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**From the Center Director**

Spring heralds a new beginning with regard to most things including farm production. I'm hopeful as the new season unfolds and happy that 2018 is in the rear-view mirror. Last season's wet harvest conditions prevented us and area producers from realizing a timely harvest. What I hear from most farmers in the area is *we raised a good crop but couldn't get it out of the field*. Even if they got it out of the field, commodity quality often suffered owing to delayed harvest. The result was lost revenues. At this writing we are planting corn at the Jay Research Facility and, again, I'm hoping for favorable weather that allows us and area producers to plant, manage and harvest good crops in a timely manner.



Dr. Wes Wood  
Professor & Center Director

To help raise crops and conduct research at the Jay Research Facility in a well-timed fashion, we have added a brand-new 210 horsepower tractor to our fleet of mostly old ones that have much less horsepower. The UF-IFAS Research Dean's office recognized our long-standing need for a large farm tractor and provided the money for the purchase – I'm grateful for that. With a new, powerful tractor comes the need for larger equipment to pull behind it. So, with other funds, we obtained a used 28-foot disk-harrow that's in good shape. Moreover, one of our local producers, Ricky Hendricks, generously donated an 8-row ripper/bedder to the WREC – I'm very thankful and appreciative of Ricky's donation. The new tractor and the larger equipment we've acquired so far will certainly help us prepare and manage our research farm operations in a more timely and efficient manner.

Mark Long, our Student Recruiter, tells me that our undergraduate teaching program is growing. As of today, we have 53 active students – 44 and nine in our natural resource and plant science programs, respectively. Ten students will graduate from our programs this May. In Fall 2019 we are projected to welcome 25 new students to our programs. If these numbers hold, our undergraduate teaching program student numbers will increase by 28% to a total of 68 students in Fall 2019. Our human and physical resources will be stretched to accommodate this increase, but it's a good problem to have.

Our Spring Festival of Flowers begins next Friday (5 April) and runs through Sunday, 7 April at the UF Milton location. This is one of our premier events that attracts thousands owing to the wide variety of plant materials and crafts available for purchase. Our student club sells plants they grow in our greenhouses. The club uses the money raised to support their activities and to fund scholarships – this is reason enough for folks to come out and support this event. Plenty of good food is available at the event and it's an overall good time. I hope you'll take time to come to our festival.

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## From the Center Director—*continued from page 1*

I wish all our area producers well as we start another cropping season and want them to know I'm thankful for the support they and the overall agricultural community provides the WFREC. I also give my best to our students as they finish the spring semester. Last, but certainly not least, I wish our wonderful faculty and staff a safe and productive spring season.

Go Gators!

## Plant Sale Preparations

### UF Milton Student Club Prepares for Their Annual Plant Sale at the Spring Festival of Flowers

Written by Gabriel Campbell and Anna Dicks

A dedicated team of student volunteers has been propagating and producing plants for the past year. This year the production team has been coordinated by undergraduate student Anna Dicks with the assistance of graduate student Gabriel Campbell. In the fall, stem cuttings were clipped and underground structures (such as bulbs) were dug up and propagated, and seeds were sown at the UF PSC Milton greenhouse.



Throughout the winter and early spring students moved small, propagated plants into larger sale-ready containers, all the while irrigating, fertilizing, pruning, and managing disease and pest pressures, and greenhouse operations. In addition to ornamental plants, Gabriel has been busy introducing a large selection of native plants species to this year's production. This plant sale provides valuable "hands-on" work experience for students and profits generated from the sale are used to support UF Milton Student Club scholarship funds and educational activities.



Congratulations to Dr. Miller for being selected for a 2019 North American Colleges & Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Educator Award.



Congratulations to Dr. Mulvaney. He was awarded the 2019 Early Career Research Award by the Southern Branch of the American Society of Agronomy in February.



