

**FAMU**

COLLEGE OF  
**AGRICULTURE  
+ FOOD SCIENCES**

FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY

**2025**

**COME  
GROW  
WITH  
US!**



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

\$41M

in social and economic impact for the residents in Florida.

FAMU CAFS Awards FY 2023-2024

58

Number of Awarded Grants

\$31.2M

Research Expenditures

Publications and Creative Works FY 2023-2024

49

Peer Reviewed Publications

27

Non-Peer Reviewed Publications

108

Creative Articles/Work

*Dear Friends:*

We are pleased to present Florida A&M University's College of Agriculture and Food Sciences (CAFS) 2025 calendar! As dean, I am honored to share with you the remarkable work and vibrant spirit that defines our College. This calendar not only serves as a resource to keep you informed about key dates and events but also as a celebration of the achievements of our students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

At CAFS, we are dedicated to addressing the most pressing challenges of our time, from advancing climate-smart agriculture to promoting food security and environmental sustainability. Our programs provide a transformative experience for our students, offering hands-on learning opportunities, cutting-edge research, and real-world applications that prepare them to lead in agriculture, food sciences, and related industries.

We proudly say that CAFS "puts the 'A' in FAMU," highlighting our essential role in fulfilling the university's Land-Grant mission. Whether you are a prospective student, partner, or friend, we invite you to **"Come Grow with Us"** and be part of our journey to impact lives and communities through innovation, education, and outreach.

Thank you for your interest and support. Here's to a productive and inspiring year ahead!

*G. Dale Wesson, PhD., PE*

*Dean, FAMU College of Agriculture and Food Sciences and  
Director, Land-Grant Programs*



**COME  
GROW  
WITH  
US!**

**cafs.famu.edu**



JINGQIU

*Chen*

**Jingqiu Chen, Ph.D.**, is a leading researcher in digital agriculture, specializing in climate-smart agriculture, artificial intelligence (AI), and machine learning (ML) applications. She serves as principal investigator for multiple federally funded projects, including NSF's Experiential Learning on Digital Agriculture, USDA-NIFA-AFRI's Muscadine Grape Vineyards Precision Systems, and USDA-NIFA-1890 CBG's AI/ML Capacity for Digital Agriculture. Chen also collaborates on various other federal initiatives, focusing on enhancing agricultural productivity, resilience, and sustainability.

Her research integrates AI and Internet of Things (IoT) technologies to create real-time monitoring systems for crops like muscadine grapes, optimizing water use and disease management. Chen's road network studies in Florida's Big Bend region improve sediment delivery predictions, advancing environmental conservation models.

Committed to education, Chen provides experiential learning opportunities to students at all academic levels, equipping them with practical skills in AI, digital agriculture, and plant phenotyping to build a robust STEM workforce. She collaborates with Violeta Tsolova, Ph.D., director of the Center for Viticulture and Small Fruit Research, to innovate viticulture technologies. Through workshops and field demonstrations, Chen extends her research impact to growers and industry stakeholders, fostering the adoption of AI-driven agricultural solutions and advancing sustainability practices.

# JAN 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			NEW YEAR'S DAY 1	2	3	4
5	1ST DAY OF CLASSES 6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY 20	21	22	23	24	4-H TROPICANA PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST 25 READY, SET, GO 4-H WORKSHOPS (BAERS)
26	27	28	29	30	31	



FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY

**ACADEMIC PROGRAMS  
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SCIENCES

**The College of Agriculture and Food Sciences (CAFS)** at Florida A&M University fulfills the

university's Land-Grant mission through rigorous academic programs and exceptional student support services. CAFS equips graduates for impactful careers in agriculture, food, and related industries on local, national, and global scales.

Undergraduate offerings include BS degrees in Agribusiness, Biological Systems Engineering (BSE), Food Science, and Agricultural Sciences, with majors in Animal Science, Entomology, Plant and Soil Sciences, Pre-Veterinary Science, and Veterinary Technology. The BSE and Veterinary Technology programs are accredited, with BSE as FAMU's sole stand-alone engineering program and Veterinary Technology unique to North Florida.

Graduate programs include thesis and non-thesis tracks in Entomology, Agribusiness, Plant and Soil Sciences, and Agricultural Sciences, addressing challenges like pest control, food security, and sustainable agriculture.

