



Spring 2024

UF/IFAS
Department of
Animal Sciences

**John Arthington**Professor and Chair

2250 Shealy Dr. PO Box 110910 Gainesville, FL 32611

352-392-1981

animal.ifas.ufl.edu

#### **Editors:**

Matti Moyer Savannah Linzmaier Adriana Barbat

#### Writers:

Savannah Linzmaier Matti Moyer Aubrey Pearce Meg Alexander

**Graphic Designers:**Aubrey Pearce
Meg Alexander
Adriana Barbat

#### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

#### **Featured Stories**

UF 40 Under 40 Spotlight	4
In Five Years	8
Faculty Highlight: Jason Scheffler	14
Research Spotlight: Muscle Development — Feng Yue	16
Events, Awards and News	
Departmental Top Senior Awards	10
Departmental Top Junior Awards	12
Special Topics: Small Ruminant Production	13
Gator Grill Masters	18
Sale in the Swamp	19
Celebration Day	20
Ruminant Nutrition Symposium	21
Open Gate	22
Family Day at the Dairy Farm	23
Awards	24
Undergraduates	28
Graduates	30

#### **COVER PHOTO**

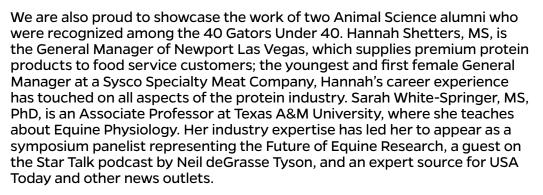


Steaks being grilled at a beef Extension event. Photo Credit: Matti Moyer. See page 1.

#### LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear alumni, friends and supporters,

This semester has been filled with achievements for our faculty, staff, students, and alumni. We launched a brand new course this spring called "Small Ruminant Production" instructed by Kyle Mendes. After taking this course, students will have practical knowledge and skills necessary for successful and sustainable small ruminant farming. On page 10 we recognize Dr. Jason Scheffler, an invaluable member of our faculty. His research on food safety and involvement in teaching, research, and extension have provided us with technological advancements in the industry while bridging the important topics food safety and food supply. On page 14 we feature Dr. Feng Yue, who has been developing new innovations in his lab. His research focuses on improving human health and animal production. Dr. Yue's efforts have yielded valuable knowledge about muscle stem cell behavior and tissue development.



Our department held some exciting extension events over the last few months. Family Day at the Dairy Farm, which was attended by about 1,500 visitors, was an opportunity to educate the public about the dairy industry, with topics including reproduction, feeding, and milking. We also held "Open Gate," an educational event for middle and high school students interested in animal sciences, in which we offered tours of our Beef and Horse Teaching Units as well as our Meat Processing Center. Our Gator Grill Masters program brought people together to learn about meat selection, grading, grilling equipment, and participants got to create their own custom seasoning blend and grill their own steaks.

I would like to congratulate all of our Spring graduates. Good luck to each of you as you continue your education or begin your professional careers! Please enjoy our latest newsletter which follows. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do to move the ANS mission forward. We could not do what we do without our alumni, friends and stakeholders who generously support our efforts in so many ways. Whether you are giving through financial support, your time to speak to our students, or providing jobs and internships, we cannot say thank you enough. If you are interested in giving, please visit https://give.ifas.ufl.edu/animal-sciences-giving/ to learn about various giving opportunities, or feel free to reach out to me directly.

