The search for our next Center Director (CD) is well underway. In our Center’s 79 years, 4 persons have filled the role of CD in Ona: Dr. W. Gordon Kirk, Dr. Herb Chapman, Dr. Findley Pate, and Dr. John Arthington (see photos on page 2). Each did their best to grow and improve the Center while serving the needs of Florida cattle producers and land managers. Our most recent CD, Dr. John Arthington, worked to improve the Center’s infrastructure, establish and strengthen endowments and charitable giving, while maintaining the Center’s commitment to scholarship and dedication to clientele needs. How will the next Center Director benefit the UF/IFAS Range Cattle REC, its programs, its people, and its clientele?

Four well qualified candidates have been selected by the Search and Screen Committee for interviews in March:

Dr. Derek Bailey, Professor Animal and Range Science Department, New Mexico State University

Dr. Robert Godfrey, Professor and Associate Director Animal Science, Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Virgin Islands

Dr. Joao Vendramini, Professor UF/IFAS Range Cattle Research and Education Center

Dr. Brent Sellers, Professor and Interim Center Director UF/IFAS Range Cattle Research and Education Center
Who will chart our Center’s continued course and inspire it’s next chapter? You are invited to consider the candidates and provide input toward the selection of our next Center Director.

Why should you assist in this process? A new leader will bring their unique personality, to influence our transition forward. They will have a vision for the future of our Center and motivate and inspire faculty and staff to attain it - some change is likely. Do you have an interest in this Center’s future? Participate!

The information for each candidate including their letters, curriculum vitae, interview itineraries, and evaluation forms are available online for viewing: http://ifas.ufl.edu/searches/. The seminars will take place in Gainesville. They can be viewed live by Zoom at the Center in Ona, or you can watch from your device (see the interview itinerary for the link). They will be recorded and made available on the website after the last candidate presents on March 31. The general assembly Q & A session will be held in the Grazinglands Education Building at the Center. If you plan to attend the Ona general assembly Q & A sessions please let us know by the day before each session (ona@ifas.ufl.edu or 863-735-1314 ext. 204).

Annual Awards & Recognitions

On December 20, faculty, staff, students, family, and friends gathered in the Grazinglands Education Building for our annual awards and recognition ceremony and Christmas party. Following are photos of those recognized, some of those attending, and our cornhole tournament contestants.
Jim Strickland was awarded the “Friend of Ona” Award for his support of the Center and its programs. Jim is the Vice Chairman of the Florida Conservation Group and owner of Blackbeard’s Ranch in Manatee County.

Tyler Jones of UF/IFAS Communications was recognized for his outstanding support and services to the Center.

Cornhole players (on the left) the winners (on the right) Matt Warren & Rocky Parks.
Student News

Elizabeth ‘Liz’ Palmer, Ph.D. Student

Liz, received the ASAS Joseph P Fontenot Award on January 27 at the 2020 Southern Section Meeting in Chattanooga, TN. Liz is a Ph.D. Animal Science student advised by Philippe Moriel. Joe Fontenot was very active in ASAS, serving as President of the Southern Section 1972-1973 and President of the National ASAS 1985-1986. This award supports travel for graduate students of the Southern Section ASAS Scientific Meeting and the National Annual ASAS Scientific Meeting.

Faculty News

Dr. Philippe Moriel is a co-recipient of the Richard Jones Outstanding New Faculty Research Award for 2020.

This award is offered by the UF/IFAS Dean for Research Office to untenured faculty who’ve begun a distinguished record of research since arriving at UF/IFAS. It includes a one-time $2,500 salary supplement and a $2,500 grant for research. Philippe will receive the award at the Annual Florida Agricultural Experiment Station Awards Ceremony on May 12.

UF/IFAS Range Cattle REC 2019 High Impact Research Publications Selected

In 2019, UF/IFAS Range Cattle REC faculty published 28 peer-reviewed articles in scientific literature. Each year faculty select 1 to 2 articles they consider to have high impact in science, agricultural production, human welfare, the environment, communities and the economy, etc. These high impact publications are recognized on the Dean of Research website and at the annual UF/IFAS Dean of Research Awards Ceremony. At this ceremony a handful of publications submitted from across all of IFAS will receive special recognition.

The articles being submitted as High Impact Research Publications for 2019 are:


In January, Dr. Joao Vendramini received the Extension Award at the 2020 American Society of Animal Science Southern Section meeting.

Graduate, Dr. Juliana Ranches

On Friday, Dec. 13, Juliana graduated with her Ph.D. in Animal Science. During her studies at UF, Juliana was advised by John Arthington. She has since began her work as an Assistant Professor with Oregon State University at the Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center in Burns (EOARC). Her appointment is 75% extension and 25% research.
UF/IFAS News

**UF/IFAS ranked the No. 1 public institution for agricultural sciences**

Published in ‘the independent Florida Alligator’ By Christopher S. Cann

Students and faculty working for the improvement of Florida’s agriculture, sustainability and quality of life have achieved top positions in Niche’s 2020 Best Colleges for Agricultural Sciences in America.

UF is the best public university for agricultural sciences in America, according to Niche. The university is ranked No. 2 overall, behind Cornell University, in a list of over 100 public and private agricultural science colleges.

Nicholas Comanici, director of brand marketing for the website, says Niche’s college rankings are based on rigorous analysis of academic, admissions, financial and student life data from the U.S. Department of Education as well as millions of reviews from current students and alumni.