Students thrive under distinguished faculty mentorship, participating in internships, research, international travel, and leadership development. CAFS encourages personal and professional growth through student organizations, conferences, and service-learning. Dedicated Student Support Services ensure graduates excel academically and professionally.

CAFS is proud to be a leading producer of African-American graduates who contribute significantly to agriculture and related sciences.

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH  
AMERICAN HEART MONTH  
FEB 2025**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6 <small>FLORIDA STATE FAIR 6-17</small>	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 <small>VALENTINE'S DAY</small>	15
16	17 <small>PRESIDENTS DAY</small>	18	19	20	21	22 <small>HARAMBEE FESTIVAL READY, SET, GO 4-H WORKSHOPS (BAERS)</small>
23	24	25	26	27	28	



**FAMU**

FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY  
**BROOKSVILLE**  
AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH STATION



**The Brooksville Agricultural and Environmental Research Station (BAERS)** was transferred from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to Florida A&M University (FAMU), marking one of the largest land transfers to an HBCU. Spanning over 3,800 acres in Hernando County, Florida, BAERS supports FAMU's mission to advance research, education, and extension in agriculture and environmental sciences.

The land grant features four parcels repurposed for agricultural research and community engagement. Since its transfer, FAMU has invested in laboratory renovations, new agricultural facilities, and the Title III-funded Brooksville Training Program (BTP), which provides hands-on learning in soil health, animal nutrition, and fire ecology. Research at BAERS also includes biofuel crops and sustainable farming practices.

In collaboration with organizations like the Florida Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Association (FBFAA), BAERS promotes sustainable practices through research on rotational grazing and soil health to assist underserved farmers in adopting climate-smart agriculture.

BAERS reflects FAMU's commitment to strengthening rural communities, enhancing food security, and fostering resilient agricultural systems. Positioned as a leader in agricultural research, BAERS extends its impact regionally and globally, including outreach to the Caribbean, aligning with FAMU's vision for innovation and global engagement.

NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH  
WOMEN HISTORY MONTH  
**MAR 2025**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS 9	SPRING BREAK 10-14 10	11	12	13	14	15
16	ST. PATRICK'S DAY 17	NATIONAL AG DAY 18	19	SPRING BEGINS 20	21	FAMU SPRING PREVIEW 22
23	NATIONAL WOMEN IN AG DAY 24	FLORIDA 4-H DAY AT THE CAPITOL 25	26	27	28	READY, SET, GO 4-H WORKSHOPS (BAERS) 29
30	31					



**FAMU**

FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY  
**CENTER FOR  
BIOLOGICAL  
CONTROL**

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SCIENCES

### The Center for Biological Control (CBC)

continues to advance its mission, overcoming challenges such as limited space, budget, and staffing. In partnership with USDA-ARS and USDA APHIS, the CBC remains committed to supporting stakeholders and fostering collaborations with national and international partners. The Center also supports academic programs, enrolling over 85% of graduate students in the College of Agriculture and Food Sciences (CAFS) at Florida A&M University.

CBC faculty and students consistently elevate its profile through outstanding achievements. Lambert H.B. Kanga PhD., received awards including the 2022 Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Award and the 2022 FAMU Distinguished Research Award. Muhammad Haseeb PhD., earned FAMU's Research Excellence and Teacher of the Year Awards. The CBC itself was honored with the 2021 International IPM Award of Recognition.

Graduate students have also excelled. Jermaine Perrier won first place at the 2019 Association of Research Directors Symposium, and Alexander Orfinger received the 2023 John Henry Comstock Outstanding Graduate Achievement Award. These accomplishments highlight the CBC's contributions to integrated pest management, research, and education.

Through its faculty, students, and partnerships, the CBC enhances its global impact, solidifying its reputation as a leader in pest management and agricultural research.

# APR 2025

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



LAMBERT

*Ranga*

**Lambert H. B. Kanga, Ph.D.**, is a professor of entomology and an internationally recognized researcher with over 30 years of experience in research, teaching, and outreach. He pioneered the use of fungal pathogens to control honeybee pests, protecting this critical crop pollinator. His groundbreaking work has been translated into multiple languages, including French, Spanish, and Chinese, reflecting its global impact.

Kanga has served as a consultant for National Public Radio, the American Society for Microbiology, the Black News Channel, and international media outlets. He has provided pest management expertise to countries like the Dominican Republic and Haiti and built partnerships with 23 nations to advance pest control solutions.

