



COME
GROW
WITH
US!

FAMU [COLLEGE OF
AGRICULTURE
+ FOOD SCIENCES]

FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY

cafs.famu.edu

2026



FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY

FAMU Cooperative Extension makes
connections with over

1.29M

clientele, and over

12K

youth are reached through 4-H programs
and activities, contributing over

\$39M

in social and economic impact for the
residents in Florida.

FAMU CAFS Awards FY 2024-2025

41

Number of
Awarded Grants

\$20M

Research Expenditures

Publications and Creative Works FY 2024-2025

45

Peer Reviewed
Publications

19

Non-Peer
Reviewed
Publications

49

Creative Articles/
Work

Dear Friends:

The **2026 College of Agriculture and Food Sciences Calendar** celebrates the people who make our College thrive, those whose work, creativity, and dedication shape the future of agriculture, food, and environmental sciences. This year's calendar shines a spotlight on employees from every area of CAFS, along with the bright minds of our students and the enduring success of our alumni. Together, they represent the full scope of our mission, teaching, research, and extension, and the collective spirit that drives us forward.

As the 1890 Land-Grant Institution for the State of Florida, Florida A&M University stands as a beacon of opportunity, access, and innovation. Within CAFS, we continue to build on that legacy by empowering students, faculty, and partners to solve real-world problems through discovery and collaboration. From the classroom to the laboratory, from the farm to the global stage, our work reflects a deep commitment to sustainability, food security, and community advancement.

Each page of this year's calendar tells a story of dedication, of leadership, and of the transformative power of education. It highlights the extraordinary individuals who embody the values that define FAMU: excellence with caring, integrity, and service. Their stories remind us that agriculture is not only about what we grow from the ground, it's about how we grow as people, as communities, and as changemakers.

At FAMU, "We, the College of Agriculture and Food Sciences, put the 'A' in FAMU!" It's more than a statement, it's a reflection of our purpose and pride. We invite you to celebrate with us, to learn from the people featured in these pages, and to be inspired by the impact they make every day.

To our current students, loyal alumni, and future Rattlers our invitation is simple: **Come Grow with Us.**

G. Dale Wesson, PhD., PE

Dean and Director of Land-Grant Programs

College of Agriculture and Food Sciences (CAFS)

**COME
GROW
WITH
US!**



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Trevor
Hylton

JAN 2026

Trevor A. Hylton earned his B.S. in Agribusiness from Florida A&M University (1986) and an MBA from Florida State University (1995). After early roles at FSU and PRIDE of Florida, he joined FAMU Cooperative Extension in 2000, where he serves as a Multi-County Extension Agent for Leon and Wakulla Counties.

Mr. Hylton works closely with schools, churches, and community gardens to promote sustainable agriculture and food production. His international outreach includes agricultural development initiatives in Guyana, Haiti, South Africa, and India, where he has collaborated with small farmers to improve crop yields and resource management.

A certified instructor for Florida Green Industries Best Management Practices, he has trained numerous landscape professionals in environmentally responsible practices. Widely recognized for his community service and educational leadership, Hylton continues to advance sustainability, innovation, and environmental stewardship through his work in agricultural education and outreach.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
4	5	6	7 1ST DAY OF CLASSES	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY 19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 FLORIDA 4-H DAY AT THE CAPITOL	29	30	31



Shantavia
Leonard

Shanteva Leonard, MBA, serves as a Coordinator in Florida A&M University's College of Agriculture and Food Sciences (CAFS), where she plays a key role in recruiting transfer students and supporting all CAFS students in achieving academic success, graduating on time, and launching meaningful careers.

In addition to her primary role, Leonard chairs the CAFS Alumni Affairs and Fundraising Committees, strengthening alumni engagement and cultivating partnerships with corporate and industry leaders to expand scholarship, internship, and employment opportunities.

A passionate mentor, she co-advises the Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS) organization, guiding students in leadership development and professional growth through national and regional conferences.

Leonard collaborates closely with CAFS faculty and staff to create a supportive environment that empowers students to reach their full potential. She believes mentorship and opportunity prepare students not only for successful careers but to lead and make a difference.

With her unwavering commitment to student success, Shanteva Leonard continues to inspire the next generation of agricultural and food science professionals—embodying the FAMU spirit of “Excellence with Caring.”

