professor in July of 2017. He specializes in dealing with troublesome weeds, specifically pasture and rangeland weed management. As CD, his appointment is 50% Administrative, 25% Research, and 25% Extension.

Dr. Sellers resides in Bowling Green with his wife, Mary Shannon. They are active on the praise team at their church, Oak Grove Baptist Church

and are avid supporters of 4-H and FFA. Their son, Hunter, is a freshman at South Florida State College pursuing an AA with plans to attend either University of Florida or Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College to possibly major in animal sciences or wildlife.

**Our faculty are here for you -**

[Dr. Brent Sellers, sellersb@ufl.edu](mailto:sellersb@ufl.edu)  
Pasture and Rangeland Weed Management

[Dr. Maria Silveira, mlas@ufl.edu](mailto:mlas@ufl.edu)  
Soil and Water Science

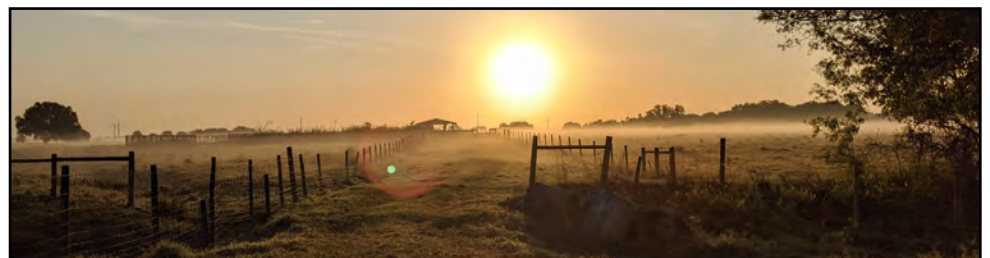
[Dr. Joao Vendramini, jv@ufl.edu](mailto:jv@ufl.edu)  
Forage Management

[Dr. Philippe Moriel, pmoriel@ufl.edu](mailto:pmoriel@ufl.edu)  
Beef Cattle Nutrition & Management

[Chris Prevatt, prevaccg@ufl.edu](mailto:prevaccg@ufl.edu)  
Beef Cattle and Forage Economics



*Hunter, Mary Shannon, and Brent*



*Sunrise photos in this newsletter were taken by Julie Warren.*

## Faculty News



### Ellington Accepts Grazinglands Wildlife Specialist Position

We are happy to introduce our new faculty member, Dr. Hance Ellington. Dr. Ellington will officially begin his

program on July 1, remotely at first with his arrival projected sometime this fall/winter. He is looking forward to meeting and working with you and beginning his research and extension programs. If you would like to speak to him, he can be reached at [e.hance.ellington@gmail.com](mailto:e.hance.ellington@gmail.com).

Dr. Ellington, originally from Kentucky, received his bachelor's degree in wildlife management from Ohio State University in 2007, followed by his master's degree in Biology in 2010 from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Continuing his education, he earned his doctorate in Environmental and Life Sciences in 2015 at Trent University in Ontario, Canada. For his doctorate research he studied coyote

spatial ecology and predator-prey dynamics between caribou and coyotes in Newfoundland, Canada. Since graduation he has been employed as a post-doctoral researcher at Ohio State University where he has studied the movement and population ecology of coyotes, river otters, and caribou in urban, rural, and wilderness settings across the US and Canada.

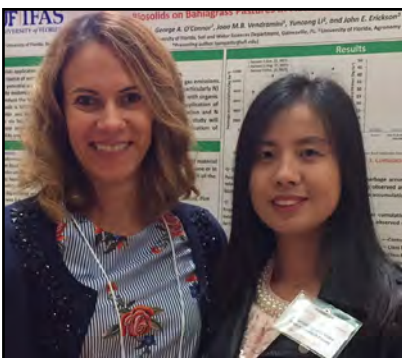
He is excited to bring his expertise in carnivore and ungulate ecology to Ona, where he will develop a research and extension program focused on wildlife-livestock interactions and the ecological importance of grazinglands in Florida and beyond.

## Student News

### Graduate, Dr. Yanyan Lu

Congratulations to Yanyan Lu who has officially completed her PhD in Soil and Water Science. Yanyan was advised by Dr. Maria Silveira since her acceptance to UF in 2016. She now plans to move into a postdoctoral position in the United States.

Yanyan's research focused on evaluating the agronomic and environmental impacts of biosolids and biochar applications to pastures in Florida. Her research was made possible by support from the Florida Cattle Enhancement Board, Florida Cattlemen's Association, Staff and students at the RCREC, H&H Liquid and Sludge Disposal, Inc. and other collaborators.



