

UF/IFAS

Range Cattle Research & Education Center NEWS

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fall 2016

The Economics Program at the UF/IFAS Range Cattle Research and Education Center (RCREC)

Andrea Dunlap with Chris Prevatt

In February 2014, the Economics Program got its start at the UF/IFAS Range Cattle Research and Education Center (RCREC) with livestock and forage economist Chris Prevatt at the helm. Chris, a native of Alabama, attended Auburn University where he completed his B.S. in Accounting in 2011 and his M.S. in Agricultural Economics in 2013. While at Auburn, Chris worked as a graduate research assistant and on his family's farm in North Florida and Southwest Alabama focusing on stocker cattle production. Chris is married to Trisha who is presently finishing up vet school at Auburn University. They reside in Port Charlotte.

Chris is a member of Southern Agriculture Economics Association, American Society of Animal Sciences, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, American Forage and Grassland Council, Florida Cattlemen's Association, National Association of County Agricultural Agents, and Florida Association of County Agricultural Agents.

Extension

Chris's appointment is 100 percent extension. In a recent interview, I asked Chris what he does as a livestock and forage economist. Chris said, "I work on the economics of livestock and forages, management practices, and marketing strategies for cattle and forage producers. My efforts are to educate Extension faculty and the clientele on the management practices that increase the



profitability of livestock and forage producers." The objectives of his program are:

Developing and Maintaining Enterprise Budgets for a Cow-Calf Operation and Forage Budgets

Generate Decision Aids for producers to analyze profitability on an individual basis

Provide economic insight on cost-effective management practices

Develop a Marketing Plan to evaluate Marketing Alternatives and Strategies

Agri-business Development and Financial Management

Chris says, "The expansion of the U.S. cattle herd has begun increasing the supply of beef which has created shrinking revenues for cattle producers across Florida. In order to weather the storm of herd expansion,

IN THIS ISSUE

- The Economics Program 1
- Student News 2
- Recent Publications & Staff Awards 3
- Upcoming Events 4
- 75th Anniversary Field Day Highlights 4
- Other News 5

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many producers will have to begin monitoring their production costs more closely as profitability will be challenged in the years ahead. The livestock and forage economics program at the Range Cattle REC has begun working with ranchers on ways they can reduce their cost of production and monitor profitable outcomes.

Some of the ways we are doing this is by developing more extensive cattle and forage budgets that can be used to help cattle producers better analyze their operations. Due to the many different outcomes, both profitable and unprofitable, which can arise from the unlimited combinations of animal and forage production practices, production costs, and market prices received by cow-calf producers, an understanding of which combinations are profitable will help guide cow-calf producers to make plans and decisions that will improve their cow-calf operation."

When I asked, "What are the three most common mistakes you've seen and how can they be avoided?" Chris responded:

- 1) Cost of Production
 - Utilize budgeting tools such as the UF/IFAS Beef Cow-Calf Budget
 - Reducing costs will be the focus for operations over the next several years
- 2) Utilization of Forage
 - Producers have to focus on getting the forage they grow in the cow.
 - Implement more intensive grazing strategies: rotational grazing, or strip grazing
- 3) Too Much Machinery and Equipment
 - Only buy equipment that you use regularly
 - Custom hire other equipment services
 - Depreciation and Interest for the use of your money adds up

When asked about 2017, Chris said, "Cattle producers will need to search for ways to lower their unit cost of production (what it costs to produce a pound of beef) and ways to enhance market prices in order to achieve higher levels of profitability during 2017."

Resources

The Economics Program has a variety of helpful resources available on the UF/IFAS RCREC website at: <http://rcrec-ona.ifas.ufl.edu/Economics/index.shtml>. These include: UF/IFAS Beef Cow-Calf Budget, Florida Cattle Market Price Watch, Stocker Cattle Economic Evaluation, Profitability Decision Aid, Forage Budgets, Videos, UF/IFAS Beef Cattle Economics Webinar Series, and Ona Report Webinars.

EDIS documents available include: Improving the Productivity of Beef Heifers in Florida (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/an132>) and 2016 US Beef Cattle Market Outlook (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fe987>).

Chris also regularly posts information on the Southeast Cattle Advisor Webpage: <http://www.secattleadvisor.com/>

Throughout the year, Chris shares his knowledge at local and national meetings. Chris will be presenting in January at the American Forage and Grasslands Council Annual Conference in Roanoke, Virginia and in February at the Animal Science Southern Section Meetings in Nashville, TN. Locally he will be offering a Beef Cattle & Forage Workshop at Ona on March 23. Watch for details in our next newsletter!