Sincerely,

John Arthington Professor and Chair



John Arthington PROFESSOR & CHAIR

### 40 Sators Under 40



## Hannah Shetters B.S. Animal Sciences '13 M.S. Animal Sciences '15

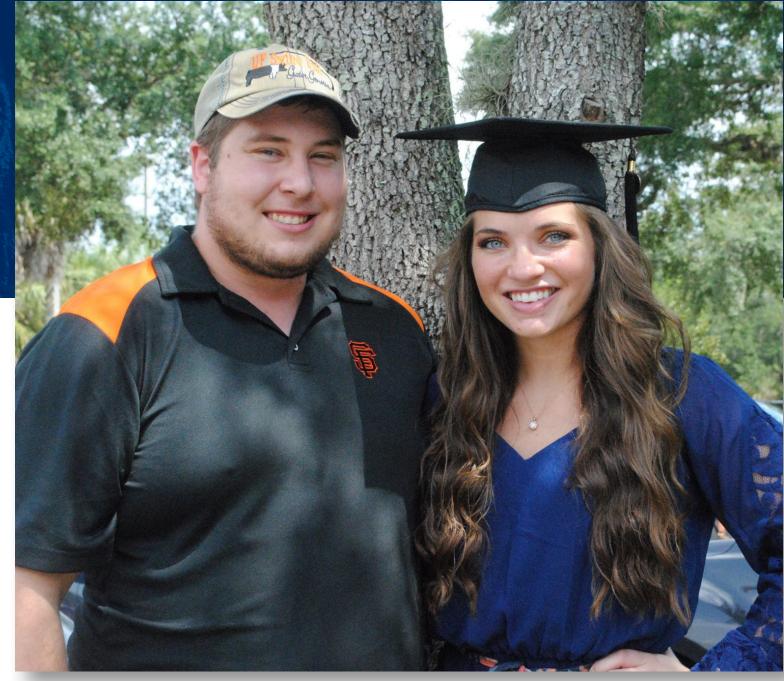
Hannah Shetters currently serves as the General Manager of Newport Las Vegas, a Sysco Specialty Company. Newport Pride is one of the industry's most reputable premium protein brands, supplying the highest quality products and solutions to food service customers. Hannah began her Sysco career as an intern with Buckhead Central Florida, which was made possible by a shadowing experience during her undergrad. After graduating with her M.S. in Animal Sciences (Meat Science) and a Master of Agribusiness, Hannah joined the Sysco family as a Project Leader for Buckhead Central Florida in 2015. Since then, Hannah has held leadership roles within merchandising, operations, and other special projects that allowed for exposure to all facets of the industry. Her most recent role as Director of Operations at Buckhead South Florida even allowed her the opportunity to expand her skillset within seafood to become an overall premium protein specialist.

As a proud gator, Hannah is tremendously grateful for her time spent at the University of Florida, especially competing and coaching in meat judging as well as participating in other meat industry-related events. These experiences allowed Hannah to gain invaluable knowledge, experience and connections that a student would never pick up in a classroom setting alone.

It is because of the influence and support from family, friends and mentors that Hannah has been able to accelerate her career, becoming the youngest and first female General Manager of a Sysco Specialty Meat Company. Empowerment is a key pillar of Hannah's leadership style, and she is honored to not only lead diverse, performance-driven teams, but to also empower and mentor the next generation of Gators to carve out their own path within the meat and food service industries.

- UF Alumni Association









Have You HERD? 4 Have You HERD? 5

## 40 Sators Under 40



#### Sarah White-Springer B.S. Animal Sciences '07 M.S. Animal Sciences '10 Ph.D. Animal Sciences '14

Dr. Sarah White-Springer is an Associate Professor of Equine Physiology at Texas A&M University. After receiving her Ph.D. at the University of Florida, Dr. White-Springer completed postdoctoral training at the University of Kentucky studying muscle physiology in human health and disease. Her current efforts aim to optimize performance and welfare in equine athletes through modulation of skeletal muscle mitochondrial and inflammatory profiles. Relationships developed with the Thoroughbred industry have afforded Dr. White-Springer the opportunity to work with elite racehorses, including a 2022 Kentucky Derby contender!

She has proven herself an expert in her field, with invitations to be the sole panelist representing the Future of Equine Research at the 2023 Equine Science Society (ESS) Symposium, a guest on Neil deGrasse Tyson's podcast, Star Talk, and interviews by USA Today and news stations. She also serves as the mitochondria expert in collaborative efforts to enhance cattle and swine production and to discover

novel treatments for human diseases. Dr. White-Springer has obtained over \$3 million in funding to support her research program, published 30 journal articles and 63 scientific abstracts, mentored 11 M.S. and 2 Ph.D. students, and impacted countless undergraduate students at Texas A&M. In the last 3 years, she received the American Society of Animal Science Equine Science Award, the ESS Josie Coverdale Award for Outstanding Young Professional, the Texas A&M William A. Dugas Early Career Award for Research Excellence, was a USDA Young and Emerging Invited Speaker at the 12th International Symposium on Selenium in Biology and Medicine, and had a publication cited as a Key Publication in Equine Exercise Physiology at the 2022 International Conference on Equine Exercise Physiology in Uppsala, Sweden. Dr. White-Springer is also an accomplished horsewoman, most recently earning multiple titles at the 2023 Arabian Sport Horse Nationals with her horse, Marti.

