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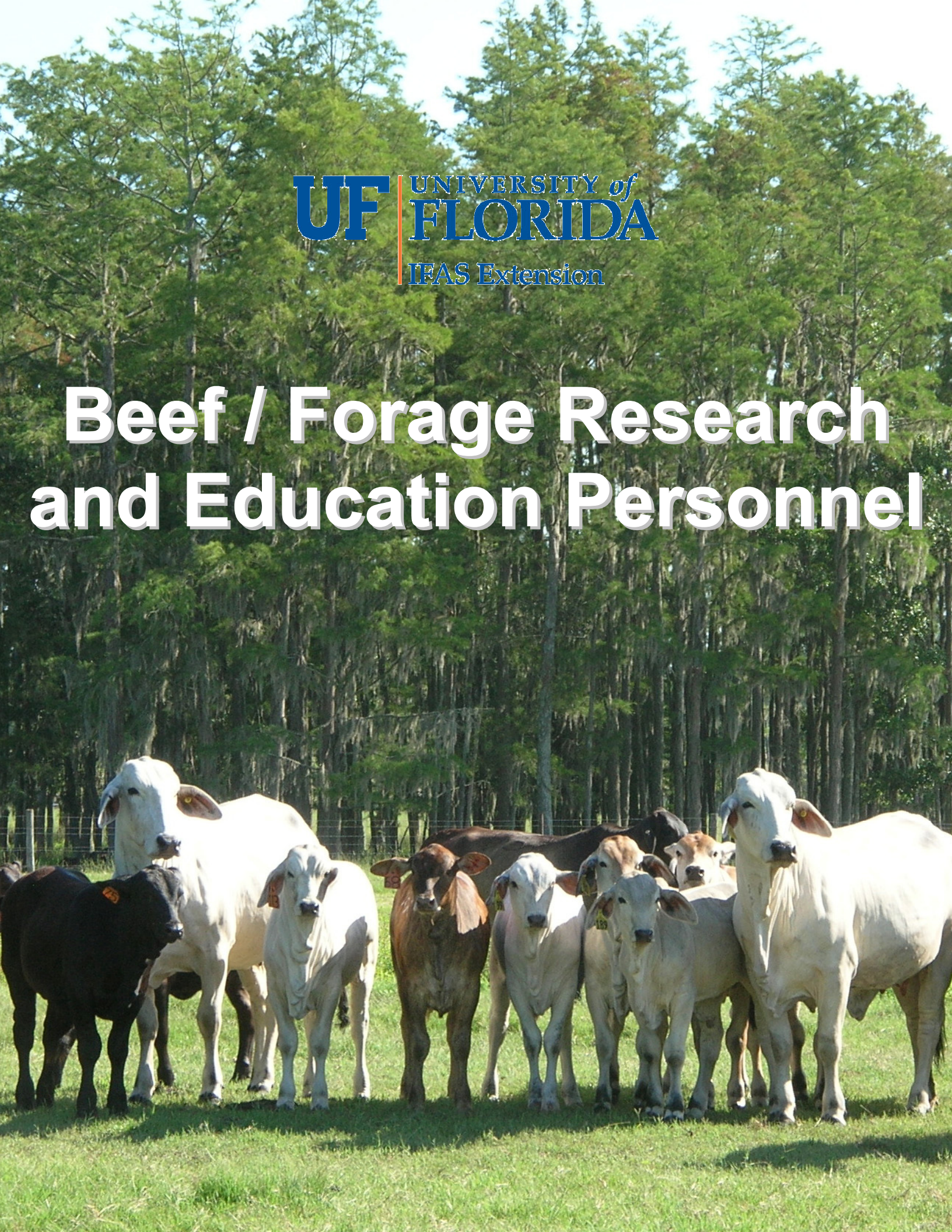
IFAS Extension

Beef / Forage Research and Education Personnel



UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA
IFAS Extension

Beef / Forage Research and Education Personnel

Sorted by Research and Education Focus

Sorted by Faculty

Sorted by Faculty within Research and Education Focus

Beef Breeding

Chase, Chad

Elzo, Mauricio A.

Hansen, Gary R.

Olson, Timothy A.

Riley, David Greg

Beef Genetics

Elzo, Mauricio A.

Beef Marketing

Johnson, Dwain

Beef Quality Assurance

Hersom, Matt

Thrift, Todd

Bull Management

Hansen, Gary R.

Bull Selection

Elzo, Mauricio A.

By-product Utilization

Adesogan, Gbola

Brown, William, F.

