

**IN THIS ISSUE**

**From the Director** 1

**New Student Spotlight** 2

**New Grants and Publications** 3

**Employee Happenings** 4

**Farm To City at the UF/IFAS** 5

**23rd Annual Gulf Coast Turfgrass Expo & Field Day & "Turf School"** 6

**Field Corn Day & Santa Rosa Leadership Class 31 Agribusiness Tour** 7

**Extension Farm Field Day** 8

**Calendar of Events And Holidays** 9

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**From the Center Director**

Crop harvest and anticipation of cooler weather provide signals of my favorite time of year. The expectation of cooler nights and bluebird days with low humidity that come with the fall season, however, has not been yet realized in the Florida Panhandle as summer weather lingers. Just last weekend we received tropical storm weather associated with hurricane Nate, which fortunately had no impact on WFREC facilities. I think we all welcome the end of the hurricane season as we wish the best for those who were negatively affected by Harvey, Irma, Maria, and Nate.

I have good news to report regarding our vacant weed science faculty position that was caught in the hiring freeze earlier this year. In early September, upper administration lifted the hiring freeze, and we are now conducting a search to fill the position. I look forward to us hiring an outstanding person for this crucial position.

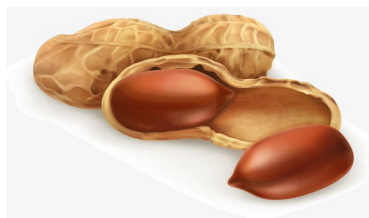
We have spent a fair amount of time over the last year addressing safety concerns at the WFREC. We have made significant progress, particularly in the areas of laboratory and pesticide safety. We will continue to strive towards making the WFREC a safe place to work.

We are also making good progress on infrastructure projects at the Jay Research Facility. The graduate student dormitory is currently being upgraded with the installation of a fire safety sprinkler system, in addition to new paint, appliances, bedroom furniture, and floor coverings. By the end of 2017, we will have a fire-safe graduate student dorm that has new amenities for occupants to enjoy. Last week, gravel was applied to the roads between the Administration Building and the Farm Shop area. Completion of the gravel project provides relief from the red mud that WFREC personnel and visitors encountered anytime it rained on the farm. We have been looking at options to provide a safe, central plant material grinding room that minimizes the risk of particle inhalation for personnel that prepare plant samples for chemical analysis. IFAS Facilities is working with a contractor to design a new grinding room that will alleviate our safety concerns. I hope the new plant grinding room will be in place in a few months.



Dr. Wes Wood, Professor & Center Director

*(continued on page 2)*



## From the Center Director—continued from page 1

We had three successful events over the last quarter including the Gulf Coast Turfgrass Expo & Field Day on 27 July, our Field Corn field day on 28 July, and our Extension Farm Field Day on 25 August. I thank our personnel that do the behind the scenes work to make these events possible. I also thank the speakers, many of which came from out of our area, for sharing their expertise with our local producers. Further, I thank our wonderful sponsors that provide funds to help make these events possible.

On the teaching front, we welcomed new students at our student orientation on the afternoon of 25 August at our Milton campus. The hamburger cookout we had after orientation for all new and current students was a great success where I and the rest of the WFREC faculty got to know the students better. Our student numbers continue to grow, and we currently have 53 undergrads enrolled in our programs. In fact, we have the largest IFAS off-campus undergraduate teaching program. Our teaching program will likely continue to grow as we consider adding a plant science specialization that is oriented towards crop production agriculture.

Last, but not least, our Farm to City event is scheduled for the week of Thanksgiving, where we look forward to increasing awareness of the importance of agriculture to our nation's economy and food security. This two-day event will expose high school students to farm practices, and help provide food to 800 needy families across Santa Rosa and Escambia Counties. Our Farm to City event is one that we look forward to each year and one for which we take great pride.

Again, let's hope that we're done with hurricanes for this year.

Go Gators!