He said that to be included, the school must present at least 20 bachelor’s degrees in the field annually or have the major represent at least 2.5% of all bachelor’s degrees awarded by the school. Statistics obtained from the U.S. Department of Education represent the most recent data available, as self-reported by the colleges.

Charlotte Emerson, director of student development and recruitment with the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, said the vision for UF/IFAS is to be the premier public college of agriculture and related science.

“A ranking such as this one helps to showcase that we are successfully working toward that vision,” she said.

Emerson said the goals and priorities of UF/IFAS include recruiting and retaining outstanding students, promoting excellence in teaching and producing society-ready graduates.

“We work toward these goals and priorities; not a specific company’s ranking metrics,” she said.

Emerson said the website rankings focus on student experiences and highlight engagement with faculty around the college’s research. UF/IFAS has one of the lowest student-to-faculty ratios on campus at approximately 11:1.

The focus point in the college is to ensure students gain many experiences outside the classroom before they graduate, Emerson said.

“We’ve found that prior to graduation, 80 percent of our undergraduate students have participated in research, study abroad or internships. One of our current goals is to get that percentage to 100 percent. We work to make sure our students are prepared for whatever their career goals are after graduation,” she said.

- Read the complete article online, click here: [https://www.alligator.org/](https://www.alligator.org/)

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**CONNECT WITH US**

**Articles published in the Florida Cattleman & Livestock Journal:**

View these on our website at: [http://rcrec-ona.ifas.ufl.edu/publications/](http://rcrec-ona.ifas.ufl.edu/publications/)

**Ona Reports**

February 2020 - “Biosolids and biochar application effects on bahiagrass herbage accumulation and nutritive value” - Yanyan Lu, PhD Student and Dr. Maria Lucia Silveira

January 2020 - “Whitehead Broom Biology and Management” - Dr. Brent Sellers

**Florida Cattle Market Price Watch**

This helpful resource is provided monthly by Chris Prevatt, State Specialized Agent II, Beef Cattle and Forage Economics. View a complete listing of past reports on our website, click here.

**New Videos**

**Ona Highlights**

Save the date and join us for an upcoming Ona Highlight webinar. These informative presentations are held in the Grazinglands Education Building each month. They begin at 11:00 a.m. and last about 45 minutes. To attend in person, call 863-735-1314. To attend by webinar, access the registration links online here.

Recent recordings:

“The use of additives to improve fermentation and nutritive value of warm-season forage haylage” – Dr. Joao Vendramini, 2/11/2020

“Whitehead Broom Biology and Management” – Dr. Brent Sellers, 1/14/2020

Past webinar recordings are available in our Virtual Classroom.
Listen or download the latest Joe What? Podcasts:

- Clint Raulerson, of Half Circle L Ranch in Immokalee. They discuss the use and management of ranch horses in Florida beef cattle operations. (Published Feb. 2020; run time 14.13 min.)

- Ky Pohler, Assistant Professor at Texas A&M University in College Station. They discuss bull fertility and artificial insemination programs. (Published Jan. 2020; run time: 13.14 min.)

- Ken Quesenberry, UF Professor Emeritus, who specializes in forage breeding and genetics. They discuss the history of forage breeding in Florida and potential future cultivar releases from the UF Forage Breeding Program. (Published Dec. 2019; run time: 13.16 min.)

These monthly podcasts can be found on:

Podbean  YouTube  UF/IFAS Range Cattle REC Website

Publications

EDIS

‘Mammalian Carnivores of Florida’ - provides an overview of the Florida panther, black bear, red wolf, coyote, bobcat, gray fox, red fox, North American river otter, raccoon, skunk, American mink, and long-tailed weasel. Authors: Dr. Raoul Boughton, Bethany Wight, Dr. Elizabeth Pienaar, and Dr. Martin Main.

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Upcoming Events

**Ona Soil and Water Science Program Highlight with Maria Silveira**
- Mar. 10, 11:00 - 11:45 AM
  Maria will be presenting, “Utilization of biosolids in forage production systems in Florida.”

**Ona Beef Cattle and Forage Economics Program Highlight with Chris Prevatt**
- Apr. 14, 11:00 - 11:45 AM
  Chris will be presenting, “Searching for the bottom of the cattle price cycle.”

**Cattlwomen’s College**
- Apr. 24, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
  UF/IFAS Range Cattle REC, Ona.
  Space is limited. Cost $30. Register at cattlewomencollege2020.eventbrite.com or call 941-722-4524 ext. 1824

**69th Florida Beef Cattle Short Course**
- May 6-8
  Straughn Extension Professional Development Center, 2142 Shealy Drive, Gainesville
  For information visit: [https://animal.ifas.ufl.edu/events/beef-cattle-short-course/](https://animal.ifas.ufl.edu/events/beef-cattle-short-course/)

**Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Certification Field Day**
- May 14, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
  Presented by Dr. Todd Thrift, Beef Cattle Management, UF Animal Sciences Dept.
  4509 George Blvd., Sebring
  This is a free event. Register at bqa2020.eventbrite.com or call 863-402-6540.

**Ona Highlight featuring the South Florida Beef Forage Program**
- May 12, 11:00 - 11:45 AM
  Presentation “Extension programming designed for South Florida beef and forage producers: An overview of the UF/IFAS SFBFP.”

**Youth Field Day**
- June 30, 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM
  Classes: Reproduction Deconstruction, MILK IT! Lactation Station, Feed and STUFF, Toxic Plants, and Halter Breaking.
  Registration will open in April. Save the date!

To view our online calendar and to register an events, visit: [http://rcrec-ona.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar-of-events/](http://rcrec-ona.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar-of-events/)