Hersom, Matt

Myer, Robert (Bob)

Calf Management

Arthington, John

Irsik, Max

Thrift, Todd

Cattle Health

Irsik, Max

Energy and Protein Supplementation

Adesogan, Gbola

Arthington, John

Brown, William, F.

Coleman, Sam

Hersom, Matt

Myer, Robert (Bob)

Sollenberger, Lynn

Vendramini, Joe

Forage Establishment

Newman, Yoana

Sigua, Gilbert C.

Vendramini, Joe

Forage Fertilization

Newman, Yoana

Silveira, Maria L.

Sollenberger, Lynn

Vendramini, Joe

Forage Harvesting and Storage

Adesogan, Gbola

Brown, William, F.

Forage Management, General

Coleman, Sam

Ferrell, Jason

Newman, Yoana

Sellers, Brent

Grazing Management

Newman, Yoana

Sigua, Gilbert C.

Sollenberger, Lynn

Vendramini, Joe

Heifer Development

Arthington, John

Brown, William, F.

Chase, Chad

Coleman, Sam

Hersom, Matt

Yelich, Joel

Herbicide Use

Ferrell, Jason

Sellers, Brent

Livestock and Forage Economics

Irsik, Max

Meat Science, General

Johnson, Dwain

Mineral Nutrition

Arthington, John

Myer, Robert (Bob)

Nutrition, General

Adesogan, Gbola

Coleman, Sam

Myer, Robert (Bob)

Thrift, Todd

Pasture Pests, Weeds and Insects

Ferrell, Jason

Newman, Yoana

Sellers, Brent

Plant Identification

Ferrell, Jason

Sellers, Brent

Record Keeping Systems

Elzo, Mauricio A.

Irsik, Max

Thrift, Todd

Reproduction, Artificial Insemination and Embryo Transfer

Chase, Chad

Hansen, Gary R.

Yelich, Joel

Reproduction, Estrus Synchronization

Hansen, Gary R.

Yelich, Joel

Reproduction, General

Chase, Chad

Yelich, Joel

Soil Fertility

Silveira, Maria L.

Sollenberger, Lynn

Soil Quality

Sigua, Gilbert C.

Water Quality

Sigua, Gilbert C.

Silveira, Maria L.

Name: Adegbola Adesogan

Title: Associate Professor

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Research and Education Focus (selected from index list)

1. Forage Harvesting and Storage
2. Energy and Protein Supplementation
3. By-product Utilization
4. Nutrition, General

Brief Overview of Research and Extension Program

One aspect of my research focuses on improving the quality, shelf life and nutritive value of stored forages. This entails evaluating the role of ammonia, enzymes, molasses, and bacterial inoculants in improving forage quality and preventing the growth of spoilage organisms that produce mycotoxins.

A second aspect involves strategic use of energy, protein and byproduct supplements in beef, sheep, and dairy cow rations.

A third aspect involves developing methods for successfully incorporating legumes in cattle diets. This involves direct incorporation of legumes in pastures for grazing cattle as well as replacing protein supplements with stored legumes in cattle diets.

I do not have an extension assignment but I enjoy working with producers and participating in extension programs.

Name: John Arthington

Title: Center Director and Associate Professor

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Research and Education Focus (selected from index list)

1. Management of calves at weaning and shipping
2. Mineral nutrition of cattle
3. Heifer development
4. Energy and protein supplementation of cattle

Brief Overview of Research and Extension Program

A focal area of our program aims to decrease stress and improve performance of calves at the time of weaning and shipping. Specific areas of investigation include, 1) age of weaning, 2) preconditioning, and 3) nutritional modulation of stress and performance.

Heifer development programs focus on identifying methods to decrease age at puberty and increase conception rates of yearlings. A hallmark of our heifer development efforts focuses on early-weaning systems that permanently separate the cow and calf at 80 days after calving.

Cowherd supplementation programs are continuously investigated that focus on low cost solutions to complement winter and spring grazing systems in south Florida. Specific emphasis is placed on the use of local byproduct feeds, such as molasses and citrus pulp. A major emphasis is also placed on research investigating the supplementation of trace minerals to grazing beef cows in Florida.

Name: William F. Brown

Title: Professor

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Research and Education Focus (selected from index list)

1. Energy and Protein Supplementation
2. By-Product Utilization
3. Forage Harvesting and Storage
4. Heifer Development

Brief Overview of Research and Extension Program

Research activities include the evaluation of various feedstuffs to supply the supplemental protein and energy needs of cattle grazing tropical grass pastures, with a focus on by-product feedstuffs to meet these needs.

