

UF/IFAS

Range Cattle Research & Education Center NEWS

3401 Experiment Station • Ona, FL 33865
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Summer 2015

Congratulations Graduates!



Cody Lastinger was born and raised in Lakeland, Florida. He attended Lakeland Christian School where he graduated in 2009. While there he played baseball for 6 years and football for 2 years. Cody's great uncle owns a Christmas tree farm in the Blue Ridge Mountains where he spent his summers working. His family also retails Christmas trees in Lakeland, where he has managed the tree lots each season since 2008. He attended Florida Southern College in Lakeland where he received a Bachelor's of Science in Citrus production in 2013. During his undergraduate career Cody completed an internship with Bayer Crop Science

as a citrus scout intern. It was through his adviser at Florida Southern, his internship with Bayer, and discussions with members of his fraternity, Alpha Gamma Rho, that sparked his interest to pursue graduate studies. Cody began his Master's degree at the University of Florida under Dr. Brent Sellers' supervision in the summer of 2013. His research project involved the tolerance of limpgrass to herbicides. Cody has decided to pursue his Ph.D. under the direction of Dr. Stephen Enloe, and will be investigating management programs for Brazilian peppertree in natural areas.



Timothy Paul Vining II (Paul) was born in the state of Mississippi in the town of Meridian, but grew up in Bessemer, Alabama. Paul's interest in animal agriculture began with purchasing bull calves from the local dairy and raising them with a bottle and milk replacer. At the age of fourteen, he received a youth loan from the Farm Service Agency to purchase cattle. Paul raised Fleckvieh Simmental cattle for 5 years. In 2009, because of his interest in cattle production, Paul received a full scholarship from the Jefferson County Farmers Federation to attend Auburn University and major in animal science.

Paul received his Bachelor of Science degree from Auburn University in 2012, and decided to pursue a Master of Science degree at the University of Florida. Paul has worked with Dr. Phillip Lancaster at the Range Cattle Research and Education Center (RCREC) in Ona, FL. His thesis research evaluated energy requirements of cattle differing in residual feed intake, a new feed efficiency trait. Paul's research indicates that residual feed intake does not select cattle with lower energy requirements turning the conventional theory on its head. His research will be instrumental in changing the direction of feed efficiency research.

Upon graduation in August 2015, Paul will begin a position as an Agriculture and

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Check us out on



UF UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA
IFAS

Graduates continued from page 1

Natural Resources Extension Educator with Purdue Extension in Indiana. He will be developing educational programs to assist cattlemen with implementation of new management strategies, responding to producer questions and concerns, and assisting with the Indiana Beef Evaluation Program bull test at the Feldun-Purdue Agricultural Center.

Graduate Student News



Wes Anderson, Ph.D. Student in the UF Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Department, was recently awarded the Doris Lowe and Earl and Verna Lowe Scholarship by CALS in the amount of \$2,000 for the 2015-2016 academic year.

Staff News



Each year the University of Florida recognizes its employees service at 5, 10, 15, 20, and so on, years. At the UF/IFAS Range Cattle Research and Education Center this year's pins were presented by Professor and Center Director, Dr. John Arthington to Randy Crawfis (Maintenance) 5 years, Cindy Holley (Biological Scientist) 25 years, and Andrea Dunlap (Educational Media/Communications Coordinator) 15 years.

Recent Happenings

Youth Field Day

On June 25th, 165 students, parents, and youth leaders attended the 8th Annual Youth Field Day at the Center. The goal of this event is to get students excited about agriculture and science and to expose them to career opportunities in those fields. At this year's event, students attended morning classes on economics, wildlife ecology, pasture weeds, ultrasound, rumen dissection, and the use of fire in land management. Students also enjoyed a pasture tour. After lunch everyone had the opportunity to visit the expo with informative and educational booths which included demonstrations, visuals, hands-on activities, and experts ready to share their knowledge with inquisitive minds. [Click here to view more photos.](#)



Faculty News



Drs. Joao Vendramini and Maria Silveira have returned! They have spent the last seven months on sabbatical in Australia working with researchers at the University of Queensland.

Smutgrass Survey - Your participation is requested. This survey is being conducted to provide a basic understanding of the current status of smutgrass infestations, current management methods, and approximate economic impact on grazinglands in Florida. The information collected from this survey will be used to conduct further research on integrated management strategies for smutgrass in perennial grass pastures. We estimate that this survey should require less than 15 minutes to complete. All answers are anonymous and we will make no attempt to identify respondents.

Complete the survey: https://ufl.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_3jGzn4oJFH0d0i1



Dr. Brent Sellers

International Year of Soil Teach the Teacher Workshop

This summer the Center was one of seven locations across the state to host an International Year of Soil workshop for teachers. Six people from surrounding counties took part in this free, day long event. Participants enjoyed classroom instruction, hands-on labs, and observing a soil pit. In Dr. Silveira's absence, Drs. Nick Comerford and Willie Harris drove down from Marianna and Gainesville to teach. Both are professors in the UF Soil and Water Science Department.