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From the Director 1

New Student Spotlight 2

New Grants and Publications 3

Employee Happenings 4

Farm To City at the UF/IFAS 5

23rd Annual Gulf Coast Turfgrass Expo & Field Day & "Turf School" 6

Field Corn Day & Santa Rosa Leadership Class 31 Agribusiness Tour 7

Extension Farm Field Day 8

Calendar of Events And Holidays 9

## NEW STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Less than two years ago NRC student Aaron Black was serving in the United States Coast Guard and making plans to get married. His soon to be bride, Annette was hard at work finishing a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology. Today both are attending the University of Florida and working together as Park Rangers for the State of Florida.

This journey began when Annette accompanied Aaron to visit with Mark Long, the admissions officer at the University of Florida Milton campus. The meeting was to ensure Aaron was on track to transfer from PSC to UF in the fall. During this visit Annette mentioned she was interested in a career change and after a little research she saw how her background and this graduate certificate could be the key to making this a needed career change.

Aaron started his first semester of NRC classes this fall in Milton while Annette is in her second semester online with UF working on her Ecological Restoration Graduate Certificate. When not in class you might see them working at a local state park, where Aaron is employed as an OPS Park Ranger and Annette is employed as a full time Park Ranger in Santa Rosa County.



For information about our teaching programs contact Mark Long, Academic Program Recruiter at 850-983-7138.

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## Dr. Mike Mulvaney, Assistant Professor

### IN THIS ISSUE

From the Director 1

New Student Spotlight 2

New Grants and Publications 3

Employee Happenings 4

Farm To City at the UF/IFAS 5

23rd Annual Gulf Coast Turfgrass Expo & Field Day & "Turf School" 6

Field Corn Day & Santa Rosa Leadership Class 31 Agribusiness Tour 7

Extension Farm Field Day 8

Calendar of Events And Holidays 9

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### PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

B. Sperry, J.A. Ferrell, R.G. Leon, D.L. Rowland, **M.J. Mulvaney**, J.L.C.S. Dias. Sesame (*Sesamum indicum* L.) tolerance to pre-plant applications of 2,4-D and dicamba. Weed Technology 31(4), 590-598.

W. Bravo, R.G. Leon, J. Ferrell, **M.J. Mulvaney**, C.W. Wood. 2017. Differentiation of life-history traits among palmer amaranth populations (*Amaranthus palmeri*) and its relation to cropping systems and glyphosate sensitivity. Weed Science. 65: 339-349

D. Chakraborty, **M.J. Mulvaney**, D. Rowland, J. Bennett, G. Hochmuth, S. Galindo-Gonzalez. 2017. Increasing the disciplinary breadth in graduate training in agricultural science to meet the industry need for addressing global food system complexity. Natural Sciences Education 46. doi:10.4195/nse2016.07.0021.



### GRANTS

\$14,993,503. Southeast Partnership for Advanced Renewables from Carinata (SPARC). USDA AFRI Sustainable Bioenergy and Bioproducts. 2017-2022.

\$164,008. 2017 Crop Protection and Pest Management Extension Implementation Project for the University of Florida. USDA NIFA Crop Protection & Pest Mgmt. 2017-2020.

### AWARDS

Arun Jani (PhD candidate under Dr. Mulvaney)

Yara North America Crop Innovation Scholarship (\$3333) for 2017-18 academic year, distributed by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, University of Florida

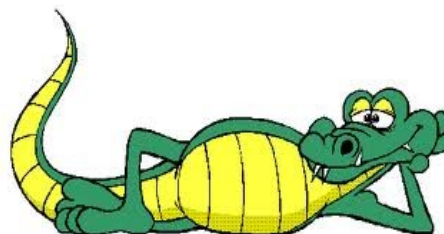
### PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Agronomy Journal, Associate Editor. 2017-2019.

UF Faculty Senate, Member, 2017-2020.

American Society of Agronomy Board Member, Early Career Representative. 2017-2019.