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH
AMERICAN HEART MONTH
FEB 2026**



Anamika Sharma



FAMU

FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY
CENTER FOR
BIOLOGICAL
CONTROL
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SCIENCES

Anamika Sharma, Ph.D. is an entomologist and insect ecologist whose work focuses on biological control and integrated pest management (IPM) for both urban and agricultural insect pests. Her research addresses species such as fire ants, termites, mosquitoes, and other invasive insects, emphasizing sustainable pest management through the use of natural enemies—predators, parasitoids, entomopathogenic fungi, nematodes, and other biorational agents.

Dr. Sharma's expertise spans Urban Entomology, Biological Control, Insect-Plant Interactions, and IPM. She teaches several entomology courses, including Forensic Entomology, Urban Entomology, General Entomology, Medical Entomology, and Principles of Environmental Entomology.

A co-founder of the Termite Survey Group of North America (in collaboration with Louisiana State University and Mississippi State University), Dr. Sharma also contributes to the Gulf South Vector Group, a CDC-funded project led by the City of New Orleans Mosquito, Termite, and Rodent Control Board. This multi-state initiative aims to strengthen partnerships, enhance information sharing, and advance IPM strategies for vector-borne disease control.

Dr. Sharma has authored more than 30 peer-reviewed journal articles, five book chapters, and over 30 extension and outreach publications. She regularly organizes symposia for the Entomological Society of America's annual meetings, mentors graduate students in urban insect research, and leads the Annual FAMU Entomology Field Day, which provides continuing education for pest management professionals.

NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH WOMEN HISTORY MONTH **MAR 2026**





Randal
Seepaul

FAMU

FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY
BROOKSVILLE
AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH STATION

Ramdeo "Andy" Seepaul, Ph.D., serves as Executive Director of the Brooksville Agricultural and Environmental Research Station (BAERS) at Florida A&M University (FAMU). He provides strategic leadership to position the 3,800-acre station as a center of excellence for sustainable and climate-smart agriculture on Florida's Nature Coast. His work integrates research, teaching, and community engagement through programs that promote perennial crop diversification, regenerative livestock-forage systems, and soil and water stewardship.

Before joining FAMU, Seepaul served as a Research Assistant Scientist at the University of Florida's North Florida Research and Education Center, where he led regional studies on nutrient management, climate-smart cropping, and biofuel feedstock development through the Southeast Partnership for Advanced Renewables from Carinata (SPARC).

Established in 2015 through a land transfer from the USDA Agricultural Research Service, BAERS functions as a living laboratory supporting FAMU's land-grant mission in research, education, and extension. Seepaul is leading efforts to expand infrastructure, strengthen producer partnerships, and advance climate-resilient agricultural innovation, transforming BAERS into a model of sustainability, collaboration, and inclusive progress.

APR 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5 EASTER SUNDAY	6	7	8 MANRRS NATIONAL CONFERENCE APRIL 8-12	9	10 NATIONAL 4-H CONFERENCE APRIL 10-15	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 EARTH DAY	23	24 ARBOR DAY	25
26	27	28	29	30		

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Khyra
Nelson

Khya Nelson, a Tallahassee native and proud Florida A&M University Class of 2022 graduate, is deeply committed to addressing food insecurity and advancing racial equity. Graduating Summa Cum Laude with a degree in Agribusiness and a minor in Political Science, she has championed agricultural innovation and Black representation in policy through roles including White House HBCU Ambassador.

Nelson previously served as a Legislative Aide to Congresswoman Lois Frankel, introducing bipartisan legislation, managing multimillion-dollar appropriations, and shaping policy in agriculture, justice, and women's rights. Her earlier experience with Congresswoman Jahana Hayes and Congressman Sanford Bishop strengthened her expertise in agricultural policy and advocacy.

Dedicated to food access, Nelson worked with Impact Food Services Group to expand fresh food options in underserved communities. At FAMU, she served as Social Action Chair for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and Director of Student Lobbying for SGA, co-leading the "Strike the Vote" campaign that boosted voter participation by over 100%.

Now pursuing her Juris Doctor at Vanderbilt Law School, Nelson strives to continue her work advancing food security and racial justice across the South.