Ona White Angus - Field Day and Sale

On July 6th UF/IFAS issued a press release regarding the upcoming auction of the Ona White Angus herd which lead to local, national and international interest in them and their impending sale. If you missed this press release, you might be asking, "What is an Ona White Angus?" It is a beef cattle breed that is $\frac{3}{4}$ Black Angus with a white hair coat color and dark skin. The remaining $\frac{1}{4}$ is a combination of Black Angus, Charolais, Brahman, and/or Simmental. They originated by accident here at the Center after several decades of breeding projects which Dr. F.M. Peacock began in the 1970's. The cattle have been found to be more heat tolerant than their black counterparts due to their white coat and a greater ability to sweat.

The entire herd will be sold to one buyer in December or January; none will be retained by the UF/IFAS Range Cattle REC. The herd consists of 49 bred cows, 5 open cows, 10 2 year olds, 14 yearling heifers, 3 yearling bulls, and 5 mature bulls. A sheet of frequently asked questions is attached that will give you more information. The next best way to learn more is to attend our upcoming field day on October 22 in Arcadia at the Turner Agri-Civic Center (see attached). This field day will focus on the herd's development, genetics, and heat tolerance as presented by a panel of distinguished speakers (see attached). A selection of cattle from the herd will be displayed at the field day. Persons interested in bidding on the herd will be invited to come out to the Center for a Q & A session on the sale and a visit to the pastures to view the herd. A webinar will be hosted to allow interested parties who are not able to physically attend to sit-in on the sale Q &

A session. Registration for the webinar will be available on our website approximately 3 weeks prior to the event.

The following information is available on our website (<http://rcrec-ona.ifas.ufl.edu/>) the sale press release, the Q & A Sheet, the field day flyer, a link to the registration site, a listing of local hotels, and the speaker bios.

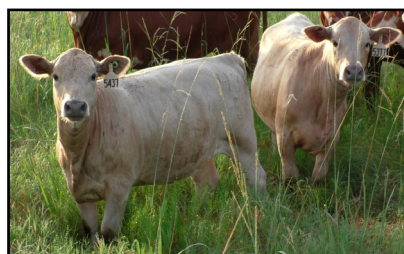
Follow us on Twitter and Facebook to see photos and receive timely announcements and information!



Mature Bull

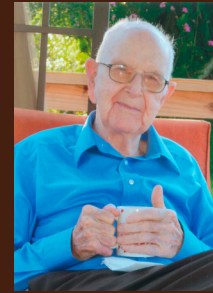


Mature Cow



Yearling Heifers

Happy 103rd Birthday to Dr. Elver Hodges!



Dr. Elver Hodges, UF/IFAS Range Cattle REC
Agronomist, 1941 - 1980.

Upcoming Events

Grazing Management Program (SFBFP) - September 24-25, Ona

Call Pat for more information: 863-763-6469
Brochure - <http://sfbfp.ifas.ufl.edu/events/2015GrazeManageSchoolBrochure.pdf>

Ona White Angus Field Day - October 22, Arcadia

See the flyer included with this newsletter or call for more information: 863-735-1314 ext. 204 or <http://rcrec-ona.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Beef Cattle Reproduction School (SFBFP) - November 3-5, Longino Ranch, Sarasota

Call Lindsey for more information: 863-674-4092
Brochure - <http://sfbfp.ifas.ufl.edu/events/2015ReproSchoolBrochure.pdf>

Release and Registration Form - <http://sfbfp.ifas.ufl.edu/events/2015ReproSchoolRelease.pdf>



Since June 1, the Center has received 34.29" of rain.

Recent Publications

Aguiar, A.D., J.M.B. Vendramini, J.D. Arthington, L.E. Sollenberger, N. DiLorenzo, and M. Hersom. 2015. Performance of beef cows and calves fed different sources of rumen-degradable protein when grazing stockpiled limpgrass pastures. *Journal of Animal Science* 93:1923-1932.

Na, C., L.E. Sollenberger, J.E. Erickson, K.R. Woodard, J.M.B. Vendramini, and M.L. Silveira. 2015. Management of perennial warm-season bioenergy grasses I. Biomass harvested, nutrient removal, and persistence responses of elephantgrass and energycane to harvest frequency and timing. *Bioenergy Research*. 8:581-589.

Na, C., L.E. Sollenberger, J.E. Erickson, K.R. Woodard, M.S. Castillo, M.K. Mullenix, J.M.B. Vendramini, and M.L. Silveira. 2015. Management of perennial warm-season bioenergy grasses. II. Seasonal differences in elephantgrass and energycane morphological characteristics affect responses to harvest frequency and timing. *Bioenergy Research*. 8:618-626.