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# Spring Festival of Flowers

UF|IFAS  
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PSC

PENSACOLA  
STATE COLLEGE

## UF/IFAS and Pensacola State College Milton Campus SPRING FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS

### ABOUT THE SPRING FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS

UF/IFAS West Florida Research and Education Center in conjunction with the Pensacola State College Milton Campus invite you to join them for one of the largest festivals of the season. This is a popular event that draws plant enthusiasts from near and far. This festival features plant nurseries, University of Florida student club plant sale, arts & crafts, great food and educational opportunities.

The goal of the event is to raise money for UF & PSC scholarships, student field trips, and other student needs.



## APRIL 5, 6 & 7, 2019

Festival is **FREE** to the public and handicapped accessible

**Times:** Friday 9-5 p.m. • Saturday & Sunday 9-4 p.m.

**Location:** UF/IFAS West Florida Research and Education Center and Pensacola State College Milton Campus

**Want to be a vendor? Register at**

[2019miltonspringfestivalofflowers.eventbrite.com](http://2019miltonspringfestivalofflowers.eventbrite.com)

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

The University of Florida at Milton would like to thank John Davy and Panhandle Growers for their generous donation of trees. Their continued support of the UF Milton Student Club's annual Plant Sale allows further funding of student scholarships, field trips, and other student needs.

**Thank You PANHANDLE GROWERS!**

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# New Grants & Publications

## Dr. Pratap Devkota Assistant Professor, Weed Science



**GRANTS:**

- \$82,880. Southeast Partnership for Advanced Renewables from Carinata (SPARC). USDA AFRI Sustainable Bioenergy and Bioproducts. 2017-2022.

**EXTENSION PUBLICATIONS:**

- B. Sellers, **P. Devkota**, J. Ferrell (2019) Tropical Soda Apple: Biology, Ecology, and Management of a Noxious Weed in Florida. UF/IFAS Electronic Delivery Information System (EDIS) publication SS-AGR-77. University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.
- B. Sellers, **P. Devkota**, J. Ferrell (2019) Common Pokeweed. UF/IFAS Electronic Delivery Information System (EDIS) publication SS-AGR-123. University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.
- B. Sellers, **P. Devkota**, J. Ferrell (2019) Dogfennel (*Eupatorium capillifolium*): Biology and Control. UF/IFAS Electronic Delivery Information System (EDIS) publication SS-AGR-224. University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.
- B. Sellers, **P. Devkota**, J. Ferrell (2019) Tank-Mix Options for Control of Tropical Soda Apple and Dogfennel. UF/IFAS Electronic Delivery Information System (EDIS) publication SS-AGR-300. University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.
- B. Sellers, **P. Devkota**, J. Ferrell (2019) Weed Management in Limpograss. UF/IFAS Electronic Delivery Information System (EDIS) publication SS-AGR-334. University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.
- B. Sellers, **P. Devkota**, J. Ferrell (2019) Cressleaf Groundsel (Butterweed) Identification and Management in Pastures. UF/IFAS Electronic Delivery Information System (EDIS) publication SS-AGR-403. University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.

**ABSTRACTS:**

- E. Carter, S. Paula-Moraes, A. Roosevelt Moraes Jr, M. Mulvaney, **P. Devkota** (2019) Cotton growers in the Florida Panhandle: Pest risk aversion and knowledge of transgenic technology. 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Branch, Entomological Society of America, Mobile, AL
- R. Tiwari, **P. Devkota**, M. Mulvaney, R. Leon (2019) Weed Ecology and Management within *Brassica carinata* Cropping Systems. SPARC Annual Meeting-Year 2. Quincy, FL
- **P. Devkota** (2019) Response of Non-Dormant Conventional Alfalfa to Postemergence applied Saflufenacil. 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of Florid Weed Science Society, Haines City, FL

