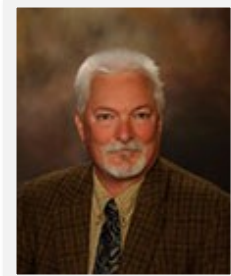


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From the Center Director

The 10-day weather forecast for our area this morning indicated a start to the fall season with sunny skies and temperatures in the 80s during the day and 60s at night – perfect harvest weather. Besides great weather conditions this summer and the hard work of our personnel, two completed infrastructure projects will likely result in the largest crop harvest to date at the Jay Research Facility. First, the completion of four miles of deer exclusion fence last May saved tens of crop acres from destructive whitetail browsing. Barring a hurricane, we will get good harvests of soybean and cotton on over fifty acres that deer destroyed in the past. Given that we grow non-research related crops for profit on about 350 acres, the fence should result in a minimum of a 15% increase in monies available to reinvest in our farming operation and to support related programs. The fence also ensures that data from our research plots are not tainted via deer browsing. Since research is one of the primary missions of the Jay Research Facility, deer-free research is a must. Many producers tell me that whitetails are their primary crop pest and they need solutions to the problem. With this in mind, we left a few acres of cropland outside of the deer exclusion fence, which will provide an avenue for deer deterrent research should funding become available to our researchers.



The other infrastructure project that will contribute to an improved harvest is our new 10,000-bushel grain storage bin that was completed last week. In the past, we've had trouble with timely harvest of soybean owing to difficulties with scheduling grain transport via trucking. In addition, we grow varieties that differ in harvest maturity, which further complicates timely harvest and transport to a grain elevator. The new bin will allow us to harvest soybean varieties at peak quality and hold them until adequate trucking becomes available. Between the deer fence and the grain bin, I estimate that we could realize a 25 to 30% increase in crop harvest in comparison to past years. The extra income from the farming operation will be used to improve operations and programs at the Jay Research Facility.

On the teaching front, we now have the largest group of students in our history, due in great part to our former Student Recruiter, Sondra Forrester. Sondra left us recently to pursue private business and is certainly missed. We're in the midst of hiring a replacement for Sondra, and should have a new Student Recruiter on board within the next few weeks. There are now 58 students in our undergraduate program. About 3/4 of these are Natural Resource Conservation majors, while the balance are Plant Science (Landscape Horticulture) majors. It's my hope that within the next five years we will add an agronomically oriented major, since many students coming from farming backgrounds in the northern half of Panhandle counties could benefit from such a degree. We will explore this idea in the near future with CALS Associate Dean Al Wysocki in the form of surveys and focus groups in our region. With regard to graduate students, we now have 13, which is a high number for us. Between undergrads and grad students, we have 71 total. The teaching program at the WFREC is healthy and growing, and we expect it to expand in the future.

Another exciting development at the WFREC is the approval I received this summer from SVP Dr. Jack Payne to pursue the hiring of a Regional Specialized Extension Agent (RSA) for the purpose of

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taking the lead in our crop variety testing program. Dr. Barry Brecke has led this program for the last three years, and has done an outstanding job of providing timely information on crop variety performance to Panhandle producers. Dr. Brecke will retire (again) at the end of 2016, and the nod from Dr. Payne to replace him ensures this important program will continue. Interviews for the RSA are set for November, and I look forward to bringing a person on board who can maintain and expand the level of service we provide to producers with regard to crop variety testing. Plans are for the RSA to conduct variety trials at the NFREC locations in Marianna and Quincy in addition to trials currently conducted at the WFREC.

In summary, great things are happening at the WFREC, and the future looks bright. I wish our producers a great harvest, our students a successful semester, and everyone at the WFREC a productive fall season.

Go Gators!



New Employees Join UF/IFAS WFREC



I'm Melissa Watson. I started working at WFREC on August 29th as an OPS/PT Fiscal Assistant under Merniece Johnson. I will be doing Travel authorizations, travel expense reports, my UFMarket purchasing requisitions, and my UFPayment Solutions account payable processing. I received my Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from the University of West Florida in 1998. I love living in Milton and being so close to my job. I really enjoy working with Merniece and everyone at WFREC. Everybody has been very friendly and helpful. I'm so happy to be here.

Michele Goodfellow is pursuing a Master's Degree in Environmental Sciences with a focus on fluvial geomorphology from the University of West Florida. Michele is interested in anthropogenic impacts on stream migration and vegetative controls on stream condition with an emphasis on improving management practices of these areas. She has worked as an informal environmental educator for North Carolina State University and Disney's Animal Kingdom. Michele will be working under the direction of Dr. Matthew Deitch as the new Watershed Management lab technician.