Rana, N., B. Sellers, J.A. Ferrell, G.E. MacDonald, M.L. Silveira, and J.M. Vendramini. 2015. Integrated management techniques for long-term control of giant smutgrass (*Sporobolus indicus* var. *pyramidalis*) in Bahiagrass pasture in Florida. *Weed Technology*. 29:570-577.

Singh, M.P., J.E. Erickson, K.R. Woodard, L.E. Sollenberger, J.M.B. Vendramini, and R.A. Gilbert. 2015. Mineral composition and removal of six perennial grasses grown for bioenergy. *Agronomy Journal*. 107:466-474.

Resources

Follow Us!

...to hear about the latest UF/IFAS Range Cattle REC news and happenings!



Webinars

If you missed the recent webinars, visit the Economic Program's webpage to view the recordings: <http://rcrec-ona.ifas.ufl.edu/Economics/index.shtml>. Look under 'Webinars' about mid-way down the page. The series was hosted by the Range Cattle Research and Education Center and the South Florida Beef-Forage Program to discuss ways to increase your herd's production, performance, and profitability. Webinars -

Beef Cattle Market Outlook, recorded June 24

Marketing Opportunities for Feeder Calves, recorded July 1

2015 UF Beef Cow-Calf Budget, recorded July 15

Projecting 2015 Cow-Calf Profitability, recorded July 22

Replacement Heifer Economics, recorded July 29

Forage Testing

Do you have pasture, hay, or silage you would like to have tested for quality? Send us your sample, completed form, and payment of the \$7 processing fee, and have your results within 2 weeks. Go to our website for details and forms: <http://rcrec-ona.ifas.ufl.edu/agronomy/forage-extension-laboratory.shtml>

E NEWS AVAILABLE

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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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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**ONA
WHITE ANGUS
FIELD DAY**

October 22, 2015



This field day will provide background and sale information to prospective buyers of the Ona White Angus herd prior to their sale in winter 2015-2016.

Location: Turner Agri-Civic Center, 2250 NE Roan Street, Arcadia

- 8:00 a.m. Check-in Opens
- 9:15 Welcome & Field Day Overview - Dr. John Arthington
- 9:30 Beef Production in Tropical and Subtropical Environments - Dr. Joao Vendramini
- 10:00 Genetics of Hair Coat Color - Dr. David Riley
- 10:30 Black Angus Project – Is there Florida Adaptation? - Dr. John Arthington
- 11:00 Effects of Heat Stress on Reproduction in Cattle - Dr. Pete Hansen
- 11:30 Ona White Angus Project - Dr. John Arthington
- 12:00 p.m. Speaker Panel
- 12:30 Lunch
- 2:30 Travel to the UF/IFAS Range Cattle REC, Ona
- 3:00 Herd Auction Q & A (check the Range Cattle REC website for a remote viewing option) followed by a field tour & viewing of Ona White Angus Herd

Registration before October 20th is required to attend. Register on Eventbrite:

<http://whiteangusfd.eventbrite.com> The \$15 fee includes lunch.

For more information, visit the UF/IFAS Range Cattle REC website: <http://rcrec-ona.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Here you can view the IFAS News Press Release and an informational Q & A sheet.

UF/IFAS Range Cattle Research and Education Center

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Ona White Angus Herd
University of Florida/IFAS
Range Cattle Research and Education Center

Complete Herd Liquidation

Frequently Asked Questions



Question: What is an Ona White Angus?

Answer: The Ona White Angus is genetically $\frac{3}{4}$ Black Angus but with a white hair coat color and dark skin. The remaining $\frac{1}{4}$ is a combination of Black Angus, Charolais, Brahman, and/or Simmental.

Question: Is the Ona White Angus a result of artificial genetic modification (GMO)?

Answer: No, these animals resulted from breeding projects with no artificially-induced genetic modification.

Question: How did the Ona White Angus originate?

Answer: Basically, by accident. We still do not fully understand the traits that resulted in this distinct phenotype, but attribute at least part of the outcome to the dilution effects of black hair coat dominance found in the Charolais and Simmental. The herd originated from a long-term beef cattle breeding project lead by F. M. Peacock, a professor of genetics at the University of Florida. That study focused on productivity traits of purebreds and crossbreds from three breeds – black Angus, Charolais, and Brahman. In the early 1990's his cowherd was transitioned to a new study aimed at evaluating reproductive efficiencies when bred to Simbrah bulls. Heifers from these matings were retained in the herd, therefore introducing genetics

from a fourth breed - Simmental. In 1999, this cowherd moved onto a third project and was mated to black Angus and black Brangus bulls. In 2002, we began to recognize a small, but significant number of white calves in the herd. We began isolating these heifer calves and breeding them to black Angus bulls. Over the following 12 years, we were able to identify and increase the number of individual cows that were responsible for passing this white color trait onto their offspring. From these cows, we formed the Foundation herd for the creation of the Ona White Angus.

