

UF/IFAS

Range Cattle Research & Education Center NEWS

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STEM Scholars Enjoy Summer Field/Workplace Experience

by Ken Johnson and 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 Colton Albritton, Milli Jones, and Danielle Smith, juniors at Hardee Sr. High School, accompanied throughout the program by STEM teacher Kayton Nedza. The group 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 presented a Prezi highlighting all of their RCREC experiences. They were very pleased to have the experience, which they feel will help them plan their future educational goals and career paths.



Colton, Milli, and Danielle



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Meet the Staff

by Ken Johnson and Andrea Dunlap



This month as we continue to highlight our faculty and staff, we move our focus onto one of our newest staff members. Although new to her position, she has a record of service here that spans many years. Julie Warren, Biological Scientist for Animal Scientist, Dr. Phillip Lancaster,

joined the staff on June 3, 2013. Born and raised right here in Hardee County, Julie earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Florida in Animal Science with a specialization in beef cattle in 2001. Initially, Julie and her husband Matt settled in Chiefland, FL where they lived for 10 years before returning to their roots here in Hardee County with their son Lane. Many of you may also know Julie as the daughter of Alvin English, who retired from the RCREC in 2011.

If you were to stop by, you could find Julie hard at work in the field, lab, or cow pens. She provides assistance to Dr. Lancaster's program currently working on several trials including fetal programming, heifer development, and a cow efficiency study. When asked what she enjoys most about her job, Julie replied, "I am passionate

about agriculture. I worked here when I was in high school and junior college and went to UF for this. Here I enjoy being out in the field, working in the lab, and being in the pens working with the cattle. Most of all, I enjoy the people I work with."

When not at work, Julie enjoys spending time with her family, fishing, hunting, working with their own cattle, and is an avid Gator football fan. She and her husband are Hardee County 4-H leaders of the Cracker Trail Club and are active church members at Crewsville Bethel Baptist Church.

Exchange Visitors



Ever Isac Flores Sosa, an undergraduate student from the National University of Agriculture, in the city of Catacamas, Olancho, Honduras under the direction of Carlos Amador, M.Sc. Ever spent the last three months here at the center under the direction of Dr. Brent Sellers as an Exchange Visitor - Intern. In Honduras Ever is pursuing his Bachelor's degree in Agronomy with hopes to graduate December 21, 2013. During his time here, Ever assisted Dr. Sellers with many research projects and his research primarily focused on the tolerance of perennial

peanut (*Arachis glabrata*) to herbicides and temporary flooding. When asked about his experience here at the Center Ever said he felt very grateful for everyone here. He said, "Thanks so much for everything, it was great being here." Ever hopes to come back to the U.S. He thanks his advisor Dr. Brent Sellers and said he learned a lot with graduate students Cody Lastinger and Daniel Abe and Agricultural Assistant, Joseph Noel. He said, "I go back to my country very happy, because to come to the U.S. was my dream."



Odislei Cunha, a Ph.D. student from the Federal University of Tocantins (Araguaína-Tocantins-Brazil) under the direction of Dr. Vera Araujo, in Tropical Animal Science Department, spent the last six months as an Exchange Visitor – Short-term Scholar at the center under the direction of Dr. João Vendramini and Dr. John Arthington. In Brazil, Odislei is pursuing his Ph.D. in Animal Science focusing on alternative feeds for ruminants and expects to graduate in March 2014. While here at the center Odislei participated in various research programs including: forage

evaluation, Studies in situ, Pasture supplementation. When asked about his experience here he stated "It was a great professional experience, because I had the opportunity to learn and participate in research about the production system of one of the major beef cattle producer in the world. Really worth it! Thank you very much."

Recent Publications

Eicher, S. D., Lay Jr., D. C., Arthington, J. D., Schutz, M. M. 2013. Effects of rubber flooring during the first 2 lactations on production, locomotion, hoof health, immune function, and stress. *Journal of Dairy Science*. 96:3639-3651.