American Society of Agronomy Nutrient Management Professionals Community,





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From the Director 1

New Student Spotlight 2

New Grants and Publications 3

Employee Happenings 4

Farm To City at the UF/IFAS 5

23rd Annual Gulf Coast Turfgrass Expo & Field Day & "Turf School" 6

Field Corn Day & Santa Rosa Leadership Class 31 Agribusiness Tour 7

Extension Farm Field Day 8

Calendar of Events And Holidays 9

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Michelle Hardy has joined the UF/WFREC team as our Program Secretary. She will be responsible for administrative tasks and assisting with events.



Jessica Baldwin is currently a graduate student working with Dr. Moraes. She is studying for her master's degree in entomology with a focus on crop pests. She assists in caring for moth colonies, and collecting field data.

Blakely Williams is a natural resource conservation student at the Milton campus. She currently works in the Entomology department assisting Dr. Moraes with research on agricultural pests in the Florida Panhandle area.



## BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

The University of Florida Milton Campus held its annual fall back to school bash on August 22. To welcome faculty and students back to school we grilled hamburgers and hotdogs on the Milton campus. Best of luck students!!



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From the Director 1

New Student Spotlight 2

New Grants and Publications 3

Employee Happenings 4

Farm To City at the UF/IFAS 5

23rd Annual Gulf Coast Turfgrass Expo & Field Day & "Turf School" 6

Field Corn Day & Santa Rosa Leadership Class 31 Agribusiness Tour 7

Extension Farm Field Day 8

Calendar of Events And Holidays 9

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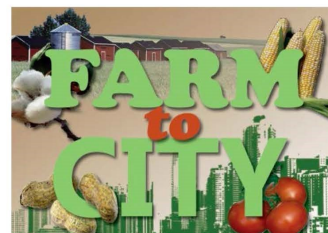
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## FARM TO CITY

at the  
**UF/IFAS  
West Florida  
Research and  
Education Center**



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 seven 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



For more info contact Robin Vickers at [rvickers@ufl.edu](mailto:rvickers@ufl.edu) or by calling 850-983-7134

## Want to be a sponsor or a volunteer?

We would like you to consider supporting this much needed community outreach project that will greatly benefit over 3,200 individuals in Santa Rosa and Escambia County. Please make check payable to the **University of Florida** and mail to 5988 Hwy 90, Bldg. 4900, Milton, FL 32583. If you have any question or need additional information on how you can help support this community outreach project please feel free to Contact Robin Vickers at [rvickers@ufl.edu](mailto:rvickers@ufl.edu) or by calling 850-983-7134.



## UF/IFAS Gulf Coast Turfgrass

### Expo & Field Day

The 23rd Annual Gulf Coast Turfgrass Expo was hosted by the University of Florida, West Florida Research and Education Center and the Gulf Coast Golf Course Superintendents Association. Due to the significantly high rainfall in June, the Expo was postponed until July. The educational event was held on Thursday July 27th at the University of Florida WFREC. Over 200 turfgrass professionals from all segments of the industry attended. Mark your calendars for next year's date. The Expo will be held on June 20, 2018.



## UF/IFAS Evidence-Based Turf Management: Water Temperature, Light and Nutrition

On October 3 & 4 Dr. Bryan Unruh, Dr. Travis Shaddox, and Dr. Jason Kruse hosted a "Turf School" at the UF West Florida Research and Education Center to provide in-depth, evidence-based education on turf anatomy, physiology, and nutrition through lecture, field observations, and laboratory demonstrations. Pesticide license CEUS and GCSAA PDI Points were awarded. To find out about future events visit our website at <http://wfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/>.



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From the Director 1

New Student Spotlight 2

New Grants and Publications 3

Employee Happenings 4

Farm To City at the UF/IFAS 5

23rd Annual Gulf Coast Turfgrass Expo & Field Day & "Turf School" 6

Field Corn Day & Santa Rosa Leadership Class 31 Agribusiness Tour 7

Extension Farm Field Day 8

Calendar of Events 9

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## ***2017 Field Corn Day***

The UF/IFAS West Florida Research and Education Center held its Corn Field Day on Friday July 28. Topics included nutrient management in corn and corn earworm and fall armyworm in the Florida panhandle. We appreciate all our sponsors for the Field Corn Day! Our sponsor's generosity is what allows UF/IFAS WFREC in Jay to host these events.