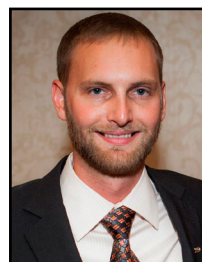
Learn More

Visit Chris's faculty page or the Economics program page on the Range Cattle REC website for more information. Go to <http://rcrec-ona.ifas.ufl.edu>.



Trisha and Chris

Student News
Congratulations Graduates!



Logan Martin, M.S., Agronomy, fall 2016. Thesis: Tolerance of perennial peanuts (*Arachis pinto* and *Arachis glabrata*) to pre- and post-emergence herbicides.

Advisor: Dr. Brent Sellers. Logan is presently seeking employment as an agricultural chemical sales representative.



Juliana Ranches, M.S., Animal Science, fall 2016. Thesis: Selenium supplementation in beef cattle. Advisor: Dr. John Arthington

Juliana is continuing at UF pursuing her Ph.D. Her dissertation topic is: Genetic differences between copper and selenium metabolism among *Bos taurus* (Angus) and *Bos indicus* (Brahman) cattle.



JK Yarborough, M.S., Agronomy, fall 2016. Thesis: Critical levels of potassium tissue concentration in bahiagrass and bermudagrass. Advisor: Dr. Joao Vendramini.

In January, JK will begin as the new Livestock and Natural Resources Extension Agent for Orange and Osceola Counties.

Congratulations, we wish you all the best!

Recent Publications

Campistol, C., H.G., Kattesh, J.C. Waller, E.L. Rawls, J.D. Arthington, J.A. Carroll, G.M. Pighetti, & A.M. Saxton. 2016. Effects of pre-weaning feed supplementation and total versus fenceline weaning on the physiology and performance of beef steers. *International Journal of Livestock Production* 7(8), 48-54.

Lastinger, C.A., B.A. Sellers, J.A. Ferrell, J.M.B. Vendramini, and M.L. Silveira. 2016. Limpograss tolerance to herbicides is affected by time of year, but not regrowth height or fertilizer application timing. *Crop Forage Turfgrass Management*. Doi:10.2134/cftm2016.04.0033

Wallau, M.O., L.E. Sollenberger, J.M.B. Vendramini, C.S.M. Gomide, M.K. Mullenix, and K.H. Quensenberry. 2016. Performance of limpograss breeding lines under various grazing management strategies. *Crop Science* 56:1-9

Vendramini, J. M. B., A. D. Aguiar, A. T. Adesogan, L. E. Sollenberger, E. Alves, L. Galzerano, P. Salvo, A. L. Valente, K. G. Arriola, Z. X. Ma and F. C. L. Oliveira. 2016. Effects of genotype, wilting, and additives on the nutritive value and fermentation of bermudagrass silage. *Journal of Animal Science*. doi:10.2527/jas.2016-0306

The following staff & friends of the Center were recognized at the annual Range Cattle REC Christmas Party



she has assisted Dr. Maria Silveira in her Soil and Water Sciences Program supporting the research and extension efforts and training and supervising graduate and exchange visitor students. In addition to her regular duties, Cindy has also provided supplemental support to the Agronomy lab in the absence of their Biological Scientist.

Cindy has about 2 years remaining in the drop program and is looking forward to retirement.

UF/IFAS Range Cattle REC Superior Accomplishment Awardee, Cindy Holley, being presented her certificate and cash award by Dr. Joao Vendramini.

In October, Cindy Holley was chosen for this year's UF/IFAS Range Cattle REC Superior Accomplishment Award. She has since been nominated for UF/IFAS division level award in the Scientific/Technical category. Those winners will be announced around Christmas. We wish you the best Cindy!

Cindy is a Biological Scientist who has worked at the RCREC since April 1990. Over these 26 years she has worked with several different programs and although her degree is in animal science, she has worked most often in soil and water science programs. Since 2006,

This year the Center established a new award called the, "Friend of Ona" Award and named Edgar Davis as the 2016 awardee. The inscription reads, 'We present this



award in sincere appreciation of your many years of committed support and friendship to our Center.' We are very grateful for Mr. Davis and look forward to presenting him with this award at a future date, as he was unable to attend the program on Dec. 2.



Tammy Siegel (of the Citrus REC) was recognized for her outstanding grant support to the Center. Tammy is seen here with her husband Rick.



Receiving service pins this year are Terry Neels (15 yrs.) and Clay Newman (10 yrs.). Pictured are Clay with Dr. John Arthington - Terry was not available for the photo.