-UF Alumni Association









Have You HERD? 6 Have You HERD? 7

### In Five Years

Spring 2019 Alumni of the UF/IFAS Department of Animal Sciences



**Taylor Pearce**Commercial Ag Loan Officer
Farm Credit of Florida

Taylor graduated from the department in 2019 with a food animal specialization and minors in food science and leadership. After graduation, Taylor also earned her master's in Agriculture and is currently a Commercial Ag Loan Officer with Farm Credit of Florida. She believes that her time in the animal sciences department provided her with an unparalleled opportunity to gain industry knowledge and grow her professional development skills. As an undergrad, she was involved with the Gator Collegiate Cattlewomen's Association, Block & Bridle, UF Student Government, Chi Omega Sorority, and CALS Council. Her advice to a senior is, "Take advantage of every change you have to stretch your level of comfort. Although it is important to have a long-term plan to guide yourself through the job-seeking process, be open to different opportunities that present themself to you along the way."

Ashley graduated from the department in 2019 with a food animal specialization. After her graduation, Ashley graduated from Palmer College of Chiropractic and is now married expecting a daughter. As a student, Ashley's experience in animal sciences was a hands-on and closeknit one. She believes she was given many opportunities to participate in real-world experiences and form relationships with fellow students and faculty that she still keeps in contact with today. Her undergrad involvement included serving as a CALS Ambassador and a member of the Sigma Alpha professional agricultural sorority. Her advice to a student is, "Get involved in a group or organization that will aid you into becoming a young professional. Also start networking now, even if you do not know what exactly it is you want to do when graduating. Go to the events, speak to people, and make good connections."



Ashley O'Steen Brooks

Doctor of Chiropractic



Reese Marshall
Lifestyle (Equine) Product Specialist
Purina Animal Nutrition

Reese graduated from the department in 2019 with an equine specialization and is now a Lifestyle Product Specialist with Purina Animal Nutrition. She believes her internship with Purina as an undergrad allowed her to develop the skills and connections that prepared her for her current position. Reese's academic experiences in the department, such as working with live equine and the guidance of passionate professors, also allowed her to transform her passions into her career. As a student, she also participated in Block & Bridle, Sigma Alpha professional agriculture sorority, and was on the UF Equestrian Team. Her advice to a senior is, "Great success comes from stepping out of your comfort zone. It will always be nerve-wracking to face new seasons of life. Try and utilize the nerves to fuel your success."

Kylie graduated from the department in 2019 with a food animal specialization and is now the Business Development Manager for Buckhead Meat and Seafood. She believes her experience within the department was engaging and presented her with opportunities to further her career. During her time at UF, she participated in two internships with her current company developing an understanding of their operations while building relationships, which she believes helped her to transition into her job. As an undergrad, she was involved with UF Block & Bridle, the Meats Judging Team, Gator Collegiate Cattlewomen, and undergraduate research, and she also served as a teaching assistant. Her advice to a student is, "The connections and networks you make as a college student are important. It's never too early to start making connections for your future career!"



**Kylie Phillips**Business Development Manager
Buckhead Meat and Seafood

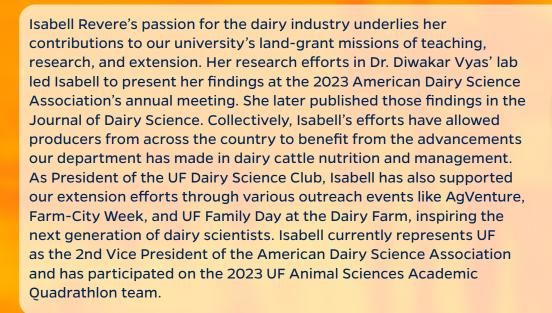
Have You HERD? 8

## Top Seniors

#### **Written by Amie Imler**



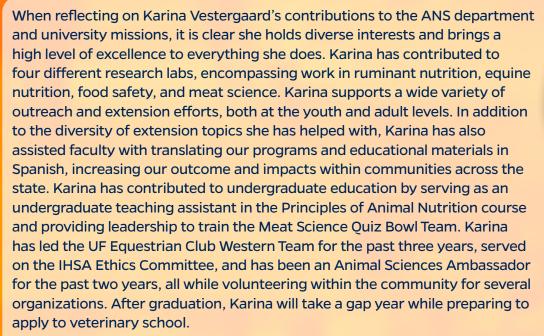
Jordan Hartley is a classic example of how involvement can change the trajectory of one's career path. Jordan's service to the land-grant missions within the ANS department has helped shape her passions and future within the meat industry. Jordan works in Dr. Jason Scheffler's lab supporting both his food safety research and meat science extension efforts. In these roles, Jordan has helped grow our knowledge in potential food safety risks — on and off the farm — as well as educated consumers to ensure better eating experiences. Within the classroom, Jordan has served as an undergraduate teaching assistant for the Introduction to Animal Sciences lecture and lab for several semesters, not only instructing her peers, but also providing leadership and mentorship for students new to the undergraduate teaching experience. Jordan has also served in executive roles within Block and Bridle and the UF Pre-Veterinary Medicine Club while balancing her job as a student worker in our UF ANS Meat Lab. After graduation, Jordan is headed to Madison, Wisconsin, where she will pursue a Master of Science in Meat Science.







