Proceedings of the 55<sup>th</sup>

# FLORIDA DAIRY PRODUCTION CONFERENCE

Alto Straughn IFAS Extension Professional Development Center Gainesville • Florida • September 18, 2019





Department of Animal Sciences Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences University of Florida Gainesville, Florida 32611

# Proceedings of the **55<sup>th</sup> Florida Dairy Production Conference**

#### Wednesday, September 18, 2019

#### Alto Straughn IFAS Extension Professional Development Center 2142 Shealy Drive Gainesville, FL 32608

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Florida Dairy Production Conference is to create a program which brings together some of the newest research, innovations, recommendations and ideas for improving the sustainability and profitability of the Florida dairy industry. The presented information provides practical take-home messages for dairy farmers and highlights emerging trends in the dairy industry. The conference strives to provide a friendly learning and sharing atmosphere with networking opportunities for our target audience of dairy owners and employees, allied dairy industry professionals, students and dairy educators.

#### PLANNING COMMITTEE

Ricardo Chebel Albert De Vries Colleen Larson Francisco Peñagaricano José Santos Izabella Toledo

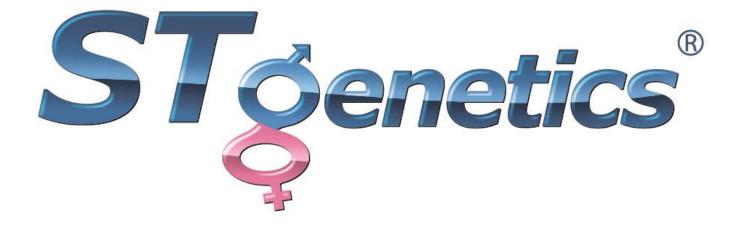


Proceedings from past Florida Dairy Production Conferences are available at http://dairy.ifas.ufl.edu

### **Table of Contents**

2019 Sponsors	5
Program	15
Dairy calf and heifer management Joao Costa	17
Selecting replacement heifers Francisco Peñagaricano	49
Critical aspects for improving reproductive success Milo Wiltbank	64
Nutritional manipulations to improve health and fertility <i>José Santos</i>	92
Addressing animal welfare concerns in dairy farming <i>Meggan Hain</i>	111
Engaging and educating the public about dairy practices <i>Gary Corbett</i>	115
When dairy farming meets social media: sharing my experience <i>Tara Vander Dussen</i>	116
When dairy farming meets social media: sharing my experience Brittany & Courtney Nickerson	124
Producer panel	136
Summaries of Southeast Milk Check-Off projects funded in 2017	137

**PLATINUM SPONSORS** 



# **GOLD SPONSORS**

# MILKSPECIALTIES



55th Florida Dairy Production Conference

# **SILVER SPONSORS**



# FLORIDAMILK.COM

# **BRONZE SPONSORS**



# **BRONZE SPONSORS**







## **BRONZE SPONSORS**



PLATINUM SPONSORS		
ST Genetics	Ron Jackson	ron.jackson@stgen.com
GOLD SPONSORS		
Milk Specialties Global	Joseph Gulick	jgulick@milkspecialties.com
Zoetis	Flavio Bitencourt	flavio.bitencourt@zoetis.com
SILVER SPONSORS		
Florida Dairy Farmers	Brian Chapman	brianc@floridamilk.com
BRONZE SPONSORS		
AB Vista	Cathy Bandyk	cathy.bandyk@abvista.com
Ajinomoto Animal Nutrition	Lizabeth Novotny	novotnyl@ajiusa.com
Anpario	Edward Seed	edward.seed@anpario.com
Arm & Hammer Animal Nutrition	David Lytle	dave.lytle@churchdwight.com
Balchem	Eileen Frangione	efrangione@balchem.com
Bio-Vet	Hannah Helwig	hannah.helwig@bio-vet.com
Boehringer-Ingelheim	Carlton Taylor	carlton.taylor@boehringer-ingelheim.com
Central Life Sciences	David Bennett	dbennett@central.com
Diamond V	John Gilliland	jgilliland@diamondv.com
Ecosyl Products Inc.	Jim Ginther	jim.ginther@volac.com
Elanco Animal Health	Walt Giebeig	giebeigwa@elanco.com
Furst McNess Company	Ted Ladue	ted.ladue@mcness.com
JGM Consulting Agricultural Engineers	Joseph Martin	jake@dairydesign.com
M&B Products	Dale McClellan	dale@mbproducts.com
Merck Animal Health	Joshua Churchwell	joshua.churchwell@merck.com
Novogene	Michael Gauvin	michael.gauvin@novogeneusa.com
Phibro Animal Health Corporation	Jim Conroe	jim.conroe@pahc.com
Premier Select Sires	David Whitlock	dwhitlock@premierselect.com
Southeast DHIA	Brian Winters	brian.winters@dhicoop.com
Southeast Milk Inc	Travis Senn	tsenn@southeastmilk.org
Sunbelt Ag Expo	Chip Blalock	chip@sunbeltexpo.com
Suwannee Valley Feeds	Will Barker	will.barker@svfeeds.com
Westway Feed Products	Charlie Gressman	charlie.gressman@westwayfeed.com

Zinpro Performance Minerals

jsparkman@zinpro.com

Jacob Sparkman

## 55<sup>th</sup> Florida Dairy Production Conference

#### Wednesday, September 18, 2019 Alto Straughn IFAS Extension Professional Development Center Gainesville, Florida

#### PROGRAM

9.00 AM	Welcome and opening remarks Saqib Mukhtar (Associate Dean for Extension, University of Florida)
9.10	Dairy calf and heifer management Joao Costa (University of Kentucky)
9.50	Selecting replacement heifers Francisco Peñagaricano (University of Florida)
10.20	BREAK
10.50	Critical aspects for improving reproductive success Milo Wiltbank (University of Wisconsin)
11.30	<i>Nutritional manipulations to improve health and fertility</i> José Santos (University of Florida)
12.00 PM	LUNCHEON
1.30	Addressing animal welfare concerns in dairy farming Meggan Hain (Organic Valley Cooperative)
2.15	<i>Engaging and educating the public about dairy practices</i> Gary Corbett (Fair Oaks Farms, Indiana)
3.00	BREAK
3.30	When dairy farming meets social media: sharing my experience Tara Vander Dussen (New Mexico Milkmaid, New Mexico)
4.00	When dairy farming meets social media: sharing my experience Brittany & Courtney Nickerson (Nickerson Cattle Company & Nickerson Bar III, FL)
4.30	<i>Producer Panel</i> Moderator: Ricardo Chebel (University of Florida)
5.00	RECEPTION