We are also interested in measuring the changes in forage quality that occur during the year in tropical grass pastures, specifically related to these effects on forage intake by grazing cattle and the need for supplemental protein and energy.

A long term objective has been improvement of stored forage by various chemical treatments.

Name: Chad Chase

Title: Research Animal Scientist

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Research and Education Focus (selected from index list)

1. Beef Breeding
2. Heifer Development
3. Reproduction, Artificial Insemination and Embryo Transfer
4. Reproduction, General

Brief Overview of Research and Extension Program

One main objective of our current research is to determine the cascade of physiological responses to chronic stressors responsible for reduced animal performance in subtropical environments. This consists of three approaches 1) using tropically- vs. temperately-adapted cattle, determine those physiological, endocrine, and immune responses to both controlled and ambient heat stress conditions; and also to determine if those observed responses are similar when sampling is done by human intervention vs. a remote sampling method, 2) determine the resistance to internal parasites among the breedtypes, and for Angus initially, to evaluate the association of phenotype with QTL for internal parasite resistance, and 3) to develop research herds of Hereford cattle in MT and FL that will display genotype by environment interactions in order so that we may apply the results learned on chronic stress in this project to a future project to determine the mechanisms responsible.

Name: Sam Coleman

Title: Research Animal Scientist and Research Leader

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Research and Education Focus (selected from index list)

1. Nutrition, General
2. Forage Management, General
3. Energy and Protein Supplementation
4. Heifer Development

Brief Overview of Research and Extension Program

The program focus at STARS is to evaluate beef breeds and breed types for adaptability and productivity of cows in the subtropics and their offspring in traditional grown and finishing systems in temperate regions. The strategy is to determine the physiological traits involved in ability to resist or tolerate the stresses that are incurred in subtropical environments. The nutritional aspect of the research involves forage management to ensure both quantity and quality at critical times during the cow-calf cycle. Efficiency of feed production is important both by the cow and the post-weaning calf. They may or may not be related and much of our research over the next 10 years will focus on life-cycle efficiency.

For forage management, we work with plant breeders in testing and evaluating breeder lines for forage production and quality under grazing. Quality evaluation using animal trials, laboratory tests, and near-infrared reflectance spectroscopy (NIRS) are used as methods to provide timely information to producers so they can make good nutrition decisions. Forage quality evaluation provides the basis for developing supplementation strategies to adequately supply the cow with the nutrients she needs at different times during the calf production cycle.

Name: Mauricio A. Elzo

Title: Professor

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Research and Education Focus (selected from index list)

1. Beef Genetics
2. Beef Breeding
3. Bull Selection
4. Record Keeping Systems

Brief Overview of Research and Extension Program

Development of models and procedures to improve the predictive ability and the accuracy of genetic evaluation, selection and mating strategies of straightbred and crossbred animals in multibreed populations for traits of economic importance under a variety of environmental conditions.

Development of applied genetic-economic indicators to assess the worth of straightbred and crossbred animals in multibreed populations for combinations of reproduction, production, and health traits in tropical and subtropical environments.

Research covers methodological, computational, biological, and applied aspects of genetic evaluation and estimation of genetic parameters in multibreed populations. Models and procedures are validated using national and international experimental and field multibreed data sets.

Name: Jason Ferrell

Title: Assistant Professor

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Research and Education Focus (selected from index list)

1. Pasture Pests, Weeds
2. Forage Management
3. Herbicide Use
4. Plant Identification

Brief Overview of Research and Extension Program

A focal area of our program aims to improve weed control in pastures and rangeland in order to improve overall production and animal carrying capacity. These efforts focus on the impacts of herbicide application timing and herbicide selection on overall efficacy of the weed management program.

Control of woody brush can be an involved process that requires specialized equipment and non-traditional spray products. Therefore, the program often focuses on the methodology and technical information required for optimum brush control.

It is often difficult to determine how much forage is being sacrificed due to the presence of weeds. Research is being conducted to determine the influence of weed competition on forage productivity. This will allow for determinations on the optimum timing of herbicides to maximize weed control without losing forage productivity.