Taylor McKinney's involvement has centered around a passion for the extension mission at our university. In the summer of 2022, Taylor served as the 4-H Youth Development Intern for Hernando County, where she utilized her background in livestock production to engage youth in hands-on learning throughout her summer experience. The following summer, Taylor served as the Florida 4-H Horse Program Assistant where she currently still assists in facilitating programs and developing educational materials. Taylor has also held many leadership positions in our department, including serving on both Block and Bridle and Gator Collegiate Cattlewomen's executive teams since the fall of 2020. For the past two years, Taylor has also served as an Animal Sciences Ambassador, representing our department and industry while interacting with alumni, the public, and prospective students. After graduation, Taylor will start a Master of Science program within the UF Agricultural Education and Communication department.







Khanyma Nelthropp's leadership and service to the ANS department has centered around her passion for the poultry industry and our university's teaching mission. Khanyma has been an integral part of Dr. Tracy Scheffler's newly developed Poultry Growth and Development Lab, serving as a teaching assistant for the past three semesters. Khanyma has also represented our department at the US Poultry College Career Program and MidWest Poultry Consortium, acquiring knowledge she is eager to share with faculty, her peers, and high school groups. Her level of advocacy has helped to bring a renewed poultry presence back to our department, encouraging others to consider internships and careers within the field.

The land grant system was established in 1862 by the Morrill Act, which was a visionary law that transformed American education and agriculture. The goal of the act was to make education accessible and practical for the common people. Along with teaching, land-grant institutions are unique among universities because they also support research and extension efforts that benefit agriculture and related fields. The Morrill Act laid the foundation upon which the University of Florida stands today. More than 150 years later, it remains an integral part of the Gator Nation and its stakeholders. As a tribute to this enduring legacy, the ANS department has instituted the Morrill Act Award to be awarded to one of our top seniors. This award goes to the senior who has contributed the most to all three missions within the department. The first ever Morrill Act Award was awarded to Karina Vestergaard.

Have You HERD? 10 Have You HERD? 11

## Top Juniors

**Written by Amie Imler** 



Hannah Postlewait is a first-generation college student who has been involved in undergraduate research, assisting with ruminant nutrition work in Dr. Antionio Faciola's lab. She has also been an integral part of the Florida 4-H Horse Program, serving as a lead riding instructor for the 2023 4-H Horsemanship Western Camp and volunteering at the State 4-H Horse Show last summer in Tampa. In addition to these activities, Hannah serves as an undergraduate teaching assistant in several of our courses while also providing leadership to the UF Equestrian Club Western Team and Block and Bridle Club.

Hadley Wimsatt's involvement includes conducting undergraduate research in Dr. Mario Binelli's lab. Recently, Hadley was accepted into the UF/IFAS College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Upper Division Honors Program where she will take her research and publish a thesis documenting her efforts to advance estrus detection methods in bos indicus cattle. Additionally, Hadley serves as an undergraduate teaching assistant within the department, providing leadership to the Meat Science Quiz Bowl team that will compete later this summer at the Reciprocal Meat Conference. Hadley's other involvement across campus includes serving as the UF Equestrian Club President, representing our department as an Academic Quadrathlon team member at the American Society of Animal Science's Southern Section meeting, and exhibiting UF-raised livestock as a member of the UF Brahman Show Team.



## **Special Topics: Small Ruminant Production**

This semester, we began offering a new undergraduate special topics course called "Small Ruminant Production," instructed by Kyle Mendes. This course provides a comprehensive overview of sheep and goat production, covering key aspects such as breed selection, nutrition, reproduction, health management, and marketing strategies.





In this course, students worked on the UF Sheep unit castrating lambs, docking tails, conducting herd health checks, and performing other day-to-day events at the unit. Dr. Brittany Diehl from the UF College of Veterinary Medicine lectured on parasite control, breeding strategies, and general herd health. The class was also able to visit many small ruminant operations in the state of Florida. After taking this course, students will have practical knowledge and skills necessary for successful and sustainable small ruminant farming. We are excited to see how this course will grow and what opportunities it will bring our students!