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Extension Farm Field Day

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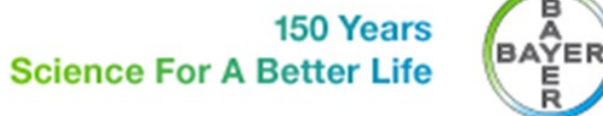
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On Thursday, August 25, 2016 the University of Florida IFAS Extension and the West Florida Research and Education Center hosted the Extension Farm Field Day. The purpose of this meeting is to help growers understand some of the positive impacts, as well as the challenges of modifying agricultural practices to make row crop production more diverse and efficient. We discussed some of the benefits and limitations of current production practices and of agricultural technologies that might be used in the near future in the Panhandle.

We could not host these successful events at our Research facility without the support of our generous sponsors!!



Field Day Sponsors



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The UF/IFAS West Florida Research & Education Center and Feeding the Gulf Coast have been feeding families in need of a healthy holiday Thanksgiving meal in Santa Rosa and Escambia County for six years and counting. The Farm to City initiative is to promote agriculture and increase awareness about the importance of agriculture to consumers and the general public, we will distribute food (some locally grown) to 400 pre-qualified families in need in Santa Rosa County and 400 families in need in Escambia County.

The holidays are quickly approaching us and we would like you to consider supporting this community outreach project. There are several ways that you can help us take care of our own in need this holiday season. We are asking for monetary donations at the following levels:

- Platinum level of \$1,000.00
- Gold level of \$500.00
- Silver level of \$300.00
- Bronze level of \$200.00

Community Partners Include:

Guy Thompson Community Center, Waterfront Rescue Mission, Santa Rosa & Escambia County Extension Service, Smith Tractor Company & Coastal Machinery

UF|IFAS
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

FEEDING
THE GULF COAST

For more info contact Robin Vickers at
rvickers@ufl.edu or by calling 850-983-7134

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Wes & Brenda Wood opened their home to faculty, staff and students on August 13 for the Back to School Bash. The food was amazing and everyone enjoyed the opportunity to get to know everyone a little better. We are looking forward to a very successful semester here on the Milton Campus!



Corn Field Day

The UF/IFAS West Florida Research and Education Center held its Corn Field Day on July 19. Topics included corn variety trial and demonstration, Environmentally Smart Nitrogen (ESN) and Urea blends, application for timing for corn production.



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October 20 Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce Leadership Tour

October 24 Mondays in the Gardens "Eclectic Gardening"

October 24 Gulf Coast Farm-to-Table

November 17 Small Farms Fall Production Field Day

November 21 Farm to City Harvest

November 22 Farm to City Food Distribution

ECLECTIC GARDENING

On October 24, 2016 Santa Rosa County Master Gardeners will present a program on Eclectic gardening At the UF gardens on Pensacola State College Milton campus .

Time: starts at 10:00 A.M.

Presenters will be Master Gardeners, Jacki Zwierzchowski and Sandra Sherman.

Place: Gardens outdoor class room under the big Oaks.

Program will be on Eclectic gardening, using new, old and recyclable material. There will be door prizes.



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Several items made out of recycle materials for an opportunity drawing. \$1.00 per chance or \$5.00 for 6 chances.

A demonstration on creating a hanging garden made out of recycled cans. There will be several items on display made of tires, cans and kitchen items. All of them will have plants in them.

Gulf Coast Turfgrass Expo & Field Day

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Dr. J. Bryan Unruh

The 22nd Annual Gulf Coast Turfgrass Expo is hosted by the University of Florida and the Gulf Coast Golf Course Superintendents Association. The educational event was held on June 15th at the WFREC. We had 200 plus turfgrass professionals from all segments of the industry attend the expo.



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Transitioning...