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# New Grants & Publications

**Dr. Mike Mulvaney**

Assistant Professor, Agronomy



Peer reviewed publications

1. B. Zurweller, D. Rowland, **M. Mulvaney**, B. Tillman, K. Migliaccio, J. Erickson, D. Wright, P. Payton, G. Vellidis. 2019. Optimizing cotton irrigation and nitrogen management using a smartphone irrigation scheduling tool and in-season nitrogen applications. *Agricultural Water Management* 216: 306-314.2.
2. **M.J. Mulvaney**, R.G. Leon, R. Seepaul, D.L. Wright, T.L. Hoffman. 2019. *Brassica carinata* seeding rate and row spacing effects on morphology, yield, and oil. *Agronomy Journal* 111(2): 1-8. doi:10.2134/agonj2018.05.0316.
3. D. Perondi, C.W. Fraisse, W. Pavan, V.A. Cerbaro, D.D. Berreto, C.G. Staub, **M.J. Mulvaney**, P. Troy, D.N.L. Pequeno. 2019. Crop season planning tool: Adjusting sowing decisions to reduce the risk of extreme weather events. *Computers and Electronics in Agriculture* 156: 62-70.

Extension publications

- **M.J. Mulvaney**, K.S. Balkcom. 2019. Not much nitrogen value in peanut vines. *Southeastern Peanut Farmer*. Vol. 57, No. 1, Jan/Feb 2019. Southern Peanut Farmers Federation, Tifton, GA. p. 16-17. [https://issuu.com/sepfonline/docs/sepf\\_janfeb2019\\_web](https://issuu.com/sepfonline/docs/sepf_janfeb2019_web)
- R. Kemerait, A. Culbreath, E. Prostko, T. Brenneman, S. Tubbs, R. Srinivasan, M. Abney, S. Monfort, A. Rabinowitz, B. Tillman, N. Dufault, D. Rowland, **M. Mulvaney**, I. Small, A. Hagan, J. Sarver, D. Anco, N. Smith. 2019. Minimizing Diseases of Peanut in the Southeastern United States: The 2018 Version of the Peanut Disease Risk Index. <http://www.caes.uga.edu/content/dam/caes-website/extension-outreach/commodities/peanut-team/docs/2018/2018-Peanut-Rx-Disease-Risk-Index.pdf>
- R. Seepaul, I.M. Small, **M.J. Mulvaney**, S. George, R.G. Leon, D. Geller, J.J. Marois, D.L. Wright. 2019. *Carinata*, the Jet Fuel Cover Crop: 2018-2019 Production Recommendations for the Southeastern United States. UF/IFAS Electronic Delivery Information System (EDIS) publication SS-AGR-384. University of Florida, Gainesville, FL. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag389>
- **M. Mulvaney**. 2019. Florida Cotton: 6 Steps for Avoiding Potassium Deficiency. *AgFax Media*, Jan. 25, 2019. <https://agfax.com/2019/01/25/florida-cotton-6-steps-for-avoiding-potassium-deficiency/>
- **M. Mulvaney**. 2019. Avoiding Potassium Deficiency in Cotton. *Panhandle Ag News*, Jan. 25, 2019. UF/IFAS Extension, University of Florida. <http://nwdistrict.ifas.ufl.edu/phag/2019/01/25/avoiding-potassium-deficiency-in-cotton/>
- **M. Mulvaney**, D.L. Wright. 2018. After Hurricane Michael: What Should Panhandle Crop Farmers Do? *Panhandle Ag News*, Nov. 2, 2018. UF/IFAS Extension, University of Florida. <http://nwdistrict.ifas.ufl.edu/phag/2018/11/02/after-hurricane-michael-what-should-panhandle-crop-farmers-do/>

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# New Grants & Publications

## Dr. Silvana Paula-Moraes Assistant Professor, Crop Pest Management

Publications:

Abstracts and proceedings

- Baldwin, J., Paula-Moraes, S. V., Ledbetter-Kish, L.; Rabelo, M.M.; Mulvaney, M.J. 2019. Larval behavior and chemical control of lepidopterans in peanut using directed spray applications. In: 2019 Southeastern Branch Meeting, March 03-06, Mobile, FL.
- Baldwin, J., Paula-Moraes, S. V., Pereira, R. 2019. The good size of the bad guys: predation of noctuids by red imported fire ants in agroecosystems. In: 2019 Southeastern Branch Meeting, March 03-06, Mobile, FL.
- Hemphill, C.N., Rabelo, M.M., Paula-Moraes, S. V. 2019. Infestation method with natural egg deposition of *Helicoverpa zea* for ecological studies. In: 2019 Southeastern Branch Meeting, March 03 - 06, Mobile, FL.
- Rabelo, M.M., Matos, J.L.M., Eloi, A.C., Miranda, M., Paula Moraes, S.V., Pereira, E.J.G. 2019. Parental effect resulting from exposure to Cry1Ac protein in *Spodoptera cosmioides* (Lepidoptera-Noctuidae). In: 2019 Southeastern Branch Meeting, March 03 - 06, Mobile, AL.
- Rabelo, M.M., Matos, J.L.M., Santos-Amaya, O.F., França, J.C., Paula Moraes, S.V., Pereira, E.J.G. 2019. Can Cry1Ac protein and the genetically modified soybean stimulate the non-target pest *Spodoptera eridania*? In: 2019 Southeastern Branch Meeting, March 03 - 06, Mobile, AL.
- Carter, E., Paula-Moraes, S., Moraes Jr, A.M., Mulvaney, M., Devkota, P. 2019. Cotton growers in the Florida Panhandle: Pest risk aversion and knowledge of transgenic technology. In: 2019 Southeastern Branch Meeting, March 03 - 06, Mobile, AL.
- Bann, P., Paula-Moraes, S., Ledbetter-Kish, L. 2019. Carbon isotopic signatures of *Helicoverpa zea* populations from the Florida Panhandle. In: 2019 Southeastern Branch Meeting, March 03 - 06, Mobile, AL.
- Yu, W., Oyediran, I.O., Guo, J., Niu, J., Reay-Jones, J., Cook, D., Ni, X., Reisig, D., Paula-Moraes, S., Brown, S., Dimase, M., Huang, F. 2019. Initial estimation of resistance allele frequency in corn earworm populations collected from southeast region of the U.S. to Cry1Ab and Vip3A proteins. In: 2019 Southeastern Branch Meeting, March 03 - 06, Mobile, AL.



Referred Journals

- Kaur, G., Guo, J., Brown, S., Head, G.P., Price, P.A., Paula-Moraes, S., Ni, X., Dimase, M., Huang, F. 2019. Field-evolved resistance of *Helicoverpa zea* (Boddie) to transgenic in northeast Louisiana, the United States. *Journal of invertebrate pathology*, 163, 11-20.
- Montesano, D.G., Specht, A., Sosa-Gómez, D.G., Roque-Specht, V., Sousa-Silva, J.C., Paula-Moraes, S.V., Peterson, J.A., Hunt, T.E. 2018. Host plants of *Spodoptera frugiperda* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) in the Americas. *African Entomology* 26, 286-300.

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## Dr. Pratap Devkota Assistant Professor, Weed Science

### NEWSLETTER PUBLICATIONS:

- **P. Devkota** (2019) Weed Management: 2019 Peanut Grower Pesticide Management Guide. The Peanut Grower. Pp 4-5. Jan. 23, 2019. <https://peanutgrower.com/feature/2019-peanut-grower-pesticide-management-guide/>
- **P. Devkota** (2019) Changes on the Newer Dicamba Product Registration for the Upcoming Season. Panhandle Ag e-News, Feb. <http://nwdistrict.ifas.ufl.edu/phag/2019/02/01/changes-to-the-dicamba-product-registration-for-the-upcoming-crop-season/>
- **P. Devkota** (2019) Changes to the Newer Dicamba Product Registration for the Upcoming Season. Panhandle Ag e-News, Feb. 4, 2019. <http://florida.growingamerica.com/news/2019/02/changes-dicamba-product-registration-upcoming-crop-season>
- J. Carter and **P. Devkota** (2019) New Weed Scientist in Florida. Southeastern Peanut Farmer. Pp. 16. March 2019. [https://issuu.com/sepfonline/docs/march\\_2019\\_web?e=10128635/683](https://issuu.com/sepfonline/docs/march_2019_web?e=10128635/683)

### PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:

- Poster Session Chair, Weed Science Society of America 2019 Annual Meeting. Feb. 2019, New Orleans, LA.
- Graduate Student Paper Contest Judge. Weed Science Society of America 2019 Annual Meeting. Feb. 2019, New Orleans, LA.
- Florida Weed Science Society, Board of Directors Government.