Have You HERD? 12 Have You HERD? 13









#### Have You HERD? | 14

#### **CUTTING-EDGE FACULTY:** DR. JASON SCHEFFLER'S IMPACT ON THE UF DEPARTMENT OF **ANIMAL SCIENCES**

Dr. Jason Scheffler joined the faculty of the Department of Animal Sciences in the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) in 2014. He has embodied the values of the department by consistently prioritizing the landgrant institution's mission of research, teaching, and extension in his work.

Raised on a dairy farm in Minnesota, Scheffler's early exposure to agriculture laid the groundwork for his future endeavors as an animal sciences faculty member. He pursued his undergraduate studies in Biotechnology at Wisconsin River Falls, with minors in biology, chemistry, issues. and food science. He then pursued graduate degrees from Michigan State University and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Scheffler's move to UF led to a significant shift in focus toward food safety, a field he had not extensively explored quite yet. Scheffler's willingness to adapt to the needs of his new environment led him down unexpected yet rewarding paths.

#### Research

At UF, Scheffler's appointment focuses on teaching and extension, but vacuum-sealed bag, offering insights he remains active in research. Scheffler ensures his research ties in with his teaching and extension programs.

"The goal is for my research to really complement my extension work."

His expertise in Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) systems has been instrumental in guiding

meat processors toward ensuring food safety standards. HACCP is the systematic approach to food safety that helps identify, evaluate, and control potential hazards in the food production process.

A significant aspect of Scheffler's research involves implementing preventative controls for animal feed mills through written food safety plans, an area where regulations and oversight have historically been minimal. Recognizing the lack of guidance in this field, he provides consultation to help mills develop food safety plans and navigate compliance

In his research, Scheffler searches for solutions to practical challenges the food industry faces. For instance, his work on biltong, a dried meat product, demonstrates innovative approaches to food safety. By utilizing acidic marinades and non-heat drying methods, Scheffler ensures the necessary control of bacteria for food safety while simultaneously meeting consumer preferences of tenderness and taste.

Scheffler also studies Sous Vide cookery, which is a cooking technique that heats food with water in a into time-temperature combinations crucial for both safety and quality. His research provides valuable guidance to food service operations, enhancing efficiency and consistency in mass food preparation.

#### Teaching

Scheffler's commitment to maintaining industry relevance is



evident in his teaching philosophy. He emphasizes practical skills and hands-on experiences, providing students with the tools necessary to succeed in the field of meat science and food safety.

Scheffler teaches multiple undergraduate courses, including Introduction to Animal Science, Senior Seminar, and HACCP Systems. Students at all levels benefit from his expertise and guidance. Scheffler's students gain both classroom knowledge and practical skills essential for their future careers in animal science.

"The career aspect of things in our department has always been important, but it has only become more important."

Scheffler's impact on students extends beyond the classroom.

As an advisor for the UF Block and Bridle Club, a student organization dedicated to promoting interest and scholarship of animal agriculture, he mentors members in their respective professional development endeavors. Because of his teaching philosophy, mentorship, and genuine care for his students' success and well-being, the UF College of Agricultural and Life Sciences recently recognized him as the college's 2024 Undergraduate Teacher of the Year.

#### Extension

Scheffler's extension program's primary focus is to improve the production, utilization, value, and sustainability of muscle foods. He is an instructor at various meat short courses and directs the HACCP training program for industry certification.

Scheffler's educational initiative. Gator Grill Masters, helps further engage with the community, bridging the gap between academia and industry. By engaging with the community through educational events, he not only imparts knowledge but also fosters trust and understanding in food science.

Through his research, teaching, and extension work, Scheffler shows his passion for the meat industry and animal sciences.

As he continues to navigate the landscape of food safety and innovation, Scheffler's passion for his work remains unwavering. Through his multifaceted approach, he leaves an indelible mark on both his students and the broader food industry, ensuring a safer and more sustainable future.

To learn more about Scheffler and his work, visit his faculty page at https://animal.ifas.ufl.edu/people/ jason-m-scheffler/



## Research Spotlight: Br. Feng Une



Yue and some of his students at the 2024 Animal Molecular and Cellular Biology Symposium in Clearwater, FL

#### Muscle Development

Dr. Feng Yue joined the faculty at the University of Florida Animal Sciences Department in 2021 following his time at Purdue University from 2013 to 2017, where he participated as a research associate scientist and a postdoctoral research associate. His research focuses on the field of animal physiology and muscle development, with a particular focus on stem cell behavior and metabolism.