Vendramini, J. M. B., Sollenberger, L. E., Lamb, G. C., and Silveira, M. L. 2013. Herbage accumulation, nutritive value and persistence of Mulato II in Florida. *Tropical Grasslands*. 1:123-124

Faculty News

RCREC Faculty Attend International Meeting

Dr. Joe Vendramini, Forage Specialist and Dr. Maria Silveira, Soil Scientist, participated in the 22nd International Grassland Congress, held in Sydney, Australia on September 16 - 19. At the meeting, both presented papers. Dr. Vendramini's was entitled, "Herbage accumulation, nutritive value and persistence of Mulato II in Florida," and Dr. Silveira's "Land use intensification effects on soil carbon dynamics in subtropical grazing land ecosystem."

Additionally, Dr. Silveira served as the chair of the program entitled "Carbon sequestration and cycling." The main goal of this year's meeting was revitalizing grasslands to sustain communities. During the Grassland Congress various programs were held to explore current issues facing grasslands around the world such as improving production efficiency, grassland environmental resources, and political and social-economic issues.

Other News & Announcements

Check out the September edition of *Agronomy Notes*, Vol. 37, No. 9, published by the UF Agronomy Department:

Topics Include in this edition-

- Winter forage grasses for 2013

- Dallisgrass: A new one to watch

- Uncommon pasture weeds: Part I

- New pesticide labels will better protect bees and other pollinators

Visit: <http://agronomy.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/agronomy-notes/> to see this and other editions of *Agronomy Notes*.

Upcoming Events

Reproductive Management School - October 7-10

Location: Buck Island Ranch, Lake Placid
Presented by the South Florida Beef Forage Program

Click to view the: [Brochure](#)

Click to view the: [Register & Release Forms](#)

Sunbelt Ag Expo - October 15-17

Location: Moultrie, GA
<http://sunbeltexpo.com/>

Grazing Management School - October 24-25

Location: Polk Co. Extension, John Brennehan Auditorium, Bartow
Presented by the South Florida Beef Forage Program

Click to view the : [Brochure](#)



Coyotes vs. Bobcats: What are They Eating?

By Bill Giuliano, UF/IFAS Dept. of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

Coyote and bobcat carcasses are still needed. The University of Florida is conducting a study of coyote and bobcat diets in Florida. Of particular interest is the importance of popular wildlife species, including whitetailed deer, turkeys, and bobwhite quail, livestock, and pets in the diet of these predators. Diets will be determined by examining the stomach contents of coyotes and bobcats legally harvested or obtained in Florida. We are asking for your help in obtaining legally acquired coyote and bobcat carcasses, with or without pelts. We will also accept coyote and bobcat stomachs and intestines if you cannot store the whole carcass. If you have at least 5 animals that you would like to provide us, you can contact Lauren Watine (352-846-0558; Inwatine@ufl.edu) or Bill Giuliano (352-846-0575; docg@ufl.edu) at the University of Florida to arrange for pickup. If you have fewer than 5 animals or are going to be coming through Gainesville, arrangements can be made to get carcasses from you at the University or combine your animals with others in your area for a pickup. Carcasses or stomachs and intestines should be frozen in a suitable bag or container, and include the name of contributor, animal sex, date harvested/obtained, and location harvested/obtained. We have obtained a permit from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for this project, and will keep information provided by you for this project anonymous to the extent possible by law. We greatly appreciate your help with this valuable study!

Source: Florida Land Steward, Vol. 2, No. 3.

For more information visit: <http://floridalandsteward.org>

USDA Improves Animal Health Monitoring & Surveillance Website

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is pleased to announce its website for equine West Nile Virus (WNV) and Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) case information has been improved. The website now reflects current data for 2013 and these numbers will be updated more frequently (bi-weekly).

Case counts are provided to the USDA by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through ArboNET, a national electronic surveillance system for arboviral diseases in the United States. The information available on the website is equine specific and the data is validated by State animal health officials for added quality control. Visit the following website for current and historic reports and maps of equine WNV and EEE activity: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/nahss/equine/>.

The website is current to September 5, 2013. As of that date, there were 116 equine cases of EEE and 64 equine cases of WNV confirmed in the United States.



Cindy Holley and Julian Leckerda harvesting the Limprograss P-K Fertility Study .

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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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