### Phosphorous Budget For Cow-Calf Operations in Florida - Producer Survey

This project is led by Dr. Maria Silveira, Soil Scientist at the UF/IFAS Range Cattle REC and is currently funded through the Florida Cattle Enhancement Board. The main purpose is to understand phosphorus balances and budgets in the state of Florida. This survey will be instrumental in helping us estimate phosphorous budget for cow-calf operations and also understand the contribution of the cattle industry to the overall P budget in Florida.

As a cow-calf producer or land manager, your contribution will be of great value in producing reliable data on phosphorus imports and exports. We appreciate if you can please answer a short survey, which consists of 15 questions related to your cow-calf operation. We anticipate the survey should take about 15 to 30 minutes to complete. The survey can be completed online, over the phone, or by mail.

Complete the survey online: [click here](#)

To print a PDF of the survey: [click here](#)

View this announcement on our website, click here: <https://rcrec-ona.ifas.ufl.edu/Survey/>

Your involvement in the project is voluntary and all responses will remain anonymous and confidential. You may choose to refuse to answer any of the questions at any time.

The results of this survey will be shared with you through the Florida Cattleman and Livestock Journal, whom we also thank for their support. Once again, we are extremely grateful for you contributing your valuable time. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Silveira at [mlas@ufl.edu](mailto:mlas@ufl.edu) or 863-735-1314 ext. 209.

**UF/IFAS News**



**Dr. J. Scott Angle, UF Vice President of Agriculture and Natural Resources**

University of Florida President, Dr. W. Kent Fuchs announced on May 4 that Dr. J. Scott Angle will succeed Dr. Jack Payne, who is retiring after 10 years of serving. Dr. Angle's first day is set for July 13.

President Fuchs shared the following:

His appointment is the result of a 10-month national search. I am very grateful to the 25 members of the search committee, chaired by UF College of Public Health and Health

Professions Dean Michael Perri, including members of the UF/IFAS community, agriculture commodity and state agency representatives. The public portion of the search concluded with three excellent, nationally-recognized finalists. In addition to numerous meetings, more than 300 members of the public participated and provided feedback for the search, both in Gainesville and at the Citrus Research and Education Center in Lake Alfred.

Dr. Angle comes to UF from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, where he serves as director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), and recently oversaw the successful transition of the institute's operations from Washington, D.C., to Kansas City, MO. During this major effort, he was able to ensure mission continuity and service. UF/IFAS has been in transition mode during the coronavirus pandemic as well, pivoting quickly to remote learning and working, budgetary challenges and an industry in crisis.

He has spent more than 35 years in

agricultural science and administration, including 25 years as a professor of soil science and administrator (Director of the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station and Maryland Cooperative Extension) at the University of Maryland. His early work focused on the study of losses of nutrients from agro-ecosystems, and their impact on the Chesapeake Bay. He also studied the impact of heavy metals on the food chain with the goal of protecting our food supply from these harmful elements.

From 2005 to 2015, Angle served as dean and director of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at the University of Georgia. He is a fellow in the American Society of Agronomy and the Soil Science Society of America and a Fulbright Fellow having worked at the Rothamsted (Research) Experimental Station, in the United Kingdom. He subsequently served as president and CEO of the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC), an international public organization (IPO) dedicated to helping the poorest farmers of the world produce more food.

**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**

March 2020 - 'The Use of Additives to Improve Fermentation and Nutritive Value of Warm-Season Forage Haylage' by Joao Vendramini

April 2020 - 'How Much Can I Pay for a Bred Replacement Heifer?' by Chris Prevatt

May 2020 - 'Updates on the benefits of monensin supplementation on beef cattle receiving warm-season perennial grasses' by Joao Vendramini and Philippe Moriel

**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](#).

**New Videos**

**Ona Highlights Webinars**

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.

See our online calendar for upcoming webinars, [here](#).

Check out these videos of recent webinars:

'Impacts of Land Application of Biosolids to Bahia Pastures in Florida'

- Dr. Maria Silveira, 3/10/2020  
Run time: 43.33 minutes

'Searching for the Bottom of the U.S. Beef Cattle Price Cycle'

- Chris Prevatt, 4/14/2020  
Run time: 57.05 minutes

All our past webinar recordings are available on YouTube or on our website's [Virtual Classroom](#).