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## Dr. Mike Mulvaney Assistant Professor, Agronomy

### Grants

\$15,000. UF/IFAS TARGET Award. Machine learning within agrobiolology. 2019.

### Conference presentations & abstracts

- M.J. Mulvaney**, K. Balkcom, J. Iboyi. 2019. Should seeding rate change under different land preparation methods of *Brassica carinata*? 2019 Southern Branch American Society of Agronomy Annual Meeting. Birmingham, AL. Feb. 5, 2019.
- E. Carter, S. Paula-Moraes, A.R. Moraes, **M.J. Mulvaney**, P. Devkota. 2019. Cotton growers in the Florida Panhandle: Pest risk aversion and knowledge of transgenic technology. 2019 Entomological Society of America Southeastern Branch Meeting. Mobile, AL. Mar. 3-6, 2019.
- J. Baldwin, S. Paula-Moraes, M. Rabelo, L. Ledbetter-Kish, **M.J. Mulvaney**. 2019. Larval behavior and chemical control of the lepidopterans in peanut using the direct spray. 2019 Entomological Society of America Southeastern Branch Meeting. Mobile, AL. Mar. 3-6, 2019.

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# New Grants & Publications

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## Dr. Silvana Paula-Moraes Assistant Professor, Entomology

### Participation in meetings

- **Paula-Moraes, S.V. (symposium organizer).** 2019. *Helicoverpa zea*: genetic population structure, life history traits, susceptibility and economic impact on Bt crops, and management alternatives. In: 2019 Southeastern Branch Meeting, March 03 - 06, Mobile, AL.
- Leppla, N., Oi, F., Hodges, A., **Paula-Moraes, S.V.**, Knox, G. 2019. 2017 Crop Protection and Pest Management Extension Implementation Project for the University of Florida. In: 2019 Southeastern Branch Meeting, March 03 - 06, Mobile, AL.
- **Paula-Moraes, S.V. 2019 (invited).** EPA SAP Resistance of Lepidopteran Pests to *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) Plant Incorporated Plants in the U.S. NC246: Ecology and Management of Arthropods in Corn January 22-24, 2019. Cleveland, Ohio.

## Employee Spotlight

Hired at the UF/IFAS WFREC by Dr. Michael Mulvaney, an assistant professor of Agronomy, in October 2016, Porcha Phillips has been an integral part of the Cropping Systems program. She works with Dr. Mulvaney on his projects and assists graduate students in set-up and maintenance of research trials and data collection.

Recently, graduate student Joseph Iboyi started a crop rotation project. One aspect of the project looks at what depth a given crop's root system will absorb soil moisture. Gathering data on soil moisture at certain depths became the challenge.

Joseph found an ideal soil moisture sensor, but it didn't quite meet the needs of the project. Porcha started to redesign the sensor, so it would better fit the needs of the project. After a bit of trial and error, the final unit came into being.

One prototype has been completed, installed in the field, and is already collecting soil moisture data to make sure the data are good. Soon there will be multiple sensors in the field for the duration of the project. The units will be removed for plowing and planting and then redeployed in the field next spring.

Data collection can sometimes be less than straight forward. Sometimes the instruments to collect data either do not exist or are more expensive than is feasible. Thankfully, with Porcha on the WFREC team, working through the difficulties of data collection is easier.