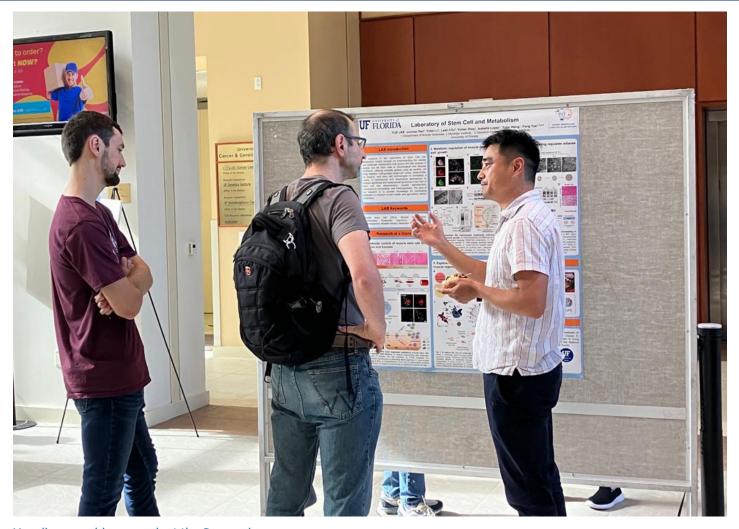
Today, Yue is a dedicated professor who is consistently commended for his innovations and passion for his field. Most recently, he was recognized as Associate Professor of the Year.

Yue's lab comprises a team of 11 scientists who are working to provide strategies that can improve human health and animal production. Their focus is on identifying and regulating obstructions in the stem cell growth process.

"I became an associate research scientist at Purdue University because I got a grant, the development award for early career scientists. I extended my research interest to cellular metabolism in muscle stem cells to investigate how metabolic behavior can affect skeletal muscle growth and repair," said Yue. He explained, "During a collaboration in that lab we started a 'notch,' a type of master signal pathway for animal growth. We started that to investigate fat in muscle growth, and found if you inhibit a notch signaling, that could boost energy in adipose tissue, so they make less of an impact on obesity."

His main focus is now on skeletal muscle and adipose tissue physiology. He is a pioneer in research on stem cell behavior, adipose tissue, and nutritional regulation within the tissues.

Adipose tissue composes a metabolic organ that assists with energy regulation in homeostasis. This tissue is what helps our body to transfer energy from fat to muscle for use without increasing our appetite.



Yue discusses his research at the Symposium.

Muscle stem cells are responsible for the formation and maintenance of skeletal muscle. During their growth and maintenance, skeletal muscles use adipose tissues to exert energy; Yue is studying how to maximize muscle formation and retention in addition to managing a relationship between muscle and fat in livestock production.

Yue's research has produced new innovations in therapeutic methods for people combating issues like muscular dystrophy or obesity caused by metabolic disorders. Additionally, he is planning on on furthering this program based on his knowledge of stem cell biology to collaborate with others in the department to focus more on adipose tissue metabolism, including intramuscular fat which affects marbling in beef cattle.

"We want to manipulate nutrient conditions and molecular pathways to increase intramuscular fat formation to then increase marbling," said Yue. He continued, "Our goal is just to impact meat quality and production to benefit agriculture and the livestock field."

Have You HERD? | 16 Have You HERD? | 17

### Gator Grill Masters

On March 16, our department hosted Gator Grill Masters, a day-long program developed to provide consumers with more knowledge on how to improve their eating experiences through grilling meat. Participants had the opportunity to learn about grilling concepts, meat selection and grading, and were able to create their own spice mix! After participating in this program, attendees answered questions like:

- To have a successful grilling experience, what variables need to be controlled and how can you optimize your grill's performance?
- If you are in the market for a new grill, what are the important considerations to ensure you find the grill that will produce the desired results?
- How can you get the most bang for your buck at the grocery store?
- What substitutions can you make to save money and still get that desired eating experience?
- What do different labeling claims mean?

After the conclusion of their information session, participants grilled their own steaks with their custom seasoning and grill of their choice.

We would like to thank Dr. Jason Scheffler for organizing this event!



## University of Florida Sale in the Swamp

On April 27, the University of Florida Department of Animal Sciences closed out an online auction with Chad and Angela Johnson of Affinity Auction Group Chiefland, FL. Fourteen started 2-year olds, one 3-year-old, and one yearling collectively sold for \$145,800. The sale average was \$9,113. The highest-selling horse was the ranch-bred filly, UF Suckitupbuttercup (Natural Bottom x UF Jesses Gal) for \$12,000. The horses in the this year's sale were bred by students in the Reproductive Management practicum, foaled by students in the Foaling Practicum, halter broke and handled by the Weanling Handling class and started under saddle by the Horse Psychology and Training class.