**Survey to assess the impacts of COVID-19 on Florida Agriculture**

UF/IFAS wants to better understand how the measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 are impacting agriculture and marine industries to help inform policy and industry response and to provide critical support to operations across Florida. Your input is requested.

[Click here](#) to view a blog by Kirsten Romaguera with UF/IFAS Communications that provides details and the links to the surveys.

There are separate survey links for each of these ag industries:

1. Agriculture and aquaculture production, processing, and transportation
2. Commercial fishing
3. Charter/For-hire operations
4. Seafood wholesale dealers
5. Marine recreation support businesses

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



- Allen Smith of Southern Accent Ranch, in Okeechobee. They discussed important traits to consider in the Brangus breed. Published March 2020. (Run time: 13.55 min.)



- Ralph Pelaez, the owner of Pelaez & Sons cow/calf ranch in Okeechobee. Listen in as Ralph shares about heifer development, including their breeding and nutrition programs. Originally published in January 2018. (Run time: 22.08 min.)

These monthly podcasts can be found on:

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

Check out our latest **blog series 'Graduate Student Highlights'** by Bethany Wight, UF/IFAS Range Cattle REC, Rangeland Wildlife and Conservation, Biological Scientist: <http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/rcrec/>

Tyler Buckley



Yanyan Lu



Liz Palmer



**Upcoming Events**

**Ona Highlight featuring the South Florida Beef Forage Program**

- May 12, 11:00 - 11:45 AM

Guest presenters with UF/IFAS Extension, **Lauren D. Butler (Okeechobee County)** and **Lindsey Wiggins (Hendry County)** will be providing an overview of the UF/IFAS South Florida Beef Forage Extension Program and providing information on utilizing UF/IFAS Extension Resources during COVID 19.

**Ona Highlight featuring a Q & A session with the UF/IFAS RCREC Faculty**

- June 9, 11:00 - 11:45 AM

Join us for an informal question and answer session with a panel UF/IFAS Range Cattle REC faculty. You are welcome to submit your questions early to, [ona@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:ona@ifas.ufl.edu) or ask during the live event.

**Youth Field Day**

- June 29 through July 3 - Daily at 2 PM

See details on page 7.

**Ona Weed Science Program Highlight with Dr. Brent Sellers**

- July 14, 11:00 - 11:45 AM

"Applying Hexazinone with Fertilizer for Smutgrass Control."

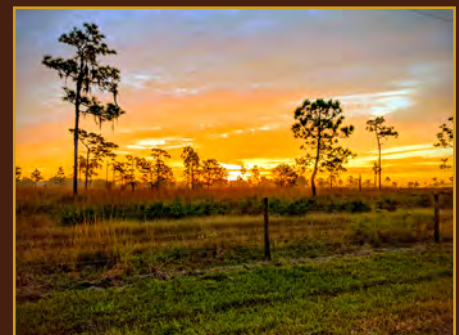
**Ona Highlight featuring guest speakers from the Florida Cattlemens Association**

- August 11, 11:00 - 11:45 AM

Guest presenters **Gene Lollis, incoming President** and **Jim Handley, Executive Vice President** will provide an activity report on state and federal legislation and other issues.

View our online calendar:

<http://rcrec-ona.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar-of-events/>



## Publications

### Refereed

Cooke, R.F., Daigle, C. L., Moriel, P., Smith, S. B., Tedeschi, L. O., & Vendramini, J. M. B. (2020) Cattle adapted to tropical and subtropical environments (I): social, nutritional, and carcass quality considerations. *Journal of Animal Science*, 98, 1-20. <https://academic.oup.com/jas/article-abstract/98/2/skaa014/5709615?redirectedFrom=fulltext>

Lee, S., Mir, R. A., Park, S. H., Kim, D., Kim, H. Y., Boughton, R. K., Morris, J. G., & Jeong, K. C. (2020) Prevalence of extended-spectrum  $\beta$ -lactamases in the local farm environment and livestock: challenges to mitigate antimicrobial resistance. *Critical Reviews in Microbiology*, 46, 1-14. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1040841X.2020.1715339>

Lu, Y., Silveira, M. L., Vendramini, J. M. B., Erickson, J. E., & Li, Y. 2020. Biosolids and biochar application effects on bahiagrass herbage accumulation and nutritive value. *Agronomy Journal*, 112, 1330-1345. <https://acsess.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/agj2.20101>