Question: Do the Ona White Angus have advantages in warm climates?

Answer: Yes, our research implies that the white phenotype, combined with a predominantly black Angus genotype, provides significant advantages to beef cattle production in warm climates. In a 2008 publication of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE. 51(6):2167), sweating rate differences among black Angus heifers and Ona White Angus heifers were reported. In that study, the Ona White Angus heifers exhibited an 83% greater sweating rate when compared to the black Angus heifers, which were derived from a black Angus herd that had been reared in Florida for several generations. These data were collected during the summer with solar loads exceeding 700 W/m² and the temperature x humidity index exceeding 82. In another study, we examined the vaginal temperatures of black Angus versus Ona White Angus over 5 consecutive summer days. All heifers were contained together in a pasture without access to shade. In this study, average peak vaginal temperatures were 1.1° C greater in the black Angus versus the Ona White Angus. These data suggest a greater ability for the Ona White Angus to cool themselves during instances of heat and humidity pressure. As a result, we have detected a significant decrease in the amount of daylight hours that the Ona White Angus expended in the shade.

Question: How many cows are in the herd?

Answer: Currently, the herd is estimated at 90 animals including pregnant cows, yearling heifers and bulls, and mature bulls.

Question: Why is the herd being sold?

Answer: Significant investment in reproductive technology to expand the herd's genetic base is needed. This requirement, combined with the growing age of our remaining foundation cows, makes this decision necessary. Private investment in the herd is now warranted so that these genetics can be made more broadly available to individuals around the World.

Question: How will the herd be sold?

Answer: Surplus beef cattle from the UF/IFAS, Range Cattle Research and Education Center are sold through public auction. The Ona White Angus herd will be sold through a licensed/bonded livestock auction broker in late 2015 or early 2016. This will be a public auction and available to interested buyers via internet. The entire herd will be sold in a single auction to a single

buyer(s). All Ona White Angus animals will be transferred to the buyer. No live animals, semen, or embryos will be retained.

Question: What is the Range Cattle Research and Education Center?

Answer: The Range Cattle Research and Education Center (RCREC) is a Unit of the University of Florida/IFAS. Established in 1941, the RCREC was created to conduct research on the productivity of beef cattle enterprises located in the unique subtropical region of southern Florida (27° 25' north longitude and 81° 55' west latitude at an elevation of 26 m). This region of the United States is home to large number of cattle ranches and holds the distinction of having the greatest number of beef cattle ranches with > 2,500 cows. The research programs of the RCREC are focused on subtropical beef production systems that maximize the efficiency of forage utilization for beef production.

Question: How can I learn more about the herd and the upcoming sale?

Answer: We are hosting a Field Day on Thursday, October 22 from 9 AM to 2 PM at the Turner Agri-Civic Center, 2250 NE Roan Road, Arcadia. Please visit our website <http://rcrec-ona.ifas.ufl.edu/> for more details, or contact Andrea Dunlap to be added to our mailing list.

UF/IFAS Range Cattle Research and Education Center

Ona White Angus Field Day Speakers



Joao Vendramini, a native of Brazil, is an Associate Professor at the University of Florida IFAS Range Cattle Research and Education Center in Ona, Florida. His program is dedicated to forage management with emphasis on sub-tropical production systems. His major area of interest is forage-livestock interface and the impact of forage management on forage and animal production. He is a member of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, America Forage and Grassland Council, American Society of Animal Sciences, American Registry of Animal Science Professionals, and Florida Cattlemen's Association.



David Greg Riley is Associate Professor of Animal Breeding and Genetics at Texas A&M University since 2009. He works in the genomic characterization and improvement of livestock. His research interests include incorporation of genomic information into prediction of genetic merit, epigenetic variation in livestock traits, and genetics of adaptation and fertility in livestock.



Peter J. Hansen is a Distinguished Professor and L.E. "Red" Larson Professor of Animal Sciences in the Department of Animal Sciences at the University of Florida. His research interests center around the basic mechanisms controlling the establishment and maintenance of pregnancy and development of methods to improve fertility. He currently serves as President of the International Congress of Animal Reproduction and is Past-President of the American Society for Reproductive Immunology and the International Embryo Transfer Society.



John D. Arthington is a Professor of Animal Science and Center Director of the University of Florida IFAS Range Cattle Research and Education Center in Ona, Florida. His research focuses on improving cow/calf productivity by optimizing nutritional resources and stress management, while extension efforts focus on educating cattle producers on cost-effective supplementation with specific focus on mineral, energy, and protein. He currently serves as the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) Southern Section President.