

This newsletter is brought to you by the Range Cattle Station Extension Program and is intended to provide the latest news and information from our faculty.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

As the holiday season approaches, we'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing the Ona Research Station to serve you! Our research and education programs have always been directed toward the creation of applicable solutions to real-world problems. Our efforts are a direct reflection of priorities that have been established by our clientele and associated industry groups.

May your Christmas and the new year be filled with much joy, happiness and success. We look forward to working with you in the coming year, and serving Florida's cattle industry for many years to come.

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF SERVICE

This year, The Range Cattle REC is celebrating 70 years of service to the state of Florida. Because of the collaborative relationship between Ona and our clientele, we have been called the "Cattlemen's Research Center" by all who know us. It is our foremost goal to continue this tradition. This will be accomplished through continued support of existing programs, along with the establishment of new programs geared at tackling relevant issues related to the sustained productivity of Florida's grazing lands and the natural resources associated with them.

In terms of land area, the Range Cattle REC is the largest of the 13 UF/IFAS Centers. It is the only Center in south Florida that is focused solely on the enhancement of the livestock, forages, and natural resources associated with Florida's grazing landscapes. Our field laboratory resources are unique and involve over 1,100 head of cattle grazing both improved and native pastures. We reside in the heart of Florida's grazing lands, with nearly 80% of Florida's 1 million cows found within 150 miles of the Center. These resources cannot be duplicated in a laboratory. Clearly, the individuals who founded this Center can be proud of their foresight. Their investment is still paying large dividends today. Some of the Station's accomplishments include:

- Development and evaluation of all improved grasses and legumes used by

ranchers in south Florida

- Research of citrus pulp and sugarcane molasses as valuable feed supplements for grazing beef cattle.
- Initial research and evaluation of crossing purebred Brahman bulls with Florida native cattle
- Development of improved fertilization practices
- Evaluation and demonstration of mole cricket control systems

We thank you for allowing us to serve you, and welcome you to become involved with the RCREC throughout the year with our various educational activities. If you have any questions please feel free to contact us by e-mail at ona@ifas.ufl.edu or give us a call at 863-735-1314.

FIELD DAY – APRIL 12, 2012

Mark your calendar now - This is one Field Day you won't want to miss!

We are pleased to announce that the 2012 Ona Field Day will offer UF-IFAS Range Cattle Research Highlights and Animal Care and Handling Training, with special guest speaker, Dr. Temple Grandin. This Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Event is brought to you by the Florida Beef Council and NCBA. The Check Off funded program is designed to improve animal care and handling to better serve the end consumer, the animals, and the cattlemen who care for them.

Look for registration instructions and additional details in the weeks to come.

ONA WELCOMES NEW SCIENTIST

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Paulo Martins to the Ona Station. Dr. Martins comes to us as a Post-doctoral Associate, and will conduct beef nutrition research at the Station for a period of two years. Dr. Martins received his Ph.D. in 2011 in a joint doctoral program with the Federal University of Viçosa in Brazil and the University of Florida. During his doctorate program, Dr. Martins spent one year at Ona.

ONA REPORT

The January issue of the Florida Cattleman and Livestock Journal will be appearing in mailboxes soon. Look for the Ona report titled *Pasture Herbicide Update* from Dr. Brent Sellers and Dr. Jay Ferrell.

Is there a previous Ona Report that you would like to read again? [Visit our website](#) to view articles from 1988 to present.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This email was sent to you as a subscriber to the Range Cattle Research and Education Center mailing list. To unsubscribe to this list or update contact information, please email your request to [newsletter correspondence](#).

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