

## **History of Dairy Programs at the University Of Florida**

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Dairy and animal science programs have a common origin with the development of other agricultural programs at Land Grant Universities. At the University of Florida, dairy developed as a part of the Animal Industry Department which split in 1949 into Animal, Dairy, Poultry, and Veterinary departments but maintained common core courses and developed a shared Ph.D. program 1964. Dairy combined with Poultry Science in 1994 and with Animal Science in 2000 to form the Department of Animal Sciences. The following events are significant landmarks for dairy programs at the University of Florida:

- Passage of the Hatch Act and its approval on March 2, 1887, led to the establishment of the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station at the Florida Agricultural College in Lake City, Florida on October 1, 1887.
- The Florida Agricultural College was transferred to Gainesville, Florida as part of the newly established University of Florida in December, 1906. Mr. John M. Scott came to the staff in the Animal Industry Department on December 29, 1906 and participated in moving the Florida College of Agriculture to Gainesville. Professor Scott built the registered Jersey herd from the small beginning of two registered cows (obtained in 1901) and was the first major researcher in Dairy Science. His work was done as part of the Animal Industry Department.
- In the 1920's Dr. A. L. Shealy joined the teaching staff from the state veterinarian's staff in South Carolina and became a long-time head of the Animal Industry Department. Dr. R. B. Becker came from Oklahoma A & M College on January 1, 1929. Over his long career, Dr. Becker became one of the country's leaders in dairy research and played a critical role in growth of the Florida dairy industry. The research herd at this time included three registered Jersey bulls, 28 cows, and corresponding heifers for replacements. One Dutch Belted and three Guernsey cows belonged to the College under the direction of Professor C. H. Willoughby. Milk was delivered to the University Cafeteria in 10-gallon cans. Mr. P. T. Dix Arnold was added to the faculty in 1931 in dairy production teaching and research.
- In 1917, Mr. Hamlin L. Brown was appointed as Extension Dairyman with the Florida Cooperative Extension Service and served in this role until retirement. Mr. C. W. Reaves replaced him in 1947 and gave leadership to the development of the Extension Section's programs so that two new faculty were later added (Production Specialist in 1955 and Dairy Technologist in 1957).
- To develop a program in dairy manufacturing, Dr. L. M. Thurston was recruited from West Virginia University on July 1, 1936 to establish the Dairy Products Laboratory. This Laboratory was designed and built during 1937; an addition was made in 1949. Dairy foods were processed in this Laboratory for teaching and research purposes and the products were used in University Food Services until the Laboratory was closed on August 31, 1975. Dr. E. L. Fouts, from Oklahoma A&M College succeeded Dr. Thurston in 1940.
- The Animal Industry Department was reorganized twice. Nutrition was made a section in 1938. Four departments were separated in 1949. These departments were Animal Husbandry and Nutrition, Dairy Science (production and manufacturing combined), Poultry Science, and Veterinary Science. Dr. Fouts became the first Chair of the Dairy Science Department and served in this role until 1966, when he stepped down from an administrative role and Dr. C. B. Browning became Chair. Dr. Fouts served as Acting Chair for one year during 1969-70 after C. B. Browning resigned to become Dean for Resident Instruction of IFAS. Dr. H. H. (Jack) Van Horn was Chair from 1970-81 and Dr. Roger Natzke Chair from 1981-2000. Dr. F. Glen Hembry became Chair of the combined department (2000 - ).
- Establishment of the current Dairy Research Unit, located about 12 miles northwest of the University at Hague, Florida, was completed with moving of the milking herd September 15-

16, 1949. Development of the land and facilities has continued since. Although the beginning unit included 1,100 acres, some land was provided to the Animal Science Department and later returned to Dairy Science and some land has been provided to Agronomy and Entomology Departments, leaving approximately 950 acres in the current Dairy Research Unit including woods and wetlands.