From One Noble Profession to Another

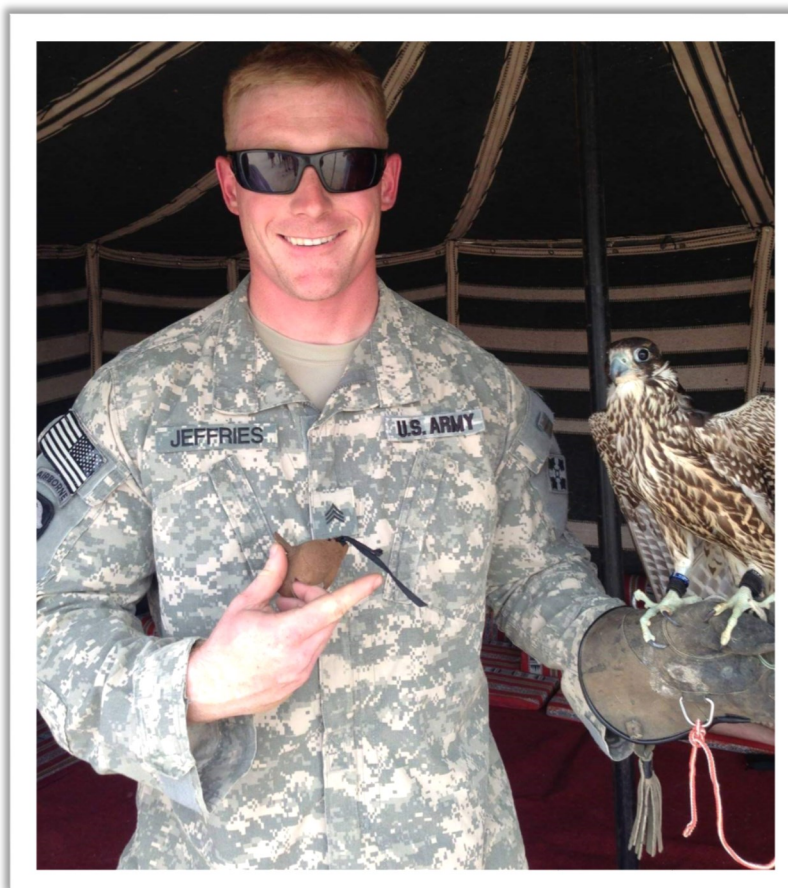
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Hey there,

My name is Matthew Jeffries, and I am extremely excited to be joining this fantastic team here in Jay, Florida. I am transitioning from the U.S. Army to becoming a Hydroponic Farmer. This line of work is a little different, to say the least, then my previous job as an Infantry man and a Logistician. The people here at the University of Florida are making this transition a lot less scary by having the opportunity to learn from the best in their respective fields, which gives me an incredible advantage in the marketplace.

I know after spending a year here, I will be able to move forward with my dream. Thank you to everyone here who is helping me make this dream a reality.



Sincerely,

SGT. Matthew Jeffries



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Awards

WFREC's Associate Center Director, Dr. J. Bryan Unruh won the award for **Outstanding Specialist of the Year**. His commitment to furthering research and education in the field of Turfgrass Science by sharing his knowledge through seminars, field days, printed and electronic media for all to learn from, makes a huge impact on not only his students, but other RECs, businesses, and homeowners. Congratulations and well deserved!



left to right: Dr. Bryan Unruh and Blake Thaxton



UF/IFAS WFREC Associate Professor Mack Thetford received the honor of being named **Outstanding Undergraduate Educator**. This award is given to a person who has distinguished him/herself as an instructor for at least 10 years. Dr. Thetford teaches Environmental Horticulture at the UF Milton campus. He co-teaches plant propagation and perennial gardening through two statewide web-based courses.

Graduate student, Arun Jani received a **PRS Probe Research Award** from Western Ag Innovations of Saskatoon, SK, Canada. The award will provide 30 free PRS probe samples (\$1200 value) for use in his research. PRS probe technology can measure plant available nutrient supply with minimal soil disturbance. Arun will use these probes to monitor plant available N supply following termination of summer legume cover crops.



The Gulf Coast Small Farms group won the **Extension Initiative Innovation Team Award** for their efforts to provide training programs regarding current and relevant topics for farms and small agribusinesses to increase producer profitability and to provide consumer knowledge of locally grown produce.

Congratulations to all !

Meet Our Fall 2016 New Students

Natural Resource Conservation:



Alexis Feysa



Anna Dicks



Ben Jammer



Blakely Gill



Brandon Boutwell



Caleb Rugullies



Calvin Beech



Courtney Scotts



Daniel Brethauer



Dylan Kimmons



Joey Mastroni



Jonathan Clark



Katherine Choquette



Kelsea Heider



Kyle Gade



Laura Ebhardt



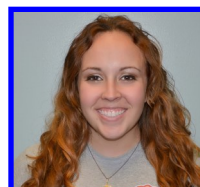
Maggie Rivas



Roger Obassi



Ryan Knauff



Sara Hunt



Tiffany Ackerman



Trista Talbot

Plant Science:



John Josey

**"It's GREAT
to be**

a Florida Gator!"