Name: Gary R. Hansen

Title: Assistant Professor/Beef Cattle Specialist

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Research and Education Focus (selected from index list)

1. Reproduction, Artificial Insemination and Embryo Transfer
2. Reproduction, Estrus Synchronization
3. Beef Breeding
4. Bull Management
5. Feed Efficiency

Brief Overview of Research and Extension Program

The Goal of my research program is to develop and integrate new technology and production practices to optimize performance in Florida's beef cattle herd. Specific goals include: 1) feed efficiency in cattle adapted to subtropical/tropical environments, 2) improved reproductive performance in primiparous beef cattle and 3) improved beef quality in cattle raised in Florida.

The focal area of our feed efficiency program focuses on selection of animals within and between beef cattle breeds adapted to subtropical/tropical environments for feed efficiency, feeding behavior and growth traits. To date, animals have been identified that consume 22% less feed while maintaining equal performance in other traits of economic importance in comparison to less efficient animals.

Estrous synchronization programs have focused on developing methods to synchronize estrus in primiparous beef cattle. The most important effort of this program is investigating the differences seen using progesterone/estrogen based protocols in comparison to progesterone/GnRH protocols.

Improved beef quality is a by-product of the feed efficiency research as animals used in the feed efficiency studies are further tracked through the feedlot and harvest phases to identify cattle with superior feeding characteristics and improved carcass traits.

Name: Matt Hersom

Title: Assistant Professor – Extension Beef Cattle Specialist

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Research and Education Focus (selected from index list)

1. Energy and Protein Supplementation
2. By-Product Utilization
3. Heifer Development
4. Beef Quality Assurance / Biosecurity

Brief Overview of Research and Extension Program

The general research focus is to investigate optimum feeding strategies for forage fed beef cattle. The areas of investigation include feedstuff evaluation, by-product utilization, supplement characteristics, and feeding frequency.

Cooperative work examines the interaction of nutrition and reproduction. Specific areas include: 1) effect of supplementation strategies on cow reproductive performance, 2) heifer development through the use of different feedstuffs and feeding management. An additional area of cooperative work is examining the effect of nutrition and management during the background phase on muscle and meat characteristics.

Extension efforts include beef cattle nutrition, cow-calf production, and forage utilization. Emphasis areas include supplementation, grazing, and nutrition-reproduction interaction. I chair the Florida Beef Cattle Short Course and assist with Florida Beef Quality Assurance program. Livestock enterprise biosecurity is an emerging extension area.

Name: Max Irsik

Title: Beef Cattle Extension Veterinarian, Assistant Professor

Location: College of Veterinary Medicine

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Research and Education Focus (selected from index list)

1. Cattle Health
2. Calf Management
3. Livestock and Forage Economics
4. Record Keeping Systems

Brief Overview of Research and Extension Program

Our extension program focuses on beef cattle herd health and management. Our programs extend from enhancing reproductive performance for the beef cow herd, to calf health and well being, stocker and fed cattle health and performance and cull cow management.

In veterinary extension our goal is to provide producers with current production enhancement techniques and easy access to applicable research. With this in mind we deliver information to our clients, cow calf producers, fed cattle owners, stockers and backgrounders, county extension faculty, youth, via the web at, www.vetmed.ufl.edu/extensionservices .

Our research program is directed toward reproductive efficiency for cow-calf herds. The focus is herd efficiencies evaluating conception and calving rates, reduced weaning percentages, causes for reproductive failure and loss of herd efficiency and applicable remedies for herd enhancement. The goal of our research program is to improve the competitive advantage for Florida beef cattle producers.

Name: Dwain Johnson

Title: Professor

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Research and Education Focus (selected from index list)

1. Meat Science
2. Beef Marketing
3.
4.

Brief Overview of Research and Extension Program

Fresh meat research has focused on evaluating, understanding and finding ways to alter animal quality and composition. This effort has taken numerous approaches which include genetic evaluation and selection, nutrition management, and post-harvest processing.

Research interests include characterization and profiling of chuck and round muscle groups. Recent cooperative work has investigated the development and assessment of the value-added fresh beef meat products. Additionally, investigation of the effect of beta-agonist utilized in beef cattle diets and cull-cow feeding has been explored.

Name: Robert (Bob) Myer

Title: Professor of Animal Sciences

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Research and Education Focus (selected from index list)

1. Nutrition, General
2. By-product utilization
3. Energy and Protein Supplementation
4. Mineral Nutrition

Brief Overview of Research and Extension Program

My position is 80% research and 20% extension in livestock nutrition (mainly beef cattle and swine). Specialty – evaluation of alternative feed ingredients for livestock diets including various by-products from food processing and food service industries.

