

ACC for Beef Annual Report



2018 Annual Report

Here are samples of just four of the 15 research projects funded in 2018.

UGA Livestock Judging Team Support // Sarah Loughridge

The 2018 UGA Livestock Judging Team consisted of three individuals who traveled the Southeast last spring. We competed at the Dixie National Collegiate Beef Judging Contest and the Southeastern Livestock Exposition. We had our strongest showing at SLE with individual recognition. Caroline Hinton, Dacula, Georgia, placed 1st in Hogs, 7th in Sheep and Goats, and was 16th Overall. Caroline Waldrep, Forsyth, Georgia, placed 6th in Reasons, 10th in Cattle, and was 18th Overall. Leanne Chafin, Hartwell, Georgia, placed 6th in Cattle, 8th in Reasons, and was 20th Overall.

Caroline, Caroline and Leanne helped reignite interest and support for a competitive livestock evaluation team at the University of Georgia. Because of their willingness to participate last year with a new coach at the helm, we now are traveling around the country with seven individuals on the 2019 Livestock Judging Team. Our travels would not be possible without the support of the Georgia Agriculture Commodity Commission for Beef and cattlemen around the state.

2018 hands-on fencing field day as part of the building blocks for better grazing: evaluation and demonstration of fencing and watering systems // Dr. Jennifer Tucker

In 2018, we tried a new approach to our Extension educational meeting/agent trainings and offered a completely hands-on event. This program was all group discussion and hands-on activity, and void of PowerPoint and formal presentations. On Feb. 28, 2018, we held the 2018 “Hands-on Fencing Field Day” as part of the UGA Better Grazing Project at the Black Shank Pavilion and grazing paddocks in Tifton, Georgia. We had 35 attendees representing five states and 10 different Georgia counties with a good mix of producers and Extension personnel. Speakers represented various aspects of the fencing industry. The sessions included in-depth discussions of the many aspects of individual fencing components (i.e., posts, wire, fasteners, energizers), and in the field hands-on use of these components. Attendees were allowed the opportunity to utilize many new

tools, and learn different (possibly easier) ways to build fence. Some technologies demonstrated were: building various types of fence (woven wire and electric hi-tensile), using a hydraulic post driver, an air-powered staple gun, frost-free water systems, and the use of a speed brace kit with grapple technology. Survey results of the meeting determined that 62% of participants plan to make some major changes and 38% might try a few things differently. Participants found that the meeting was better than they expected and they liked the style and delivery approach taken during the meeting; they also did not feel bombarded with too much information, and 54% said they learned something new! All participants agreed that this program improved their knowledge, interest and confidence in using these skills on their own operation. Some quotes from participants include: “Excellent Field Day!” “Very Well done! Interesting and informative sessions.” “This has given me some new ideas to try – I will change how my ends are tied off.” “I will be completely re-fencing my pasture! What I have currently is dangerous and inadequate!”

2018 Financial Statement

Income

Assessments received	\$476,625
Interest earned	\$4,670

Total Income \$481,295

Expenses Committed

GA Farm Bureau Farm Monitor	\$8,000
GA Grown Exhibit at GA National Fair	\$7,000
GA Grown Magazine	\$3,000
University of Georgia Research Projects	\$417,321
GA Beef Board Beef Promotion and Education Projects	\$90,000
UGA Animal & Dairy Science Student Scholarships	\$4,000
ABAC Animal & Dairy Science Student Scholarship	\$2,000
GA Milk Producers	\$2,000
GA Department of Ag Admin Fee	\$12,477
Total Commitments for 2018	\$545,798

FY18 - July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018

Georgia cattle producers are always welcome to attend meetings of the Beef Commodity Commission and can request a copy of complete financials with a full listing and details of all funded projects.



For More Information Contact
Georgia Beef Commission
19 Martin Luther King Dr. SW, Room 320, Atlanta, GA 30334

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Evaluating the management and use of Bermudagrass and Bermudagrass mixtures as a high-quality baleage feed source for livestock producers // Taylor Hendricks, Dr. Jennifer Tucker, Dr. Dennis Hancock and Dr. Lawton Stewart