## Celebration May

#### Senior Luncheon

Animal Sciences advisors bid graduates farewell at the senior luncheon every fall and spring semester. The department provides a catered meal and students share where they're going after graduation. Many plan to go to graduate school, both here at UF and elsewhere, while others are taking a gap year to prepare for vet school. Others are entering the workforce, with jobs in sales, food safety, animal operations, and more. Faculty and staff share their "life advice" with students: travel the world, be kind, surround yourself with good people, and work hard in everything you do — but also prioritize your life outside of the office. We are so proud of our graduates and always look forward to seeing where they end up in the future.

#### Awards Banquet

The Animal Sciences Awards Banquet, previously known as the club banquet, began as a Block and Bridle club celebration; it now provides a venue for special recognition of ANS clubs, teams, and top ANS students. This year, the event was revamped with fresh ideas from Kyle Mendes and the support of ANS faculty and staff members. The banquet began with a pre-ceremony social hour with games, fellowship, and delicious appetizers served by Kyle and Dr. Chad Carr. The ceremony began at 6 PM with a steak dinner, and highlight videos of each club and team were presented. After dinner, advisors, coaches, and club presidents recognized their officers, teammates, and graduating seniors; they also presented individual awards. The ceremony ended with the presentation of our new ANS Top Student Awards, which included two juniors and five seniors.

On April 26, 2024, the Animal Sciences Department held the Senior Luncheon, Scholarship Reception, and Awards Banquet. Dubbed "ANS Celebration Day," this annual event brings together faculty, staff, and students to celebrate the achievements of our exceptional undergraduate students.

#### Scholarship Banquet

Animal Sciences departmental scholarships are provided through endowments and private donations in support of Animal Sciences students who exhibit exceptional scholarship, leadership, and professional promise in the animal industry. Recipients of Animal Sciences scholarships are recognized every spring at the ANS Scholarship Reception. Families and donors are encouraged to join our faculty and staff in honoring each of these well deserved students and officially presenting them with their scholarships. The department awarded 46 students with scholarships totaling more than \$56,000!



## 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Florida Ruminant Nutrition Symposium

The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Florida Ruminant Nutrition Symposium was held February 26-28. The Symposium is recognized as one of the premier conferences for gathering the latest information about advancements in the nutrition of dairy and beef cattle. The Symposium is designed for people who want to stay current on diet formulation and nutritional management of dairy and beef cattle to improve the efficiency of nutrient utilization and animal production, health, and reproduction. The information presented in this Symposium is particularly valuable to nutritionists, Extension specialists, veterinarians, researchers, producers, graduate students, and allied industry representatives. It is also an excellent opportunity for networking with colleagues specializing in cattle nutrition. Each year, industry experts present topics focusing primarily on areas pertaining to the nutrition of ruminant animals are presented. Participants heard from 18 speakers who covered topics from amino acid nutrition to trace mineral supplementation. Thank you to all of our attendees, speakers, and volunteers who helped make this event a success!









Have You HERD? 20

### Open Gate





The UF/IFAS Department of Animal Sciences opened our gates to middle and high school students interested in pursuing a future in the animal sciences industry. On Saturday, March 30, these students visited the UF/IFAS Beef Teaching Unit, the UF/IFAS Horse Teaching Unit, and the UF/IFAS Meat Processing Center.

Attendees got a glimpse of our department and what a future career in the animal sciences industry could entail. Thank you to all of the 4-H advisors and parents who were involved with getting these students to this great event!







The 7<sup>th</sup> UF/IFAS Family Day at the Dairy Farm (FDDF) was held at the UF Dairy Research Unit on Saturday, February 10, 2024. The event welcomed around 1,500 visitors to the farm. The 13 educational stations covered a variety of topics within the dairy industry, including feed rations, genetics, reproduction, milking, and milk quality. Family Day at the Dairy Farm covers the largest public audience of any of the UF/Animal Sciences departmental events. This is crucial to transparent dairy education for the local community and our extension mission. The event would not be possible without the Animal Sciences faculty, staff, and student volunteers, as well as Florida Dairy Farmers and the generous sponsors of the event.