Name: Yoana Newman

Title: Assistant Professor – Forage Specialist

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Research and Education Focus (selected from index list)

1. Forage Establishment
2. Forage Fertilization
3. Forage Management, General
4. Grazing Management
5. Pasture Pests, Weeds and Insects

Brief Overview of Research and Extension Program

Extension focus is programming and information dissemination of general information on forages, including cost-effective and environmentally sound practices of forage production and management in the state of Florida.

Applied research centers on forage management in general and systems for livestock production. Nitrogen fertilizer alternatives are a main focal point and include identification of adapted cool-season legumes for overseeding of warm-season perennial grasses. Establishment management practices of bahiagrass and other warm-season perennials are other issues of research that focus on selection of cost effective practices.

Name: Timothy A. (Tim) Olson

Title: Professor

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Research and Education Focus (selected from index list)

1. Beef Breeding
2.
3.
4.

Brief Overview of Research and Extension Program

My current research with beef cattle breeding involves interaction with the scientists at STARS at Brooksville in the beef cattle crossbreeding studies there as well as studies related to heat tolerance in beef cattle. I also am available to discuss beef cattle breeding (and crossbreeding) programs with Florida beef cattle producers as requested.

Name: David Greg Riley

Title: Research Geneticist

Location: Brooksville

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Research and Education Focus (selected from index list)

1. Beef Breeding
2.
3.
4.

Brief Overview of Research and Extension Program

Genetic Improvement of Cattle

1. Cow reproduction and maternal ability
2. Adaptation to suboptimal environments
3. Steer performance and end-product quality

Name: Brent Sellers

Title: Extension Weed Specialist and Assistant Professor

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Research and Education Focus (selected from index list)

1. Pasture Pests, Weeds
2. Forage Management
3. Herbicide Use
4. Plant Identification

Brief Overview of Research and Extension Program

Our goal for the weed science program at the Range Cattle REC is to implement weed control strategies for improved perennial grass pastures through an integrated and economical approach that is environmentally friendly. Specific projects include smutgrass biology, control and management, forage grass tolerance to herbicides, and weed competition in pastures.

A major focus of our extension program is weed and forage identification. To fulfill this goal, a forage and weed nursery will be available for educational field days by the end of 2007. It is expected that all facets of pasture production, including forage grass selection, soil fertility, and weed identification can be taught utilizing the nursery.

With the ever-changing herbicide market, we continue to investigate new herbicides and herbicide combinations. Specific emphasis is placed on identifying products or tank-mix partners that provide broad-spectrum weed control with on pass through pastures.

Name: Gilbert C. Sigua

Title: Research Soil Scientist

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Agricultural Research Service
Subtropical Agricultural Research Station
Brooksville, FL 34601

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Research and Education Focus

1. Water Quality
2. Soil Quality and Management
3. Forage Establishment and Fertilization
4. Grazing Management

Brief Overview of Research and Extension Program

The overall goal of my research program is to develop, implement, and assess a long-term research strategy that optimizes forage-based cow-calf operations while improving sustainability of beef cattle agriculture and water quality protection. Through concurrent collaborative studies at three locations (Marianna, Ona, and Brooksville) representing divergent subtropical soil types, hydrology, and environments, the impact of grazing intensity, cattle movement, and grazing behavior on soil C, P, and N dynamics in pastures will be determined and changes in water quality around and beneath cattle congregation sites will be assessed at the same locations.

Our research project will also assess nutrient richness and degradation of manure pats from ruminants grazing pastures composed partially of tannin containing legumes. To accomplish this, collaborative studies will determine if natural tannins in temperate and tropical legumes affect C, N, and P mobility, degradation, and cycling from feces.

The third component of the research plan is to develop and implement technology, particularly near-infrared spectroscopy, to rapidly assess forage, soil, and manure for chemical nutrients and biological contaminants that may lead to the development of appropriate management practices and technologies for water quality protection, pasture stability, and cattle ranching profitability.

Name: Maria L. Silveira

Title: Assistant Professor

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Research and Education Focus (selected from index list)

1. Soil Fertility and Water Quality
2. Forage Fertilization
3.
4.

Brief Overview of Research and Extension Program

The mission of our program is to provide science-based information on nutrient management strategies that result in optimum forage production and profitability, and yet protect water quality. The major components of our mission are to address the needs of beef cattle industry in south Florida and to promote education programs that emphasize the importance of sustainable use of soil and water resources. The research and extension components of the Soil and Water Science program focus on the following areas:

1) To understand fundamental relationship between soil, forage, and livestock production and determine management practices that utilize these resources more efficiently;
2) To develop economically viable soil fertility programs for major forage crops;
3) To investigate the beneficial use of animal and municipal by-products as nutrient sources for forage production;
4) To examine the impacts of agriculture on water quality and determine alternatives to protect Florida's unique ecosystem.