Interseeding alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*) into bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon*) for baleage production can be an effective way to improve forage quality; however, quality of baleage stored long-term poses a concern. The objectives of this research are to: (1) compare the yield and nutritive value of bermudagrass with and without interseeded alfalfa, and (2) determine whether storage length affects forage quality of baleage. The study utilized an established field of ‘Tifton 85’ bermudagrass at the University of Georgia Coastal Plains Experiment Station in Tifton, Georgia. Ten 0.5-acre plots were assigned to either T85-only (T85) or T85 interseeded with ‘Bulldog 805’ alfalfa (T85+Alf). T85 received N fertilization (75 lb N/A) four times throughout the season. Plots were harvested at 10% bloom every 28 to 35 days, baled at 40-60% moisture, and individually wrapped. At harvest, plots were evaluated for stand composition and yield. Bales were sampled prior to wrapping and at 6-weeks, 9- and 12-months post-harvest for nutritive value. Although T85 yields were greater during 2016, additional harvests in T85+Alf plots led to greater ($P < 0.001$) cumulative yield (32,305 vs. 22,864 lb/A, respectively). Crude Protein and in-vitro digestibility (IVDMD) were greater in T85+Alf treatment than the T85 (14.0 vs 11.4%, $P < 0.01$ for CP; 66.7 vs. 60.2%, $P = 0.03$ for IVDMD, respectively). During storage, CP did not change while IVDMD of baleage decreased between harvest and 6-weeks. Post-fermentation quality parameters did not change as long as bale integrity was maintained.

Beef Cattle Calving Management Training Using the Dystocia Simulator // Dr. Lee Jones

Calving time is an exciting time, as we finally get to see the results of our efforts and whether the bull we bought sired good calves. But it is also the most risky time for calves. Calving problems (difficulty or dystocia) and side effects of a difficult calving constitute the number-one cause of beef calf death and a bigger problem with heifers than cows. With calf prices so low and income margins so narrow, any calf loss has a significant impact on the bottom line. Knowing when to intervene and how to correct simple problems or when to call for assistance saves lives and improves animal welfare.

The Georgia Agriculture Commodity Commission for Beef approved \$15,647.50 to purchase a cow-calving simulator to teach and demonstrate techniques cattlemen could apply to assist cows and heifers that experience dystocia. Since the simulator was bought in 2017, more than 80 programs have been taught to more than 5,000 cattle producers in Georgia.

“This simulator is the most lifelike model I have ever used to teach calving assistance principles and techniques. It really helps reinforce important information – like why good hygiene, timely intervention and plenty of lubrication is so important to save calves and preserve the fertility of the cow,” says Dr. Lee Jones, UGA Extension Veterinarian. According to the 2008 USDA National Animal Health Monitoring Survey, one out of 10 calves born to heifers dies during calving or shortly after birth due to calving complications. Producers with less than 50 cows, like many in the Southeast, often delay providing calving assistance. “Many cattle owners in the Southeast also have off-farm jobs, so they don’t observe their cattle as often as someone who is a full-time farmer,” says Jones. “It is important to help them by teaching simple techniques and the importance of things like intervention and good facilities. Many farmers may not provide assistance because they may not have the experience and knowledge to help a cow when she is having trouble calving.”

Research Projects Funded in 2018	Researcher
Building blocks for better grazing: evaluation and demonstration of fencing and watering systems	Dr. Jennifer Tucker
Evaluating the management and use of bermudagrass and bermudagrass mixtures as a high quality baleage feed source for livestock producers (Year 3)	Dr. Jennifer Tucker
An economic evaluation of stocker management options for Georgia beef producers (Year 1)	Dr. Jacob Segers
On the road again, just can't wait to get on the road again: travel support for the UGA beef team	Dr. Lawton Stewart
Development of novel creep feeding rations for improved animal performance: calf performance and microbial populations (Year 3)	Dr. Lawton Stewart
Better understanding other Bermudagrass Stem Maggot (Year 1)	Dr. Dennis Hancock
“Annual Ryegrass” of the fall - using brassicas for raising stockers or replacement heifers in fall and early winter (Year 3)	Dr. Dennis Hancock
Improving the efficiency of grain finished beef in Georgia	Dr. Alex Stelzleni
Determining the seroprevalance of <i>anaplasma marginal</i> infected beef herds in Georgia	Dr. Lee Jones
Impact of combination antibiotic therapy on killing of <i>Mannheimia haemolytica</i>	Dr. Brent Credille
Evaluating the potential use of Alfalfa as a deterrent to Stem Maggot flies in Bermudagrass pastures	Dr. Ali Missaoui
Cow-calf technology: Cow manager monitoring system for research	Jason Duggin
Feeding frequency in preweaning calves during heat stress and temperate environments	Dr. John Barnard Dr. Sha Tao
UGA Livestock Judging Team Support	Sarah Loughridge