MAY 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					SPRING COMMENCEMENT 1 MAY 1-2	2
NATIONAL HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK 3 MAY 3-9	4	5	6	7	8	9
MOTHER'S DAY 10	1ST DAY OF CLASSES (A&C) 11	12	13	14	15	BROOKSVILLE FAMU FARM FESTIVAL 16
17	18	19	EMANCIPATION DAY (FL) 20	21	22	23
24	MEMORIAL DAY 25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

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Dillon
Aaron
Ford & Francis

JUNE 2026

Dillon Ford and **Aaron Francis**, two passionate students in Florida A&M University's College of Agriculture and Food Sciences (CAFS), turned an idea into a thriving reality with the creation of the First Fruits Garden, a student-led initiative providing hands-on agricultural experience and fostering community engagement through faith, learning, and collaboration.

Ford, a graduate student in Agricultural Sciences, and Francis, a senior Plant and Soil Science major, are active leaders in FAMU MANRRS and other campus organizations. Their shared commitment to agricultural innovation and sustainability inspired the project, which grew from a conversation among peers seeking more experiential learning opportunities.

Guided by faith, they named the garden "First Fruits" to honor God and symbolize gratitude. Their vision includes an Annual First Fruits Harvest Festival to celebrate student achievement and strengthen connections between CAFS, local growers, and the FAMU community, truly putting the "A" in FAMU.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON BEGINS 1	2	3	4	5	6
NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK 7 JUNE 7-13	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	JUNETEENTH 19	SUMMER BEGINS 20
FATHER'S DAY 21	1ST DAY OF CLASSES (B) 22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				



A white, handwritten-style signature of the name "Ronnie Michael" is overlaid on the image. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "R" at the beginning.

Ronnie
Michael

JULY 2026

Colonel Ronnie D. "Mike" Michael, a native of Florence, Alabama, began his distinguished career in the United States Marine Corps in 1991, serving in critical roles including Marine Security Guard at the U.S. Embassies in Guatemala City and Rome. After separating from the Corps in 1995, he pursued studies in Central America and earned his degree from the University of North Alabama, commissioning through the USMC Platoon Leaders Course.

Throughout his career, Colonel Michael has supported combat operations in Afghanistan, joint missions across the Pacific, and disaster relief efforts in Japan following the 2011 earthquake and tsunami. A graduate of multiple military programs, he holds four master's degrees in economics, military studies, operational studies, and strategic planning.

Now serving as Professor of Naval Science and Commanding Officer of the NROTC Unit at FAMU and FSU, Colonel Michael continues his lifelong commitment to leadership, excellence, and service.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 SUMMER COMMENCEMENT	



Alex
Boiques

FAMU

FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY
**RESEARCH
EXTENSION
CENTER**
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SCIENCES

AUG 2026

Alejandro (Alex) Bolques Ph.D., serves as

Director of the Florida A&M University Research and Extension Center (FAMU REC) in Gadsden County, a cornerstone for agricultural education, research, and outreach in the College of Agriculture and Food Sciences (CAFS). Under his leadership, the 267-acre facility integrates hands-on learning, applied research, and community engagement to advance FAMU's land-grant mission.

As Program Leader for Agricultural and Natural Resources with FAMU Cooperative Extension, Bolques oversees projects in livestock production, protected agriculture, grass-fed beef development, honeybee research, and an industrial hemp pilot initiative. The REC recently expanded with a 12-pond aquaculture system, enhancing opportunities in sustainable aquaculture.

His extension efforts emphasize innovation and accessibility, from specialty crop development and hydroponics to backyard sugarcane and olive variety research. Through vision and collaboration, Bolques continues to position FAMU REC as a leader in agricultural innovation and student success.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	GRAPE HARVEST FESTIVAL
23	FIRST DAY OF CLASSES	25	26	27	28	29	
30	31						

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Reenysha
Harris

Renysha Harris, with more than 20 years of experience in higher education administration within Florida A&M University's College of Agriculture and Food Sciences (CAFS), is deeply committed to supporting research, academics, and community engagement. As Assistant Director for Research Programs, she plays a vital role in advancing the College's mission through strategic planning, research coordination, and support for faculty, staff, and students.

Harris is highly skilled in managing complex budgets and grants, ensuring compliance, and guiding research projects from proposal to completion. Her expertise aligns projects with university priorities while promoting efficiency, accountability, and innovation.