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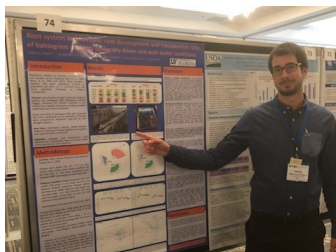
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# Turfgrass Happenings

## Dr. Unruh Hosts the South Florida Turfgrass Field Day and Expo at the Ft. Lauderdale Research and Education Center.

The FLREC is in the final stages of hiring a new turf specialist. In the meantime, Dr. Unruh has been traveling to Ft. Lauderdale – sometimes a couple times a month – to keep the active research projects moving forward. Additionally, he hosted the 31st running of the field day where the UF/IFAS Turfgrass Science Team provided attendees, including golf course superintendents, athletic field managers, sod farmers, and landscape maintenance crews, with the latest information, research and technology available that is needed to manage turfgrasses most effectively, efficiently and environmentally friendly. Additionally, he, along with Jason Bailey, President of the South Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association, presenting Karen Williams, with a plaque honoring her for her 32 years of service to UF/IFAS and the South Florida Turf Industry. For more information on the field day - <http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/brevardco/2019/03/22/highlights-from-the-31st-annual-south-florida-turfgrass-field-day-and-expo/>



Agustin Boeri, a UF/IFAS graduate student under Dr. Bryan Unruh, presented his research at the International Forage & Turfgrass Breeding Conference March 24-27, 2019 in Lake Buena Vista, Florida.

## Dr. Bryan Unruh Part of National Team to Tackle One of the Most Troublesome Weeds

A team of 16 university scientists will be involved in a four-year, \$5.7 million project funded by the USDA National Institute for Food and Agriculture, Specialty Crop Research Initiative to limit the impact of annual bluegrass, the most troublesome weed of athletic, golf, lawn and sod turf. The team's multifaceted approach will be to characterize the distribution of herbicide-resistant populations, seek weaknesses in the weed's seed biology and growth characteristics, and develop alternatives to herbicides to supplement current control measures, with a robust extension and education program.



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## Student Scholarships & Awards

Two students of our Entomology team working with Dr. Silvana Paula-Moraes won awards at the 2019 Entomology Society of America – Southeastern Branch meeting, in Mobile, Alabama March 6, 2019

Marcelo Mendes Rabelo Mendes won the first place in the PhD Student Oral Presentation Competition

Chris Hemphill (Plant Science major) won second place in the Undergraduate Student Poster Competition

Congratulations to Marcelo and Chris! Keep up the good work!



## Spring 2019 Scholarships

Congratulations to our Spring 2019 Scholarship recipients:

Graduate Assistants:

Mahesh Bashyal

Ashlynn Smith

Daniel Brethauer

Gabriel Campbell

Undergraduates:

Cheyenne Brodie-McAleister

Barbara Cory

Jordan Dumas

Latisa Ledbetter-Kish

Ashton Shell

Dallas Brooks

Anna Dicks

Matthew Fineout

Elizabeth Miller





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# Welcome to Our New Employees



**Graham McInnes** began working with Dr. Michael Mulvaney in March. He will be collecting data and assisting as needed on various projects. Graham is a Natural Resources Conservation student, and intends to continue his education and get a masters in soil conservation.



**Chase McKeithen**, a Milton local and former UF Milton undergraduate, joins the UF/IFAS Turfgrass Science program as a biological scientist. He is working under Dr. Bryan Unruh. Chase hopes to make a difference in the local community through continuous learning and service.



**Go Gators**



**Ashton Shell** is a Natural Resource Conservation student working with Dr. Ajay Sharma and masters student Jesse Frazier on their Tate's Hell State Forest project on special analysis of slash pine. When he has finished his bachelor's degree, Ashton plans to attend graduate school.

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# 2019 Upcoming Events

Spring Festival of Flowers	April 5, 6 & 7, 2019
WFREC Quarterly Staff Meeting	April 12, 2019
Gulf Coast Turfgrass Expo & Field Day	June 19, 2019
Santa Rosa Leadership Agribusiness Day	October 17, 2019

## UF/WFREC Holidays & Academic Program Calendar

Classes End - April 24th  
Final Exams - April 27th to May 3rd  
Graduation - May 9th  
Memorial Day (Closed) - May 27th  
Independence Day (Closed) - July 4th  
Labor Day (Closed) - September 2nd  
UF Homecoming (Closed) - October 4th



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