His accolades include the Excellence in Integrated Pest Management Award from the Entomological Society of America, FAMU's Distinguished Researcher Award, and the International IPM Award of Recognition. He has authored over 200 scientific publications and presented at numerous professional conferences worldwide.

Kanga has secured more than \$40 million in research funding, including a \$10 million USDA NIFA grant in 2023 to train future leaders in pest management for a changing climate. His contributions continue to shape integrated pest management practices and global agricultural sustainability.

# MAY 2025

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



**FAMU**

FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY  
**CENTER FOR  
WATER  
RESOURCES**

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SCIENCES

**The Center for Water Resources (CWR)** is a diverse research unit within the College of Agriculture and Food Sciences at Florida A&M University. Its faculty spans disciplines including plant, soil, and water sciences, engineering, biology, and public health. Collaborating with FAMU faculty, government agencies, and international partners from India, South Africa, and Nigeria, CWR fosters interdisciplinary research, engages stakeholders, and supports policy and management decision-making.

CWR's mission is to protect and enhance Florida's water resources, addressing challenges like water quality issues from agricultural practices and human activities. Through research, education, and outreach, the Center promotes stewardship and offers science-based solutions to emerging and ongoing water resource concerns in Florida, the nation, and globally.

The Center leads the College in extramural funding, managing over 15 research grants with more than \$16 million secured. Recent accomplishments include publishing 16 books and book chapters, over 60 journal articles, and graduating seven master's students and one Ph.D. These achievements underscore CWR's role in advancing water resource sustainability through innovation and collaboration.

By educating stakeholders and driving impactful research, CWR continues to fulfill its mission to address critical water resource issues and promote environmental resilience.

# JUNE 2025

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



**FAMU**

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



# JULY 2025

The role of taking the university to the people is the foundation of **FAMU Cooperative Extension** as the outreach arm of FAMU's land-grant mission. A thriving Florida economy requires empowered and well-informed citizens. FAMU Cooperative Extension puts knowledge and research-based solutions to work in pursuit of economic profitability and sustainability, as well as social well-being to help individuals, families and communities thrive in an ever-changing Florida. Extension specialists and agents translate the latest scientific research, information, and technology into applied and practical solutions for Florida residents, with emphasis on limited resource audiences.

FAMU Cooperative Extension makes connections with over 1.29M clientele, and over 12K youth are reached through 4-H programs and activities, contributing over \$41M in social and economic impact for the residents in Florida.

FAMU Cooperative Extension's programs are designed to meet the needs of Florida's diverse populations, offering practical education and resources that enhance economic, environmental, and social well-being delivered through workshops, field days, community events, and one-on-one consultations. For more information on FAMU Cooperative Extension's programs visit [cafs.famu.edu/cooperative-extension/index.php](https://cafs.famu.edu/cooperative-extension/index.php).

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	INDEPENDENCE DAY 4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	READY, SET, GO 4-H WORKSHOPS (BAERS) 26
27	28	29	30	31		



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

**The Florida A&M University Research and Extension Center (FAMU REC)** is one of two College of Agriculture and Food Sciences (CAFS) centers dedicated to agricultural food production. Located in Quincy, Florida, the FAMU REC encompasses approximately 257 acres of farmland, pine forests, a lake, and animal research labs.

The REC is part of the College of Agriculture and Food Sciences' Cooperative Extension Program. It houses the Veterinary Technology academic program; Small Ruminant, Protected Agriculture, and Grass-Fed Beef programs; and multiple research initiatives, including the Livestock Improvement Program and an Industrial Hemp Pilot Project.

The farm hosts annual field days, workshops, and tours. One signature event is the Sugarcane Mini-Field Day, which welcomes small farm producers, home gardeners, landowners, and others. This event is held in November at the FAMU Research & Extension Center and is open to the public.

Another popular program is the Farm Tours, which are especially popular with students and their chaperones. These tours showcase food production methods, including warm- and cool-season vegetable crops, strawberries, olives, hydroponics, and aquaponics. Participants typically board a trolley that transports them to various parts of the farm, including livestock areas and silvopasture systems.

