

The image shows a large, open-sided barn with a blue roof and wooden posts. In the foreground, several cows of various colors (black, brown, and white) are grazing in a grassy field. In the background, there is a tall, cylindrical metal silo. The sky is overcast with soft, diffused light. The text 'UF/IFAS' is in the top left, and 'Range Cattle Research & Education Center NEWS' is in large white and yellow letters across the top.

UF/IFAS

Range Cattle Research & Education Center NEWS

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Forage & Cattle Field Day

by Ken Johnson

On October 1, 2013 we were delighted to have 209 producers and members of the allied industries join us for our Cattle and Forage Field Day at the Center. During the daylong event our faculty and staff highlighted their commitment to providing information that will improve the beef cattle industry. The hard work by the faculty and staff has produced outstanding results. Since the celebration of our 70th anniversary in April of 2012, we have generated 42 scientific publications, 29 extension documents, earned 12 faculty and student awards, graduated 2 students, hosted 16 international scholars and interns, and added one faculty program.

Current faculty programs focus on beef cattle management, forage agronomy, soil fertility, and weed management. Dr. Phillip Lancaster our newest faculty member reviewed his current research on cow size and efficiency introducing that based on one year of data that large cows are not as efficient as small cows in our environment, and that to maximize biological efficiency large size sires should be used on moderate sized cows to increase growth potential of the calf relative to the mature weight of the cow. Dr. Arthington reviewed the free choice intake of salt-based trace mineral supplements. Studies conducted at the center and associated literature point out the misnomer that variable cattle consumption of mineral supplements is based on increase need determined by the cow. However it is known that cattle only have nutritional wisdom to consume salt at or above their nutritional requirement. Therefore

ways to regulate intake of supplemental minerals were discussed including diluting with stock salt, controlled feeding, and limiting creep feeding. Dr. Sarah Lancaster reviewed Cogongrass biology and management and gave a research update on new potential solutions. Dr. Lancaster reviewed the biology and identification of the plant material from seed, vegetative, and rooting structures. Also reviewed were the management requirements in pasture environments most notably is the need for diligence and persistence in control options. New research into aminocyclopyrachlor was reviewed as well as adjuvant selection for imazpyr and glyphosate.

In the afternoon the groups joined our scientists on a field tour and associated field plot demonstrations. Dr. Sellers reviewed the past 70 years of information on Smutgrass management while reviewing current and past plot work. Most notably the newest research into multi-year and integrated approaches were discussed including differing rates of hexazinone over multiple years and scenarios. Dr. Vendramini was the next stop on the tour where he reviewed Jiggs Bermudagrass management in South Florida. Also demonstrated on the tour stop was the application of molasses in haylage to improve fermentation characteristics. The final stop of the tour showcased Dr. Silveira's study of bermudagrass fertilization recommendations. The participants were able to see multiple N/P/K fertilization protocols applied to bermudagrass plots.

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'Forage & Cattle Field Day' continued

We thank those that attended the field day and invite everyone to participate in other activities involving faculty from the Range Cattle Research and Education Center. These pictures were taken by IFAS Communications photographer Tyler Jones.

- View the gallery of pictures, [click here](#).

- Watch the videos, [click here](#).



Meet the Staff



This month, we continue to highlight our faculty and staff moving our focus to another of our biological scientists, Carly Althoff. Carly has a record of service of eight years. She is the Biological Scientist for Dr. Joao Vendramini's Program. Originally from Vancouver, Washington, she now lives in Avon Park. She has a B.A. in Resource Management from Western Washington University, and received a Water Resource Management Certificate from University of Florida in 2013. Before coming to the Center, Carly held several internship positions with the Student Conservation Association in Florida, Washington and Alaska, as well as working on a fire crew for the Nature Conser-

vancy in Abita Springs, Louisiana. If you stop by the Center you may find Carly hard at work in any of Dr. Vendramini's agronomic research plots or processing samples for the Forage Laboratory Program. When asked what she enjoys most about her job, Carly stated, "I love being involved in many aspects of a research project from implementation to completion and all the data collection in-between. I also enjoy researching grasses and grazing strategies that will help local ranchers and beef producers make beneficial management decisions." When not at work Carly enjoys participating in a variety of fitness classes.

Exchange Visitor



Caian Bazzo Zactiti is an undergraduate student from the Centro Universitario da Fundação Educacional de Barretos (Barretos – São Paulo – Brazil). He has spent the last five months as a exchange visitor, Intern, at the Center under the direction of Dr. João Vendramini. Caian is pursuing a bachelor's degree in agronomy and hopes to graduate on January 15, 2015. While here at Center Caian participated in research involving in situ (cattle digestion) and forage evaluation. Caian said, "My experience here was great because I had the opportunity to learn and build relationships with U.S. and Brazil. I would like to thank everyone."

Recent Publications

Silveira, M. L. and O'Connor, G. A. 2013. Temperature Effects on Phosphorus Release from a Biosolids-Amended Soil. *Hindawi*. doi: 10.1155/2013/981715

Campistol, C., Kattesh, H.G., Waller, J. C., Rawls, E. L., Arthington, J. D., Engle, T. E., Carroll, J. A., Pighetti, G. M., and Saxton, A. M. 2013. Effects of 2-stage and total versus fenceline weaning on the physiology and performance of beef steers. *The Professional Animal Scientist*. 29:501-507

Faculty News

Dr. Elver M. Hodges to be inducted into the Florida Agriculture Hall of Fame

On September 26th we received the news, Dr. Hodges would be one of four inducted into the Florida Agriculture Hall of Fame at the Florida State Fair on February 11, 2014. Commissioner Adam Putnam's official press release came just a few short weeks later, "Commissioner Putnam Announces 2014 Florida Agriculture Hall of Fame Honorees" (<http://floridaaghalloffame.org/2013/10/2014/>).