75th Anniversary Celebration & Field Day

On October 27, 222 people gathered at the Center to reminisce on its 75 years of support to Florida's cattle and grazinglands managers. Attendees viewed old scrap books and photo albums and heard morning and afternoon faculty presentations. Lab tours and exhibits were available for viewing as well as field day sponsor booths and graduate student posters. Special guest speakers included UF/IFAS Sr. VP Jack Payne, Florida Cattlemen's Assoc. President, Ned Waters, and Key Note Speakers Erik Jacobsen of Deseret Cattle & Citrus and Jim Strickland of Strickland Ranch. Check out our special 75th anniversary materials on our website at: <http://rcrec-ona.ifas.ufl.edu/vclassroom/video/vcmedia.shtml#FD>

- Recordings of the field day talks
- 75th Anniversary Video
- Field Day Photos
- The Special Edition Tabloid



Viewing grad student posters.



Jim Handley and Ned Waters receive the UF/IFAS Industry Partner Award on behalf of the Florida Cattlemen's Assoc. from Dr. Jack Payne.



Dr. Elver Hodges gives remarks.



Afternoon field tour stop.

Webinars - A change is on the way in 2017!

In 2017, the Center will be bringing 7 special program highlights to you in place of the monthly Ona Report Webinars. These presentations will be spread out across the year and presented at a new time, 11:00 a.m. Those interested in attending the January 20th event should pre-register, see 'Upcoming Events' on this page for all the details.

Past Ona Report Webinars (recordings and slides) are available for viewing at anytime on our website: <http://rcrec-ona.ifas.ufl.edu/> look under **Extension** in the left navigation panel and then visit the "Virtual Classroom."

Recent Additions:

- "Should I buy stocker calves this fall or a fishing license?" by Chris Prevatt
- "Managing soil quality in pasture systems" by Maria Silveira
- "Recent nutritional strategies to enhance reproductive performance of heifers - A summary of Range Cattle REC studies" by Philippe Moriel

Upcoming Events

December Ona Report Webinar "Technology and Florida Calf Loss" with Raoul Boughton

- December 15, 2016 at noon

Grazinglands Education Building, Ona

Register for the webinar: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1842161742125026564> or attend in person.

Florida Cattlemen's Institute and Allied Trade Show

- January 19, 2017

Turner Agri-Center, Arcadia

For more information contact Anna: 863-993-4846

Ona Animal Science Program Highlight with John Arthington

- January 20, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.

Grazinglands Education Building, Ona

Join us on January 20, at 11:00 a.m. for the first of seven 2017 'Ona Program Highlights' presented by the UF/IFAS Range Cattle Research and Education Center (RCREC). The first highlight will be provided by John Arthington, a professor of animal sciences who specializes in beef cattle nutrition and management. There are two participation options. To participate by webinar register online at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5754821149224688900>. To join us in person call 863-735-1314.

Beef Cattle & Forage Workshop

- March 23, 2017

Grazinglands Education Building, Ona



UF/IFAS Dinner of Distinction (at Ona), 10/26/16 - L to R: Doyle Carlton III, Wade Grigsby, Cliff Coddington, Jim Strickland, Rep. Greg Steube (Recipient of the 2016 Legislative Leader Award), Jack Payne, John Arthington, and Jim Handley.

Other News

Adam's Ranch Heifer Sale

On November 3rd, two UF/IFAS RCREC yearling Braford heifers were auctioned at the Adams Ranch Sale in Ft. Pierce. They brought \$2800. Adams Ranch matched the sale price to add \$5600 to the UF/IFAS Range Cattle REC Adam's Ranch Endowment. This is the second year the Center has offered heifers at the sale and once again Mr. John Abel made the purchase. Thank you to Adams Ranch and Mr. Abel for your continued support!



Ona White Angus - Sold!

In October 2016, the Ona White Angus were sold to A Legacy Genetics. For information on the sale or cattle, contact Michael Vieira at (580) 612-1117 or mvieira@alegacygenetics.com.

INTRODUCING



Ona White Angus


to producers across the globe

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Under new ownership, we are proud to announce the transfer of UF's Ona White Angus herd to the innovative and global genetic leader, A Legacy Genetics.

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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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RCREC Christmas Party

December 2, 2016



Matt, Julie, and Lane Warren



Toni Wood, Christine and Cindy Holley



There were 80 in attendance for this year's gathering. Here is a view of attendees during the awards and recognition program.



Kinely, Sheena, Clay, and Griffin, Newman



John, Andrea, Shyleah, Brittany, and Morgan Dunlap, and Pat Smith



Gleise da Silva and Nayara Alencar



Jan and Jim Beckley



Margaret Hodges Blanco and Dr. Elver Hodges



Lori and Logan Martin, and Mary Shannon Sellers



Riana, Kaidynce, and Skyler Alden with Raylan, Kim, and Rocky Parks



Lauren, Tom, Macy, and Jack Fussell



Attendees enjoyed corn hole games, volleyball, and visiting.



Harold Pearson, Wes Anderson, Betsy and Raoul Boughton, and Bethany Wight.



Julio Mito, Hiran da Silva, Matheus Piccolo, Umberto Pardelli, and Nayara Alencar