Mayer, J. J., Beasley, J. C., Boughton, R. K., & Ditchkoff, S. S. (2019) 'Wild Pigs in Southeastern North America'. *Invasive Wild Pigs in North America: Ecology, Impacts, and Management*. Taylor & Francis Group, Boca Raton, FL, CRC Press, pp. 369-402. Available on [Amazon](#) and [Routledge.com](#) from CRC Press

Negrisola, R. M., Odero, D. C., MacDonald, G. E., Sellers, B. A., & Laughinghouse IV, H. D. (2020) Sugarcane response and fall panicum (*Panicum dichotomiflorum*) control with topramezone and triazine herbicides. *Weed Technology*, 34, 241-249. <https://doi.org/10.1017/wet.2019.95>

Oliveira, R. A., Moriel, P., Vendramini, J. M. B., Silva, H. M., Vedovatto, M., Neiva, J. N. M., Miotto, F. R. C., Miranda, M., & Silva, D. P. (2020). Supplemental monensin affects growth, physiology, and coccidiosis infestation of early-weaned beef calves consuming warm-season perennial or cool-season annual grasses. *Applied Animal Science*, 36, 108-117. [https://www.applied-animalscience.org/article/S2590-2865\(20\)30012-4/pdf](https://www.applied-animalscience.org/article/S2590-2865(20)30012-4/pdf)

Schlichting, P. E., Beasley, J. C., Boughton, R. K., Davis, A. J., Pepin, K. M., Glow, M. P., Snow, N. P., Miller, R. S., VerCauteren, K. C., & Lewis, J. S. (2020) A Rapid Population Assessment Method for Wild Pigs Using Baited Cameras at 3 Study Sites. *Wildlife Society Bulletin*, <https://doi.org/10.1002/wsb.1075>

Vedovatto, M., Pereira, C. S., Neto, I. M. C., Moriel, P., Morais, M. G., & Franco, G. L. (2020) Effect of a trace mineral injection at weaning on growth, antioxidant enzymes activity, and immune system in Nellore calves. *Tropical Animal Health and Production*, 52, 881-886. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11250-019-02056-0>

Xue, Z., Liu, N., Wang, Y., Yang, H., Wei, Y., Moriel, P., Palmer, E., & Zhang, Y. (2020) Combining Orchardgrass and Alfalfa: Effects of forage ratios on in vitro rumen degradation and fermentation characteristics of silage compared with hay. *Animals*, 10, 59, <https://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/10/1/59>

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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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Newsletter Contact: Andrea Dunlap



## 2020 UF/IFAS Range Cattle REC Virtual Youth Field Day

We invite you to join us for a weeklong Youth Field Day event with class sessions held daily at 2:00 p.m. the week of June 29 through July 3.

Our goal with this event is to excite students about agriculture and science, reveal future opportunities in those fields, and foster a love of learning which will promote agriculture and good stewardship in this and future generations.

We hope that you are doing well during this uncertain time of COVID-19. In an effort to keep everyone safe, we've made the decision to offer this year's youth field day as a weeklong virtual event, with different class sessions offered daily. By registering you will be able to attend all sessions. The sessions will be hosted in a Zoom video conference and share on the UF/IFAS Range Cattle REC Facebook page through Facebook live. If you choose to participate through Facebook, registration is not necessary.

### Schedule

- Mon., 6/29, 2:00 to 2:45 p.m.  
'Wired Wildlife' with Bethany Wight and Tyler Buckley
- Tues., 6/30, 2:00 to 2:45 p.m.  
'Halter Breaking Demonstration' with Matt Warren
- Wed., 7/1, ~ two sessions on this day ~  
2:00 to 2:45 p.m.  
'Feed n' Stuff' with Chris Prevatt, Christa Kirby, and Julie Warren  
~ 15 minute intermission ~  
3:00 to 3:45 p.m.  
'Plants: To eat or not to eat?' with Brent Sellers and Clay Cooper
- Thurs., 7/2, 2:00 to 2:45 p.m.  
'MILK IT! Lactaion Station' with Lauren Butler and Colleen Larson
- Fri., 7/3, 2:00 to 2:45 p.m.  
'Reproduction Deconstruction' with Taylor Davis, Sonja Crawford, and Liz Palmer

### Registration

There is no cost to register for this event, but there is an option to register and purchase a t-shirt. If you prefer to watch on Facebook, you do not need to register.

### T-Shirts

Shirt orders will be accepted until the July 3 class session. This year's shirt is a royal blue frost color (a 50/50 blend of polyester and cotton) with white imprint. All shirts are \$15. Purchase t-shirts through Eventbrite registration.

See complete details here: <https://rcrec-yfd-2020.eventbrite.com>