Have You HERD? 22

## Congratulations

#### **UF/IFAS Superior Accomplishment Awards**



Alexis Tilton
Individual Employee
Performance



**Tatiane Maia**Individual Employee
Performance



Antonio Faciola
Individual Employee
Performance



Joel McQuagge
Sustained Excellence

#### ance

**UF College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Awards** 



**Jason Scheffler**Undergraduate Teacher
of the Year



Alexis Tilton
Undergraduate Advisor
of the Year



Mia Stewart

E.T. York Junior Medal of

Excellence Finalist

#### **Departmental Awards**



Audy Spell UF/IFAS Research Service



ABBA Breeder of the Year

#### **Awards & Accomplishments**

- ANS Professor Peter Hansen was recognized for a Career Achievement Award at the University of Illinois.
- ANS Associate Professor Antonio Faciola recieved the Animal Industry Innovation Award from the American Society of Animal Science.
- ANS Professor Nicolas DiLorenzo recieved Doctoral Dissertation Advising and Mentoring Awards for 2023-2024.
- ANS Associate Professor **Zongliang Jiang** recieved a 2023 UF/IFAS Research Large Grant Leadership Award.
- ANS Assistant Professor Feng Yue received a 2023 UF/IFAS Research Large Grant Leadership Award.
- Research Administrator Brooke Hinton and Brigette Bryant recieved a 2023 UF/IFAS Large Grant Leadership Award.
- ANS undergraduate student Mia Stewart was recognized as a finalist for the E.T. York, Jr. Medal of Excellence.



Peter Hansen

# ALL MITTERS CONCRETE ALL MITTERS CONCRETE

**UF Horse Judging Team** 

#### **Horse Judging Team**

- Team members include: Lina Ascarrunz, Trinity Calugar, Danitsa Gonzalez, Trinity Gram, Megan Granum, Arabella Helper, Zoie Kline, Leila Warner, and Megan Wessinger
- Coached by: Dr. Saundra TenBroeck and Alyssa Ohmstede
- The team competed at the State Florida 4-H and FFA Contest.

#### **Brahman Show Team**

- Team members include: Nina Gilmore, Mikaela Martin, Marissa Souders, Lindsay Kassidy, Jessa Carver, and Jaycee Flowers
- Coached by: Jesse Savell and Allyson Trimble
- The team halter broke and exhibited four calves to be shown.
- The team participated in three shows:
  - Florida State Fair and Livestock Show
  - Kissimmee Valley Livestock Show
  - Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo: Sixth Place Heifer

#### **Meat Judging Team**

- Team members include: Tyler Watson, Jordyn Brekke,
   Eva Griffin, Sara Brady, Ansley Bo, and Emmie Love
- · Coached by: Kyle Mendes and Chad Carr
- AMSA Southeastern Contest in Columbus, Ohio and Lexington, Kentucky:
- Fifth Overall Team
- Third High Team in Lamb Judging
- Third High Team in Pork Judging
- · Fourth High Team Beef Grading
- Fourth High Team in Placings
- · Fifth High Team Specifications
- Eva Griffin: Second High Individual Lamb Judging
- Jordyn Brekke: Fourth High Individual Beef Grading

Have You HERD? 24 Have You HERD? 25

## SMALL RUMINANT

September 20-21, 2024

**Straughn Center I UF Horse Teaching Unit** 



https://animal.ifas.ufl.edu/smallruminant/small-ruminant-short-course/

#### RAM TEST | BUCK TEST

Ram and buck tests are conducted from May-September with the online sale taking place during the UF/IFAS Small





Ram Test

**Buck Test** 

https://animal.ifas.ufl.edu/smallruminant/events/









## proming Events

Summer Youth Judging Camps Small Ruminant Short Course Buck Test Sale + Ram Test Sale Internship Seminar Little International Dairy Production Conference

#### **SHARE YOUR STORY**

We enjoy hearing updates from our alumni!

- Do you have internship or job opportunities for animal sciences students?
- Are you interested in speaking in an undergrad class about your career?
- Would you like to be featured in a Have you HERD Alumni Spotlight?

Visit our website to learn how to be involved with the UF/IFAS Department of Animal Sciences!

> **CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA @UF\_ANSCI**









Have You HERD? | 26



# Congratulations Spring 2024 Undegraduate Students!

Have You HERD? | 28 Have You HERD? | 29



#### **UF/IFAS Animal Sciences Department**

2250 Shealy Dr. PO Box 110910 Gainesville, FL 32611-0910 352-392-1981

animal.ifas.ufl.edu





#### **GIVING**

Your generous donation to the UF/IFAS Animal Sciences Department will provide support for our students, faculty and staff.

To support ANS, our scholarships and more, visit give.ifas.ufl.edu/animal-sciences-giving/.

#### ANIMAL.IFAS.UFL.EDU