

UF/IFAS

Range Cattle Research & Education Center NEWS

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Meet the Staff

by Andrea Dunlap

Over the next several months we will be introducing you to our faculty and staff. We start this month, by introducing you to the Range Cattle REC office staff, Lauria Gause, Christina Markham and Andrea Dunlap pictured below.



The newest member to the office staff is Lauria Gause. Lauria came to work at the Center in April. A local, Lauria grew up in Arcadia and now calls the community of Limestone her home. She is the Center's only Secretary and serves at the front desk. If you stop by for a visit she will likely be the first person you meet. Lauria provides friendly assistance to the many people who call the Center each day, assists faculty and staff by doing data input, travel and expense reports, voucher entry, daily weather recordings, mail and shipping, and customer service. When asked what she enjoys most about her job, Lauria said, "I enjoy getting to meet people who come to UF from around the world to better themselves through education, and can provide knowledge as well. I also like the friendly atmosphere and the people who make it a great place to work." When not at work Lauria enjoys swimming, walking, and taking care of animals.

Office Manager, Christina Markham, is the second to the most senior staff member at the Center, having 29 year and 8 months of time served. The Center is the only work 'home' Christina has ever known, coming to work here in a high school job program and never leaving. Growing up on a ranch in the Duette area, a family move to Hardee County at the end of her junior year brought her to Hardee Senior High and, consequently, the Center through the job program. She started as a receptionist/secretary and worked her way up to Office Manager. Working for many years under the supervision of Dr.

IN THIS ISSUE

Exchange Visitors	2
Upcoming Events	3
Recent Publications	3
Faculty News	3

“Meet the Staff” from previous page

Findlay Pate and now Dr. John Arthington, she is responsible for keeping budgets, cattle and asset inventory, purchasing, paying invoices, hiring personnel, payroll, student tuitions, ensuring the office runs smoothly, etc. When asked what she enjoys most about her job, Christina said, “I come to work every day to a nice relaxed atmosphere with a beautiful view. I love getting lost in the numbers and enjoy working with people.” When at home in Lake Placid, Christina, an avid reader, enjoys spending time with family - she has 5 grandchildren that keep her quite busy.

The third member of the office staff is myself, Andrea Dunlap. I have been employed as a full time staff member for 14 years, and I am currently serving as a program assistant under the supervision of Dr. John Arthington. My job duties

include serving as the Center’s polycom contact; environmental health & safety manager; assistant to the Director; provide administrative support; website manager; work with faculty and staff to plan and execute meetings and events; and assisting international students with documents to come to the Center as J-1 Exchange Visitors (interns, short-term and research scholars). What I enjoy about working at the Center is all the aspects of working in the country – beautiful surroundings, wildlife, and the only sounds are from birds, cattle, or the occasional tractor driving by. Additionally, I enjoy having the opportunity to work with the RCREC faculty, staff, and students, the South Florida Beef Forage Program members and the many visitors who come to the Center. I also enjoy learning about research and being directly involved with the educational programs we host. I grew up

in Ona and have called the Lily community my home for the last 23 years. I received an Associate of Arts degree in Education from South Florida Community College in 2008 and I am currently working on a Bachelors of Arts degree in Educational Studies at Warner University, with a projected graduation of May 2014. My prior work experience includes working at my mom’s grocery, gas, and feed store (Smith’s Store) and driving a school bus. Prior to working full time at the Center, I worked on several short-term jobs with Dr. Bill Brown, Dr. Jack Rechcigl, and Dr. Paul Mislevy - assisting with lab and field work. When I am not at work I enjoy spending time with my husband and our five children, working with my church youth group, studying the Bible, and going to school.

Exchange Visitors



Luana Silva Caramalac is an undergraduate student from Universidade Estadual do Mato Grosso do Sul located in Aquidauana, Brazil under the advisement of Dr. Henrique Fernandes in the Animal Science Department. She has spent the last six months as a Short-term Scholar at the Center under the direction of Dr. John Arthington. In Brazil, Luana is pursuing her Bachelor’s degree in Beef Cattle Nutrition and expects to graduate in early 2014. During her time here, Luana has assisted with many research projects

and gained valuable hands on experience. When asked about her experience here Luana said, “I would like to say thank you- The grad house is great, comfortable, beautiful and enjoyable and all the people working here are very caring, devoted and beloved. Thank you for everything you did for me.” At home in Brazil Luana enjoys horseback riding, studying, watching movies, and talking.



Arlindo Saran Netto, a Professor at the University of São Paulo, College of Animal Science and Food Engineering, in Brazil, recently completed a four-month program at the Range Cattle REC as a CAPES-FULBRIGHT Visiting Professor/ Researcher. During his time here he worked closely with Dr. Joao Vendramini and Dr. John Arthington assisting in various research activities pertaining to beef cattle nutrition and production. When asked about his experience here Arlindo had this to say, “This was a good experience. It is good to build the

relationship between Brazil and the U.S. researchers and facilitate the exchange of students to act in future research.”