Name: Lynn Sollenberger

Title: Professor and Associate Chair of Agronomy

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Research and Education Focus (selected from index list)

1. Phosphorus Fertilization of Bahiagrass
2. Grazing Management
3. Soil Fertility and Water Quality
4. Energy and Protein Supplementation

Brief Overview of Research and Extension Program

A goal of our research is to determine the minimum amount of phosphorus fertilizer needed to sustain vigorous stands of grazed bahiagrass. The role of soil pH in plant utilization of phosphorus is being investigated, as is the usefulness of plant tissue phosphorus analysis and deeper-layer soil testing for predicting need for phosphorus fertilizer. Water quality is being monitored under bahiagrass fertilized with a range of low phosphorus rates.

Another important area of research is the response to defoliation of potential new bahiagrasses and limpograsses. Bahiagrasses with greater cool-season growth are being tested for long-term stand survival and limpograsses will be evaluated for stand survival and forage digestibility.

Grazing management effects on the uniformity of distribution of urine and dung on pastures is being evaluated to identify management practices that result in more uniform distribution of excreta and greater recovery of nutrients from excreta in forage production.

Name: Todd Thrift

Title: Assistant Professor

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Research and Education Focus (selected from index list)

1. Beef Quality Assurance
2. Calf Management
3. Nutrition, General
4. Record Keeping Systems

Brief Overview of Research and Extension Program

The three major focus areas are as follows:
1. Beef Quality Assurance
2. New Developments in the Beef Industry (National Animal Identification)
3. Improving Calf Quality via Management, Selection, and Nutrition

The Beef Quality Assurance Program has educated producers on cull cow management, residue avoidance, proper techniques for administration of animal health products to minimize tissue damage, and other quality assurance concerns.

A major program has been to educate/inform producers on the National Animal Identification Program. An ongoing research study is looking at the feasibility to using electronic ID to track an animal from birth to slaughter. This study has revealed it is possible to track cattle for disease control purposes but it is difficult to collect other information for selection and management decisions.

Preconditioning of calves has become a more accepted practice. Producers are more aware of the cost and benefits of preconditioned calves.

Name: Joe Vendramini

Title: Assistant Professor-Forage Specialist

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Research and Education Focus (selected from index list)

1. Forage Establishment
2. Forage Fertilization
3. Grazing Management
4. Energy and protein supplementation of cattle

Brief Overview of Research and Extension Program

The research program is dedicated to forage management with emphasis on sub-tropical production systems. The major area of interest is forage-livestock interface and the impact of forage management on forage and animal production, and environmental quality.
The extension program is focuses on increasing producer awareness of the importance of forage testing. The objectives of this program are: a) to develop and deliver educational programs on forage sampling, testing, forage testing results interpretation that promote the potential benefits of forage testing on diet formulation and nutrient management for livestock producers, and b) conduct forage testing campaigns in Florida.

Name: Joel Yelich

Title: Associate Professor Beef Cattle Reproductive Management

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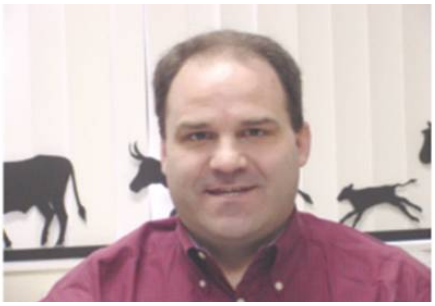

Research and Education Focus (selected from index list)

1. Reproduction, Estrus Synchronization
2. Heifer Development
3. Reproduction, General
4. Reproduction, Artificial Insemination and Embryo Transfer

Brief Overview of Research and Extension Program

Research is centered on the application of the advanced research technologies to enhance and optimize reproductive efficiency in beef cattle. Current research interest include: manipulation of follicular growth and development to control ovulation in beef cattle to maximize the effectiveness of estrous synchronization and timed artificial insemination; the effect of nutrition on the onset of puberty and fertility in pre-puberal and puberal yearling beef heifers; and evaluating the influence of nutrition on follicular development, return to estrus, and rebreeding efficiency in postpartum beef cows with an emphasis on cattle of *Bos indicus* breeding