

UF/IFAS

Range Cattle Research & Education Center NEWS

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Fall 2014

STEM Scholars Summer Field Workplace Experience

by Andrea Dunlap



This past summer the Range Cattle REC was fortunate to be one of several hosts for the FloridaLearns STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics) scholars Summer Field/Workplace Experience. FloridaLearns STEM Scholars is a program for gifted and talented high school students, created by the "Race to the Top" funds awarded to the

Panhandle Area Educational Consortium (PAEC), in partnership with the Heartland Educational Consortium (HEC) and the North East Florida Educational Consortium (NEFEC) by the Florida Department of Education. Students in STEM are matched with short term internships, job shadowing, and college/career coaching opportunities. The scholars taking part in this summer's program at our host site were senior Colton Albritton, and juniors Kayla Albritton and Shelby Dees, all from Hardee Sr. High School. They were accompanied throughout the program by STEM teacher Kayton Nedza. They completed fifty-six (56) hours involving safety training and orientation, data collection, observations, and various field and lab experiences. At the completion of their summer experience the students gave a PowerPoint presentation and video clips highlighting all their RCREC experiences. Overall, they enjoyed their summer learning experience.

New Limpograss Cultivars Released

After many years of development and testing, the UF Agronomy Department and the UF/IFAS Range Cattle REC released two new cultivars of Limpograss (Hemarthria) KenHy and GibTuck. Many were in attendance at the release event held August 7 at the Center including collaborators, Dr. Lynn Sollenburger, Dr. Joao Vendramini, Bert Tucker, Dr. Ken Quesenberry, and Dr. Ann Blount (photo at right). This summer a limited amount of plant material was distributed to a select growers and an increased supply is expected to be available to Florida cattlemen in the summer of 2015.



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UF IFAS Range Cattle Research and Education Center



Bert Tucker standing in 'GibTuck' Limpograss.



Dr. Ken Quesenberry standing in KenHy Limpograss.

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Faculty News



UF faculty with the Prime Minister of the Bahamas.

This past summer a group of UF faculty traveled to the Bahamas to visit a new program they have in agriculture production and education (BAMSI) and advise them on different areas including research, teaching, and extension. The RCREC's Dr. Joao Vendramini was the forage and livestock representative of the group.

**Coming Soon:
Biosolids demonstration site**

The objective of this educational effort will be to evaluate and demonstrate the potential impacts of biosolids applications as a nutrient source for grazed bahiagrass pastures in Florida. – Maria Silveira



The monthly Florida Cattle Market Price Watch report, published in the Florida Cattlemen and Livestock Journal, compares the current August Feeder Cattle Futures Price to the previous year and the 3-year average of the August Feeder Cattle Futures Price to provide cattle producers with information about the direction of the market. The use of the August Feeder Cattle Futures Contract combined with the historical basis for Florida Calves determines the "Expected Cash

Price" for Florida feeder calves well in advance of delivery. The "Expected Cash Price" can be used by cattle producers to evaluate profitability and marketing opportunities by comparing the Expected Cash Price with their breakeven price and price objective for their feeder calves. – Chris Prevatt

Reports can also be viewed here: <http://rcrec-ona.ifas.ufl.edu>



Associate Center Director Named

On July 2, 2014, Dr. Brent Sellers became the Associate Center Director of the Range Cattle REC and will assist the center director, Dr. John Arthington. Dr. Sellers came to the Center in 2004 from Missouri, but originally hails from Indiana. His research and extension programs specialize in pasture weed management.

Graduate Student News



Suite Xu, Ph.D. graduate student under the direction of Dr. Maria Silveira, was recently awarded a USDA-SARE student grant. The title of her proposal is "Impacts of land use intensification on soil organic carbon stocks, soil carbon fractions and microbial activities in subtropical grazing land ecosystems" and the objective of this project is to investigate the long-term effects of grazing land intensification on SOC stocks and distribution and microbial community structure and function in subtropical ecosystems.



This semester, 3 new graduate students came onboard! They are Wes Anderson (Ph.D.), Zhang Ke (M.S.), and Connor Crank (M.S.). These students will be attending classes at UF and engaging in research at the Center under the advisement of Dr. Raoul Boughton, Rangeland Scientist – Wildlife.

