

UF/IFAS

Range Cattle Research & Education Center NEWS

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IN THIS ISSUE

Center Director Search Underway

by Andrea Dunlap

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, it's programs, it's people, and it's 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



Annual Awards & Recognitions	2
Faculty & Student News	4
UF/IFAS News	5
Connect With Us	5
Upcoming Events	6
Recent Publications	6

Click on the images below to check us out on:



UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA
IFAS

Former UF/IFAS Range Cattle REC Center Directors



*Dr. W. Gordon Kirk
1941 – 1965*



*Dr. Herb Chapman
1965 – 1981*



*Dr. Findley Pate
1983 - 2005*



*Dr. John Arthington
2005 – 2019*

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/search-es/>. 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).

We sincerely hope that you will be able to make time in your busy schedule to hear these candidate’s seminars and/or attend the Q & A sessions. Your participation in this process and evaluation of the candidates will be greatly appreciated.

Interview Dates & Times:

Dr. Robert Godfrey

- Seminar, 3/10, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.
- General Assembly Q & A Session, 3/11, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Dr. Derek Bailey

- Seminar, 3/12, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.
- General Assembly Q & A Session, 3/13, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Dr. Joao Vendramini

- Seminar, 3/24, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.
- General Assembly Q & A Session, 3/25, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Dr. Brent Sellers

- Seminar, 3/31, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.
- General Assembly Q & A Session, 4/1, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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.



UF/IFAS Range Cattle REC Superior Accomplishment Awardee, Bethany Wight



Service Pin awarded: 20 years, Andrea Dunlap

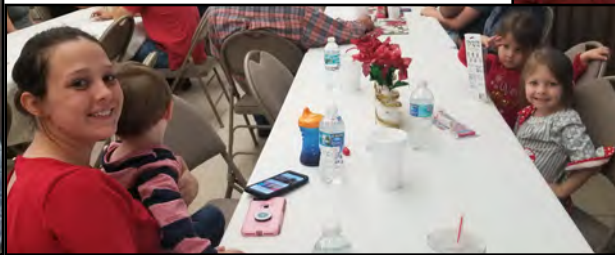
Continued... 'Staff and Friends of Ona Recognized'



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



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.



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.



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.

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:

Boughton, R. K., Allen, B. L., Tillman, E. A., Wisely, S. M., & Engeman, R. M. (2019). Road hogs: Implications from GPS collared feral swine in pastureland habitat on the general utility of road-based observation techniques for assessing abundance. *Ecological Indicators*, 99, 171-177. DOI: 10.1016/j.ecolind.2018.12.022

Silveira, M. L., O'Connor, G. A., Lu, Y. Erickson, J. E., Brandani, C., & Kohmann, M. M. (2019). Runoff and leachate Phosphorus and Nitrogen losses from grass-vegetated soil boxes amended with biosolids and fertilizer. *Journal of Environmental Quality*, 48, 1498-1506. DOI: 10.2134/jeq2019.03.0106



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

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 bach-

elor'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/>



Animal Sciences faculty member Dr. Chad Carr conducting classroom demonstrations on beef processing. UF/IFAS Photo: Tyler Jones.

CONNECT WITH US

Articles published in the Florida Cattleman & Livestock Journal:

View these on our website at: <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

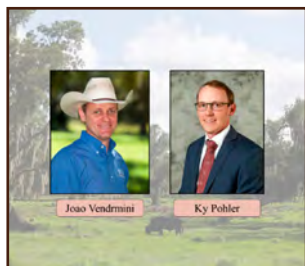
"Whitehead Broom Biology and Management" - Dr. Brent Sellers, 1/14/2020

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.

Refereed

Baxter, L. L., Anderson, W. F., Hudson, W. G., Hancock, D. W., Prevatt, C. G., and Moore, Z. (2019). Quantifying the Damage Potential of the Bermudagrass Stem Maggot. *Crop Science*, 59, 2280-2286.

Cristan, R., Minogue, P. J., Enloe, S. F., Sellers, B. A., & Osiecka, A. (2019). Selective herbicides for control of hen's eyes (*Ardisia crenata*) in forests and natural areas. *Invasive Plant Science and Management*, 12(4), 229-235.

Dias, J. L. C. S., Duarte, G. E., Colombo, W. L., & Sellers, B. A. (2019). Cadillo (*Urena lobata*) control with POST herbicides. *Weed Technology*, 33(3), 387-392.

Gomes, V. C., Vendramini, J. M. B., and Silva, H. M. (2019). Herbage accumulation and nutritive value of seeded bermudagrass cultivars. *Crop, Forage, and Turfgrass Management*, 5.190063. DOI: 10.2134/cftm2019.08.0063

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."

Cattlemen's College

- Apr. 24, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

UF/IFAS Range Cattle REC, Ona.

Space is limited. Cost \$30. Register at cattlemencollege2020.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/>

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/>

Kohmann, M. M., Sollenberger, L. E., Dubeux, J. C. B., Jr., Silveira, M. L., & Moreno, S. B. (2019). Legume proportion in grassland litter affects decomposition dynamics and nutrient mineralization. *Agronomy Journal*, 111(3), 1079-1089.