Recent Publications

Fedenko, J. R., Erickson, J. E., Woodard, K. R., Sollenberger, L. E., Vendramini, J. M. B., Gilbert, R. A., Helsel, Z. R., and Peter, G. F. 2013. Biomass Production and Composition of Perennial Grasses Grown for Bioenergy in a Sub-tropical Climate Across Florida, USA. *Bioenergy Research*. doi: 10.1007/s12155-013-9342-3.

Vendramini, J. M. B., Silveira, M. L., Aguiar, A. D., Galzerano, L., Valente, A. L., and Salvo, P. 2013. Forage Characteristics of Bahiagrass Pastures Overseeded with "Ubon" Stylosanthes. *Online. Forages and Grazinglands* doi: 10.1094/FG-2013-0528-01-RS.

Ferrell, J. A., Leon, R. G., Sellers, B., Rowland, D., and Brecke, B. 2013. Influence of Lactofen and 2,4-DB Combinations on Peanut Injury and Yield. *Peanut Science*. 40:62-65

Faculty News

In Gainesville, new faculty arrive -



Introducing Tim Hackmann

Dr. Tim Hackmann recently joined the Department of Animal Sciences at UF as an Assistant Professor of Gastrointestinal Microbiology. Tim was born in St. Louis, MO and educated at University of Missouri (BS, Biological Sciences; MS, Animal Sciences) and The Ohio State University (PhD, Nutrition). He hopes you won't hold his past football teams against him!

Tim wants his research with rumen microbes to improve predictions of diet formulation software for dairy cattle and enable dairy producers to feed less protein safely. Rumen microbes flowing from the rumen supply most protein digested by cattle. Diet formulation software predicts the size of that microbial protein supply, but it often does so inaccurately. Because predictions can be inaccurate, protein often has been overfed for safety.

To improve software predictions and reduce protein overfeeding, Tim identifies factors that influence the supply of microbial protein. He has found that rumen microbes waste a lot of energy by producing excessive amounts of heat, potentially reducing their supply to cattle. This waste is not represented in software predictions, but he is further characterizing it so that it can be. He has also found that microbes can store large amounts of energy,

Upcoming Events

Range Cattle REC Field Day - October 1

Plan to attend the Range Cattle Research and Education Center (RCREC) Forage & Cattle Field Day on Tuesday, October 1. This field day will feature opening remarks from Henry Kempfer of Kempfer Cattle Company and President Elect of the Florida Cattlemen's Association, followed by research presentations from each of the RCREC's six faculty members (see the attached brochure). Register by using the form in the brochure or online by September 24th. The \$15 registration fee included a copy of the field day proceedings and a steak lunch.

Register online: <https://rcrec-fd.eventbrite.com>

Reproductive Management School - October 7-10

Location: Buck Island Ranch, Lake Placid
Presented by the South Florida Beef Forage Program

Click to view the: [Brochure](#)

Click to view the: [Register & Release Forms](#)

Grazing Management School - October 24-25

Location: Polk Co. Extension, John Brenneman Auditorium, Bartow
Presented by the South Florida Beef Forage Program

Click to view the: [Brochure](#)

"Introducing Tim Hackmann" from previous page

which is less wasteful but could still reduce supply of microbial protein. He also wants to better characterize this energy storage to facilitate improvement of software. Tim's long-term goal is to release improved diet formulation software to dairy producers and allied industry in Florida and around the globe. This will help dairy producers feed better and more cost-effective rations. Contact Tim Hackmann at thackmann@ufl.edu.



Introducing Corwin Nelson

Dr. Corwin Nelson joined the Department of Animal Sciences in June of 2013 as an Assistant Professor of Physiology. His research and teaching interests are to promote animal health and production through understanding how environmental and genetic factors influence immune function of production animals.

Dr. Nelson grew up on a small beef and dairy farm in Minnesota and has maintained an interest in beef and dairy production. One of the main issues faced by dairy producers that he is interested in is mastitis in dairy cattle. His research primarily aims to understand how factors such as nutrition, genetics or environment affect the immune response of the udder to bacterial pathogens. The end goal of his research is to develop practical measures for dairy producers to use in their efforts to minimize losses to mastitis and produce high-quality milk.

Dr. Nelson's graduate research at Iowa State University and the USDA National Animal Disease Center revealed a role for vitamin D in the immune response of the udder. Dr. Nelson's research at the University of Florida aims to identify the genes that are affected by the vitamin D hormone, and how vitamin D metabolism is regulated in immune cells. Dr. Nelson's work is expected to result in improved vitamin D feeding recommendations for dairy cattle through a better understanding of how vitamin D is involved in the immune system. In addition to his research interests, Dr. Nelson looks forward to becoming acquainted with the dairy industry in Florida and learning of additional ways he can serve the Florida dairy industry through his position at the University of Florida. Contact Corwin Nelson at cdnelson@ufl.edu.

Source: Dairy Update, Vol. 13 No. 9, Summer 2013. Dr. Albert DeVries.
View this and other issues at: <http://dairy.ifas.ufl.edu/dairyupdate/index.shtml>



RCREC faculty, staff, students and guests at a recent staff meeting.

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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.

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