Pasture Weed Day

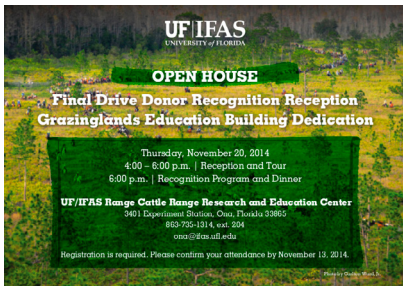


The 2014 Pasture Weed Day was held at the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Cattle and Land Building, in Brighton on October 21 with over fifty in attendance. In addition to a new location, the event was a little different from past years with an indoor

presentation follow by a field tour of demonstration plots. The inside portion covered many important topics including herbicide basics, controlling hard to control weeds, invasive plants that are becoming more problematic, and specific control methods for various weed species. The field demonstration plots allowed attendees to have a visual comparison of products that are currently available along with some that will likely be labeled within the next year or two.

View video of this event on the UF/IFAS Range Cattle REC website, in the [Virtual Classroom](#) or on [YouTube](#).

Upcoming Events



A special **open house** event will be held at the Center on November 20th to showcase facility improvements and give special recognition to donors. The event will begin at 4:00 p.m. with a reception and an opportunity for small groups to tour facilities including, laboratories, the graduate student residence, faculty program services facility, and the new Grazinglands Education Building. This will be followed at 6:00 p.m. with the dedication of the Grazinglands Education Building, dinner, and program recognizing the gracious donors who support the RCREC research and extension programs and have made facility improvements possible. Dinner will be followed by a social time with music and good fellowship. Call us to register by Nov. 13th.

Beginning in July 2014, the Center began facility enhancements including improved ADA compliance, expanded graduate student and support staff office space, and the construction of the Grazinglands Education Building at a cost of \$380,000. Initial support of \$255,000 has been secured from a variety of charitable and state sources and we have begun a funding campaign called "The Final Drive" to fully fund these projects. Over the next 14 months, we are seeking charitable gifts to both complete these projects and increase endowments. Annual earnings from endowments provide renewable, flexible, and permanent funding to be used exclusively at the Range Cattle REC. Gifts can be designated to an already established endowment or used to create new endowments that support a research or extension program of particular interest. If you are interested in learning more about charitable giving or attending the Nov. 20 event, contact us at ona@ifas.ufl.edu or call 863-735-1314 ext. 204 for more details.

Upcoming Events

2014

Horse Short Course & Trade Show (SFBFP event)
- November 18, West Palm Beach

Donor Recognition Reception & Grazinglands Education Building Dedication
- November 20, Ona

FCA Year End Quarterly
- December 4-5, Melbourne

2015

Florida Cattlemen's Institute & Allied Trade Show
- January 15, Arcadia

Florida Bull Test Sale
- January 17, Marianna

Grazinglands Education Building



Upcoming events cont.



Recent Publications

Adewopo, J.B., Silveira, M.L., Xu, S., Gerber, S., Sollenberger, L.E., and Martin, T. 2014. Management intensification impacts on soil and ecosystem carbon stocks in subtropical grasslands. *Soil Science Society of America Journal*. 78:977-986.

Aguiar, A.D., Vendramini, J.M.B., Arthington, J.D., Sollenberger, L.E., Sanchez, J.M.D., da Silva, W.L., Valente, A.L.S., and Salvo, P. 2014. Stocking rate effect on 'Jiggs' bermudagrass pastures grazed by heifers receiving supplementation. *Crop Science*. 54:1-8.

Boughton, E.H., and Boughton, R.K. 2014. Modification by an invasive ecosystem engineer shifts a wet prairie to a monotypic stand. *Biological Invasions*. 16:2105-2114.

Sellers, B.A., Lancaster, S.R., and Langeland, K.A. 2014. Herbicides for postemergence control of Mile-a-Minute (*Mikania micrantha*). *Invasive Plant Science and Management*. 7:303-309.

Silveira, M.L., Xu, S., Adewopo, J., Franzluebbbers, A.J., and Buonadio, G. 2014. Grazing land intensification effects on soil C dynamics in aggregate size fractions of a Spodosol. *Geoderma* 230-231:185-193.

Vendramini, J.M.B., Dubeux, J.C.B., and Silveira, M.L. 2014. Nutrient cycling in tropical pasture ecosystems. *Brazil Journal of Agric. Science*. 9:308-315.

2015 Events - Save the dates!

UF/IFAS Range Cattle Research and Education Center

Cattle & Forage Field Day - April 9

8th Annual Youth Field Day - June 25



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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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