Elver Myron Hodges, known by many as "Doc," was born August 2, 1912 on the Sunshine Bottom family farm which was bordered on one side by the Missouri River and on the other by uninhabited hills. They raised corn, wheat, alfalfa, and hogs. Lynch, Nebraska, 10 miles away, was the closest town by horse and buggy. Dr. Hodges graduated from the University of Nebraska with a BS degree in Agriculture in 1934 and returned to the family farm. The Dust Bowl ended his dreams of farming and he returned to school at the University of Nebraska and



Upcoming Events

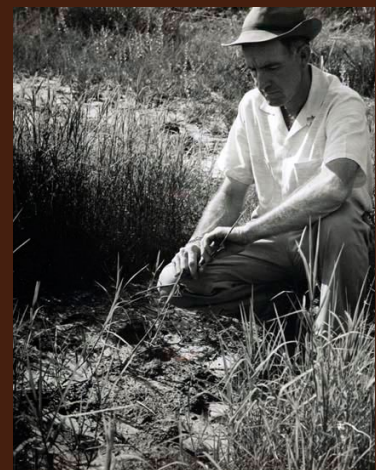
DeSoto County Ag Fest
- November 23, Arcadia

FCA Year-End Quarterly Meeting
- December 5-6, Okeechobee

2014

Florida Cattlemen's Institute & Allied Trade Show
- January 16, Arcadia

Florida Bull Test Sale
- January 18, Marianna



["Other News & Announcements" from previous page](#)

obtained his MS degree in Agronomy in 1936. Deciding to continue his education, Dr. Hodges moved to New Brunswick, New Jersey and attended Rutgers University where he obtained a Ph.D. in Agronomy -Plant physiology in 1941. Dr. Hodges served as an Associate Professor with the University of Hawaii, 1939-1941, then Associate Professor then Professor with the University of Florida at the Range Cattle Research and Education Center, Ona, Florida 1941-1980, then served as a professor in the USAID International Program to Malawi, 1980-82, and finally, retired with the distinguished title of Professor Emeritus (University of Florida).

When Dr. Hodges arrived at the Range Cattle Experiment Station (now called the Range Cattle Research and Education Center) in 1941, there were no fences, only cracker cows, a single road, and no electricity. "The Range Cattle Experiment Station was established in 1941 for two purposes: 1) to learn how to produce quality forage on the sandy cut-over pinelands; 2) to investigate breeding, feeding and management of beef cattle" (Dr. W. G. Kirk, Florida Cattlemen Livestock Journal, 1966). Those early work days were long and hard. The work week was Monday through Saturday from 8:00 a.m. – noon and from 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Pine stumps littered the fields, left over from earlier timber harvests. A steel wheeled tractor had to be used because rubber tires were too easily punctured by the stumps. During those early years, horses were used to get around the pastures and they had one work truck. Times were hard, dynamite was used to remove stumps, the soil was sandy and of poor quality, and mole crickets were a problem. In 1942, grasses were brought in with the assistance of the USDA. One of those grasses was Pangola digitgrass, which they found did well when copper was added to the soil and it was managed properly - if cattle were allowed over graze pangola, they would kill it. Around that same time, research was done on Pensacola bahiagrass which later became a valuable forage for Florida cattlemen. It had been discovered along the coast, evaluated, and distributed by Mr. E. H. Finlayson, an Escambia County Agent. Dr. Hodges did extensive testing on additional grasses, legumes and other forages which ultimately benefitted Florida cattlemen. Through his 39 years of service through the University of Florida, at the Range Cattle Experiment Station, Dr. Hodges worked diligently to develop and release improved forages and new management techniques to innovate Florida beef cattle operations.

Dr. Hodges has always been very involved in the community. He and his wife were among the first people involved with establishment of the Methodist Hardee County Spanish Mission in Zolfo Springs and subsequent community services for Spanish speaking people in Hardee County. He has served in many leadership positions with the United Methodist Church. He was a member of the Florida Silver Haired Legislature and serves on the board for Central Florida Health Care. He was a member of the founding committee for South Florida State College (South Florida Junior College), 1965-1980. He was also involved with youth in the local 4-H program, with all three daughters having numerous projects including livestock. Elver and his wife Ruth were married for 70 years. Elver treasures his family, teaching an appreciation of history and the importance of being a neighbor by example.

Other News & Announcements

Florida FFA Run-A-Muck, 5K and Mud Run - Saturday, November 23

This event will be held on Saturday, November 23 at the Florida FFA Leadership Training Center, 5000 Firetower Road, Haines City. Proceeds benefit the Florida FFA.

A timed 5K walk/run encompasses portions of scenic Firetower Road and through the LTC property along the shores of Lake Pierce. Challenging obstacles and a lot of mud, hay bales and water make the afternoon mud run a personal challenge. Entry Fees: 5K Run Walk - \$30.00, Mud Run - \$50.00, or both: 5K and Mud Run - \$65.00. Entry includes a T-Shirt. Register as an individual or a team - FFA chapter, school, or business. (5 members).

Register at: <http://www.flaffa.org/florida-ffa-firetower-run-a-muck/>

Florida Cattlemen's Institute & Allied Trade Show - New Location!

This year the Florida Cattlemen's Institute & Allied Trade Show will have a new location, the Turner Agri-Civic Center at 2150 NE Roan Street in Arcadia, FL. The event is set to be held on January 16, 2014 and more details can be found at: <http://cflag.ifas.ufl.edu/documents/2014FCI.pdf>

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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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