Liang, X., Erickson, J. E., Silveira, M. L., Sollenberger, L. E., Rowland, D. L. & Vermerris, W. (2019). Quantifying shoot and root biomass production and soil carbon under perennial bioenergy grasses in a subtropical environment. *Biomass and Bioenergy*, 128. DOI: 10.1016/j.biombioe.2019.105323

Reye-Cabrera, J., Erickson, J. E., Leon, R. G., Silveira, M. L., & Sollenberger, L. E. (2019). Amending marginal sandy soils with biochar and lignocellulosic fermentation residual sustains fertility in elephantgrass bioenergy cropping systems. *Nutrient Cycling in Agroecosystems*, 115(1), 69-83.

Risch, A. C., Zimmermann, S., Ochoa-Hueso, R., Schutz, M., Frey, B., Firn, J. L., Fay, P. A., Hagedorn, Borer, E. T., Seabloom, E. W., Harpole, W. S., Knops, J. M. H., McCulley, R. L., Broadbent, A. A. D., Stevens, C. J., Silveira, M. L., Báez, S., Biederman, L. A., Blair, J. M., Brown, C. S., Caldeira, M. C., Collins, C. L., Daleo, P., di Virgilio, A., Ebeling, A., Eisenhauer, N., Esch, E., Eskelinen, A., Hagenah, N., Hautier, Y., Kirkman, K. P., MacDougall, A. S., Moore, J. L., Power, S. A., Prober, S. M., Roscher, C., Sankaran, M., Siebert, J., Speziale, K. L., Tognetti, P. M., Virtanen, R., Yahdjian, L., & Moser, B. (2019). Soil net nitrogen mineralisation across global grasslands. *Nature Communications*, 10, 4981. DOI:10.1038/s41467-019-12948-2

Sanchez, J. M. D., Vendramini, J. M. B., Silveira, M. L., Sollenberger, L. E., Dubeux, J. C. B., Jr., Moriel, P., Sellers, B., Yarborough, J. K., & Leite de Oliveira, F. C. (2019). Seeding strategies of bahiagrass and pintoi peanut affect pasture establishment under weed competition. *Grass and Forage Science*, 74(3), 381-388.

Silva, H. M. S., Dubeux, J. C. B. Jr., Silveira, M. L., Santos, M. V. F., Freitas, E. V., & Almeida, B. G. (2019). Soil and root attributes in pastures managed under different stocking rates and nitrogen fertilization levels. *Agroecosystems, Geosciences, and Environment*. DOI: 10.2134/age2018.08.0031

Silva, H. M. S., Dubeux, J. C. B., Jr., Silveira, M. L., Santos, M. V. F., Freitas, E. V., & Lira, M. A. (2019). Root decomposition of grazed signalgrass in response to stocking and nitrogen fertilization rates. *Crop Science*, 59, 811-818.

Sollenberger, L. E., Kohmann, M. M., Dubeux, J. C. B., Jr., & Silveira, M. L. (2019). Grassland management affects delivery of regulating and supporting ecosystem services. *Crop Science*, 59, 441-459.

Tabak, M. A., Norouzzadeh, M. S., Wolfson, D. W., Sweeney, S. J., VerCauteren, K. C., Snow, N. P., Halseth, J. M., Di Salvo, P. A., Lewis, J. S., White, M. D., Teton, B., Beasley, J. C., Schlichting, P. E., Boughton, R. K., Wight, B., Newkirk, E. S., Ivan, J. S., Odell, E. A., Brook, R. K., Lukacs, P.M., Moeller, A. K., Mandeville, E. G., Clune, J. and Miller, R. S. (2019). Machine learning to classify animal species in camera trap images: applications in ecology. *Methods in Ecology and Evolution*, 10(4), 585-590. DOI: 10.1111/2041-210X.13120

Tucker, J.J., Hendricks, T.J., Mason, K.B., Mullenix, M.K., Prevatt, C., & Hancock, D.W. (2019). Alfalfa in the South Workshop Series: Increasing Acreage through Education. *Journal of National Association of County Agricultural Agents*. 12(2), ISSN 2158-9429.

Vedovatto, M., Moriel, P., Cooke, R. F. Costa, D. S., Faria, F. J. C., Cortada Neto, I. M., Bento, A. L. L., Rocha, R. T., Ferreira, L. C. L., Almeida R. G., Santos, S. A., & Franco, G. L. (2019). Effect of a single trace mineral injection at beginning of fixed-timed AI treatment regimen on reproductive function and antioxidant response of grazing Nelore cows. *Animal Reproduction Science*, 211, 106234. DOI: 10.1016/j.anireprosci.2019.106234

Wilber, M. Q., Chinn, S. M., Beasley, J. C., Boughton, R. K., Brook, R. K., Ditchkoff, S. S., Fischer, J. W., Hartley, S. B., Holmstrom, L. K., Kilgo, J. C., Lewis, J. S., Miller, R. S., Snow, N. P., VerCauteren, K. C., Wisely, S. M., Webb, C. T., Pepin, K. M. (2019). Predicting functional responses in agro-ecosystems from animal movement data to improve management of invasive pests. *Ecological Applications*, DOI: 10.1002/eap.2015.

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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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