Welcome to the University of Florida!

UF/IFAS West Florida Research and Education Center

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Dr. Wes Wood

Hamido, S. , Guertal, E. and Wood, C. Wesley (2016) Carbon Sequestration under Warm Season Turfgrasses in Home Lawns. Journal of Geoscience and Environment Protection, 4, 53-63. doi: 10.4236/gep.2016.49005.

Santosh Shiwakoti, Dennis A. Shannon, C. Wesley Wood, Nirmal Joshee, Agnes Rimando, Kathy S. Lawrence & Barbara Kemppainen (2016) Nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium effects on biomass yield and flavonoid content of American skullcap (*Scutellaria lateriflora*), Journal of Plant Nutrition, 39:9, 1240-1249, DOI: 10.1080/01904167.2015.1050509.

Similien, A., D. A. Shannon, C. Wesley Wood, A. M. Rimando, B. W. Kemppainen, E. van Santen, and N. Joshee. 2016. Shade, Irrigation, and Nutrients Affect Flavonoid Concentration and Yield in American Skullcap. Crop Sci. 56:1213-1224. doi:10.2135/cropsci2015.03.0186

Hamido, S. A., C. W. Wood, and E. A. Guertal. 2016. Carbon Dioxide Flux from Bermudagrass Turf as Affected by Nitrogen Rate. Agron. J. 108:1000-1006. doi:10.2134/agronj2015.0498.



Dr. Debbie Miller



Dr. Mack Thetford

Dr. Mack Thetford and Dr. Debbie Miller were awarded a \$97,459.00 cooperative agreement from the Fish and Wildlife Service to restore plantings that were affected by the Deepwater Horizon event within the coastal dunes of Baldwin County, Alabama.

Dr. Mack Thetford along with Dr. Greg MacDonald were awarded a \$31,778.00 contract from Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to continue his research in controlling Japanese Climbing Fern reproduction and growth.

Dr. Mack Thetford and Dr. Debbie Miller were awarded a \$12,609.00 cooperative agreement from the Fish and Wildlife Service to address methods to develop propagation and production methods of herbaceous beach dune species collected from Perdido Key area and out planted on other properties identified by FWS.



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Dr. Mike Mulvaney

Peer-reviewed publications:

M.J. Lynch, M.J. Mulvaney, S.C. Hodges, T.L. Thompson, W. Thomason. 2016. Decomposition, nitrogen and carbon mineralization from food and cover crop residues in the Central Plateau of Haiti. SpringerPlus 5, 973-981. doi:10.1186/s40064-016-2651-1

M. Mulvaney, R. Mylavarapu, P. Andersen, M. Thetford, J. Gillett-Kaufman. 2016. Guide to Olive Tree Nutrition in Florida. EDIS publication SS-AGR-402. University of Florida, Gainesville, FL. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/AG/AG40500.pdf>

M.J. Mulvaney, C.W. Wood, K.S. Balkcom, J. Kemble, D.A. Shannon. *In press*. No-till with high biomass cover crops and invasive legume mulches increased total soil carbon after three years of collard production. Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems. doi:10.1080/21683565.2016.1236766.

B.P. Sperry, J.A. Ferrell, R.G. Leon, D.L. Rowland, M.J. Mulvaney. *In press*. Influence of planting depth and application timing on S-metolachlor injury in sesame (*Sesamum indicum* L.). Weed Technology. doi:10.1614/WT-D-16-00081.1.

Extension publications:

Crop Reports. AgFax Southeast Cotton. Owen Taylor, Editor. Sept. 8, 2016. <http://agfax.com/agfaxse/reports/2016/southeast-cotton-20160907-web.htm>

M. Mulvaney. 2016. Determining optimal plant populations for your variable rate planter. Panhandle Ag News, Aug. 5, 2016. UF/IFAS Extension, University of Florida.

M. Mulvaney, N.S. Dufault, B. Kemeraite. 2016. New propiconazole restrictions for 2016 peanut production. Panhandle Ag News, Vol. 5, No. 16. April 29, 2016. UF/IFAS Extension, University of Florida. Picked up by Growing Florida, May 2, 2016.

M. Mulvaney. 2016. Environmentally Smart Nitrogen (ESN) as a controlled-release nitrogen source for corn and cotton. Panhandle Ag News, Vol. 5, No. 12. April 1, 2016. UF/IFAS Extension, University of Florida. Picked up by Growing Florida, April 5, 2016.



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