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**From the Director** 1

**New Student Spotlight** 2

**New Grants and Publications** 3

**Employee Happenings** 4

**Farm To City at the UF/IFAS** 5

**23rd Annual Gulf Coast Turfgrass Expo & Field Day & "Turf School"** 6

**Field Corn Day & Santa Rosa Leadership Class 31 Agribusiness Tour** 7

**Extension Farm Field Day** 8

**Calendar of Events And Holidays** 9

## **Santa Rosa Leadership Class 31 Agribusiness Tour**



The University of Florida/IFAS is pleased to have hosted the Santa Rosa Leadership Class 31 on October 19th for the Agribusiness Tour. The leadership class heard about many of the ongoing projects here at WFREC, watched the harvesting of cotton and peanuts, and saw demonstrations on how cotton is processed. Thanks to United Bank, who sponsored lunch, everyone enjoyed a delicious fried fish lunch with all the fixings.

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**UF/IFAS West Florida Research and Education Center**

**Milton:** 5988 Highway 90, Bldg 4900, Milton FL 32583 **Jay:** 4253 Experiment Road, Jay FL 32565 **Phone:** 850.983.7125



# Extension Farm Field Day

On Tuesday August 22, 2017 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.

## IN THIS ISSUE

**From the Director** 1

**New Student Spotlight** 2

**New Grants and Publications** 3

**Employee Happenings** 4

**Farm To City at the UF/IFAS** 5

**23rd Annual Gulf Coast Turfgrass Expo & Field Day & "Turf School"** 6

**Field Corn Day & Santa Rosa Leadership Class** 7  
**31 Agribusiness Tour**

**Extension Farm Field Day** 8

**Calendar of Events And Holidays** 9

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Some of the topics discussed included cotton varieties, caterpillars in field crops, herbicide usage in cotton and peanuts, fertility management, managing peanut varieties, peanut disease, and disease resistant management (CEU's), weed control, and peanut varieties.

Thank you goes to all of our sponsors! We could not host these successful events at our Research facility without their generous support!

BASF

Coastal Machinery

Farm Credit of NW Florida

Jay Peanut Farmers Co-Op

PhytoGen Cottonseed

Syngenta

Bayer

Crop Production Services

Florida Peanut Producers Assn

Milton Dodge

Primrose

T & P AG Sales

Birdsong Peanuts

Dow Agro Sciences

Griswold Peanut Co

Nichino America

Smith Tractor Co

United Bank



A special word of Thanks goes to Coastal Machinery for sponsoring breakfast for everyone at the Extension Farm Field Day!





# 2017 Calendar of Events

## IN THIS ISSUE

**From the Director** 1

**New Student Spotlight** 2

**New Grants and Publications** 3

**Employee Happenings** 4

**Farm To City at the UF/IFAS** 5

**23rd Annual Gulf Coast Turfgrass Expo & Field Day & "Turf School"** 6

**Field Corn Day & Santa Rosa Leadership Class 31 Agribusiness Tour** 7

**Extension Farm Field Day** 8

**Calendar of Events And Holidays** 9

October 19	Santa Rosa Leadership Agribusiness Tour
October 24	Santa Rosa County Farm Tour at the Jay REC
October 26	Master Naturalists/Extension Volunteer Visit at the Jay REC
November 20	Farm to City Harvest at the Jay REC
November 21	Farm to City Food Distribution at the Guy Thompson Community Center / Waterfront Rescue Mission
December 6	Classes End
December 9-15	Final Exams
December 20	Grades Available

## UF / WFREC Holidays for 2017

Veterans Day - November 10-11

Thanksgiving – Thursday, November 23rd & Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup>

Christmas – Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>— Friday December 29<sup>th</sup>  
Both Milton Campus and Jay REC will be closed

## Upcoming 2018 Events

Carinata Field Day	Feb 27, 2018
Spring Festival of Flowers	April 6, 7, & 8, 2018
Gulf Coast Turfgrass Expo & Field Day	June 20, 2018

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