- A dairy research station was established in West Florida in Chipley on July 1, 1960. The land was transferred from the North Florida Station at Quincy and Mr. J. B. White was in charge of this unit until its closing as a Dairy Research Unit in 1971. Mr. White continued to serve as a Dairy Science faculty member for two years after the closing of the unit and was later transferred to the Agronomy Department. At the time of its closing, it was planned that an Area Dairy Specialist would be provided for West Florida but this did not materialize.
- On September 1, 1975, processing of milk for use by food services of the University of Florida campus was discontinued. At the same time, two dairy foods positions (extension, microbiology) were transferred to the Department of Food Science.
- With the influx of Holstein cattle into the South in the early 1950's, the decision was made in 1953 to add Holsteins to the experimental herd at the Dairy Research Unit. Financial assistance (\$3350) was provided by interested breeders, milk and milk products processors, and people in allied trades. This and \$2260 from the Department of Dairy Science were utilized to purchase 15 bred heifers in 1955. Jerseys and Guernseys had been in the herd previously, Jerseys from the beginning and Guernseys since 1926. For teaching purposes, representatives of Brown Swiss, and Ayrshire were added to the herd in 1958. Additional Guernseys were added in 1951 and Guernseys were utilized in the herd of the West Florida Dairy Research Unit when it was started in 1960. When the West Florida Dairy Research Unit was closed in 1971, the Guernseys and a few Holsteins were moved to the Dairy Research Unit near Gainesville and concurrently it was decided to transcend to a research herd of Holsteins and Jerseys. To accomplish this, Guernseys, Brown Swiss, and Ayrshires were bred to Holstein sires and crossbreds were continually rebred to Holstein sires. In 1975, the herd consisted of 400 grade and registered cattle with 120 Holstein cows (milking and dry), 50 Jersey cows, and the complement of heifers from birth to first calving. In 1989, the herd became only Holstein after the dispersal of the Jersey herd to a breeder in Georgia for \$30,804.50. The herd expanded to about 600 cows and 400 heifers by 2000 (all Holsteins).
- A major development in the history of dairy science occurred in 1988, when the Florida Dairy Industry developed a Milk Check-Off Program to support research, extension and teaching activities at the University of Florida. This resulted in \$250,000 to \$300,000 per annum in support and increased research focused on industry-identified problems.
- The Department of Dairy and Poultry Sciences was formed in July, 1994 through merger of the Dairy Science and Poultry Science Departments.
- The Dairy and Poultry Sciences Department consolidated with the Animal Science Department to form the Department of Animal Sciences in 2000 with Dr. F. Glen Hembry as Chair. He was the Chair of the Department of Animal Science previously.

**Current and Previous Faculty at the University of Florida in Dairy Science Programs**

Current faculty and starting date	Date position originated	Previous faculty
Bachman, K. C., Dairy Chemistry and Physiology, 1971	1971	
Badinga, Lokenga, Nutritional Physiology, 1999	1999	
Bray, D. R., Extension Mastitis and Management, 1981	1981	
Vacancy, Dairy Systems Management	1947	M. A. DeLorenzo, Geneticist/ Business Management, 1983-1998 S. P. Marshall, Nutritionist and Undergrad Coordinator, 1947-1983
Consolidated with B. Harris position when M. B. Hall was hired.	1940	D. K. Beede, Ruminant Nutritionist, 1980-1994 L. E. Mull, Dairy Foods Microbiology, 1940-1980
Hall, M. B., Ruminant Nutrition, 1996	1955	Barney Harris, Jr., Extension Dairy Nutritionist, 1963-1994 T. Wilson Sparks*, Extension Dairyman, 1955-1961
Hansen, P. J., Reproductive and Environmental Physiology, 1986	1941	R. J. Collier, Environmental Physiologist, 1976-1985 W. A. Krienke, 1947-1975 ?? 1941-1947?
Head, H. H., Lactation Physiology, 1963	1929	R. B. Becker*, 1929-1963
Moore, Karen, Cell and Molecular Biology, 1999	1999	Position originated earlier in Animal Science Department
Natzke, R. P., 1981-2000 as Chair Continues as faculty member (Dairy Management) in Dept. Animal Sciences	1936	H. H. Van Horn, Chair, 1970-1981 C. W. Reaves*, Acting Chair, during 1970 C. B. Browning, Chair, 1966-1969 E. L. Fouts*, 1940-1970, Dairy Technologist and Lab Leader, Became first Dairy Science Dept. Chair 1949-1967 and Acting Chair 1969-70 L. M. Thurston*, Dairy Technologist and Lab Leader, 1936-1940
Transferred to Food Science and Human Nutrition Department in 1980	1957	Ron Schmidt, Extension Dairy Technologist, 1986- J. Jezeski*, Extension Dairy Technologist, 1978-1985 R. L. Richter, Extension Dairy Technologist, 1972-1978 C. Bronson Lane*, Extension Dairy Technologist, 1970-1972 Howard Young*, Extension Dairy Technologist, 1957-1969
Simmen, F. A., Cell and Molecular Biology, 1989	1989	Position originated earlier in Animal Science Dept.
Transferred to Food Science and Human Nutrition Department in 1980	1946	K. L. Smith, Dairy Foods Microbiologist, 1960-1982 Richard Kleyn, Dairy Technologist, 1959-1960, Bernie Liska, Dairy Technologist, 1957-1959 Howard Wilkowske, Dairy Technologist, 1950-1957 Robert Arrington*, 1946-1952?
Staples, C. R., Ruminant Nutrition, 1984	1951	J. M. Wing*, Ruminant Nutritionist, 1951-1983
Thatcher, W. W., Reproductive Physiology, 1969	1969	
Umphrey, J. E., Youth and Student Programs, 1988	1988	
Van Horn, H. H. , Nutrition and Manure Management, 1981 (1970-1981, Chair)	1981	
Webb, D. W., Extension Dairy Specialist, 1971	1917	C. W. Reaves*, Extension Dairyman, 1947-1970 Hamlin L. Brown*, Extension Dairyman, 1917-1947
Transferred from Chipley to Gainesville 1971, to Agronomy 1973	1960	J. B. White*, West Florida Dairy Research Unit Manager, 1960-1973
	1931	C. J. Wilcox, Animal Geneticist, 1959-1995 P. T. Dix Arnold*, Animal Geneticist, 1931-1959