Before assuming her current role, Harris collaborated across CAFS administrative units to strengthen communication, streamline operations, and enhance institutional performance.

A connector at heart, she bridges research, academics, and extension to foster meaningful partnerships and measurable outcomes. Guided by her belief that agricultural research transforms communities and strengthens food systems, Harris continues to advance CAFS's vision of excellence, innovation, and service in agriculture and food sciences.

SEP 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5		
6	7 LABOR DAY	8	9	10	11 PATRIOTS DAY	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 AUTUMN BEGINS	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

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Kyra
Rogers

Kyla Rogers is a second-year Animal Science Industry Scholar from Tallahassee, Florida. A Presidential Scholar at Florida A&M University, she is an active member of the Animal Science Club and the Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS) organization within the College of Agriculture and Food Sciences (CAFS).

Beyond the classroom, Kyla proudly serves as a member of the Flag Corps for FAMU's world-renowned Marching 100, where she showcases her school spirit and dedication to excellence through performance and teamwork.

Kyla is also deeply committed to animal welfare and community service. For nearly three years, she has volunteered with both the Tallahassee Dog Obedience Club and Tallahassee Animal Services, gaining valuable hands-on experience in animal care, training, and community outreach.

While she continues to explore her career path, Kyla is particularly interested in opportunities related to dog breed registry, animal policy, data analysis, education, and outreach. She aspires to contribute her skills and passion to organizations such as the American Kennel Club (AKC), the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), or the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS)—where she hopes to make a lasting impact on animal welfare and public engagement in agriculture.

OCT 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	FOUNDER'S DAY 3		4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	SUNBELT EXPO OCTOBER 20-22 20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	HALLOWEEN APALACHICOLA SEAFOOD FESTIVAL OCT 31- NOV 1 31		28	29

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Frank
Humphries



FAMU

FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY
VITICULTURE
SMALL FRUIT RESEARCH
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SCIENCES

NOV 2026

Frank Humphries serves as the Research Enologist at Florida A&M University's Center for Viticulture and Small Fruit Research (CVSFR), where he manages the Vinification and Bioprocessing Laboratory, providing fermentation guidance and analytical support for Florida's grape and wine community.

A graduate of FAMU's College of Agriculture and Food Sciences, Humphries earned his B.S. in Agricultural Sciences (2016), an M.S. in Nutrition and Food Science from Florida State University (2020), and is pursuing a Ph.D. in Environmental Sciences at FAMU.

His research focuses on the Florida Vineyard Soil Microbiome Project, the Florida Yeast Biorepository, and Under-Vine Vegetation Trials, all aimed at enhancing muscadine grape quality and sustainability.

As the Center's Extension Representative, Humphries leads workshops, winery consultations, and industry training sessions that connect research with real-world application. He plans to continue advancing wine science education and research within FAMU's College of Agriculture and Food Sciences.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
DAYLIGHTS SAVING ENDS 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	VETERAN'S DAY 11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	THANKSGIVING 26	27	28
29	ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON ENDS 30					

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Anita
Jain

FAMU

FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY
**CENTER FOR
WATER
RESOURCES**
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SCIENCES

DEC 2026

Amita Jain, Ph.D., is a chemist whose research focuses on heavy metal chemistry in soil and water, with emphasis on arsenic removal from drinking water, water quality monitoring, and the fate and transport of nutrients in soil. Her current work examines contaminants of emerging concern—including pharmaceuticals and personal care products—and the effects of reclaimed water irrigation on soil and water quality.

As director of the Water Quality Laboratory at FAMU, Jain oversees advanced analytical instrumentation for water, soil, and plant analysis. She is skilled in atomic absorption spectrometry, ion chromatography, HPLC, ICP-OES, LC-MS/MS, and electrometric analysis, and provides hands-on training for students in water and soil analysis.

Jain has authored 24 peer-reviewed articles and two book chapters, with one publication in Environmental Science and Technology recognized as a highly cited paper by the American Chemical Society. She has secured over \$2 million in research funding as Principal Investigator and Co-PI, advancing FAMU's mission in environmental chemistry and sustainable water resource management.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4 HANUKKAH DECEMBER 4-12	5		
6	7	8	9	10	11 FALL COMMENCEMENT	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 WINTER BEGINS	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE	25 CHRISTMAS	26 Kwanzaa DEC 26 – JAN 1
27	28	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE		



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