# AUG 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	SUMMER COMMENCEMENT 2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	1ST DAY OF CLASSES 25	26	27	28	29	READY, SET, GO 4-H WORKSHOPS (BAERS) 30
31						



ODEMARI

*Mwuya*

**Odemari Stephen Mbuya, Ph.D.**, is a professor of agricultural sciences and director of the Center for Water Resources at Florida A&M University (FAMU). With over 30 years of experience in agriculture, life sciences, and sustainable ecosystems, he has led innovative research, teaching, and training efforts. Mbuya has worked internationally as a research scientist in Tanzania, a visiting researcher in Colombia, and a USDA consultant in South Africa and India.

He holds an M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Florida and a B.S. in crop science from Sokoine University of Agriculture in Tanzania. Since joining FAMU in 1996, Mbuya has secured over \$5.2 million in research funding from agencies like the USDA and Florida Department of Agriculture. He has served as faculty director of the FAMU Sustainability Institute and led initiatives on water resources, climate change, and agricultural production.

Mbuya's accolades include the Distinguished Scholar Award from the European Journal of Scientific Research, the Teaching Excellence Award at FAMU, and the Paul Robin Harris Award from the University of Florida. A frequent contributor to global conferences, his expertise spans climate-smart agriculture, biofuels, and sustainable development, shaping policies and practices in the U.S. and internationally.

# SEP 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	LABOR DAY 1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	PATRIOT DAY 11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	AUTUMN BEGINS 22	23	24	25	26	READY, SET, GO 4-H WORKSHOPS (BAERS) 27
28	29	30				



FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY  
**INTERNATIONAL  
AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS**  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SCIENCES

# OCT 2025

**The International Agriculture Unit** is the arm of the College of Agriculture and Food Sciences responsible for leading the globalization of the college's teaching, research, and outreach programs. We are pleased to have our faculty, students, staff, and other stakeholders engaged in advancing our tripartite mission and strategic initiatives to 20 countries around the world through international education, study abroad, internships, research, training, and other development assistance programs.

The Trellis Fund Fellowship Program (TFFP), an international graduate research internship funded by USAID's Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Horticulture and managed by the University of California, Davis, fielded nine graduate students from five 1890 universities in 2024 across four global regions: South Asia, West Africa, East Africa, and Central America. Fellows work collaboratively with regional project PIs on innovative research that benefits students, projects, and stakeholders. Applications are open for the 2025 and 2026 cohorts.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	FOUNDERS DAY 3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	SUNBELT AG EXPO OCTOBER 14-16 14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	READY, SET, GO 4-H WORKSHOPS (BAERS) 25
26	27	28	29	APALACHICOLA SEAFOOD FESTIVAL THRU NOV 2 30	HALLOWEEN 31	



**FAMU**

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



# NOV 2025

## FAMU-CAFS Center for Viticulture and Small

**Fruit Research** is a national leader in warm-climate grape research, providing top-tier academic training and industry support. As the only viticulture center among 1890 institutions, it drives innovation in Florida's grape and wine industry and beyond. Located on 55 acres with a 12,300-square-foot research facility, the Center offers hands-on learning for graduate and undergraduate students, as well as high school apprentices, focusing on farming efficiency, food safety, and sustainable practices.

FAMU also leads the first "Grape and Wine Sciences" academic concentration in Florida and among 1890 universities, under the B.S. in Agricultural Sciences. By USDA charter, the Center maintains the world's largest muscadine grape germplasm collection and serves as one of five National Clean Plant Centers for Grapes. Recognized internationally, it collaborates with research institutions worldwide, providing students and faculty global research exposure.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
APALACHICOLA SEAFOOD FESTIVAL THRU NOV 2 2 DAY LIGHT SAVING ENDS	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	26	THANKSGIVING 27	28	READY, SET, GO 4-H WORKSHOPS (BAERS) 29
ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON ENDS 30						



LUCY

*Mgatia*

**Lucy Ngatia, Ph.D.**, is an assistant professor in the Plant and Soil Science Program at Florida A&M University and conducts research with the Center for Water Resources. She was honored with FAMU's 2022–23 Teacher of the Year Award. Ngatia teaches Soil Chemistry to graduate students and undergraduate courses such as Soil Fertility, Soil and Water Conservation, and the Nature and Properties of Soils. She has developed innovative courses, including Soil Biogeochemistry and Soil and Water Chemistry, while advising graduate students.

Her research focuses on climate change mitigation, nutrient cycling, eutrophication, and heavy metal contamination. Collaborating with the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, she uses advanced tools like 13C Nuclear Magnetic Resonance and stable isotopes to study carbon and nutrient dynamics. Ngatia leads FAMU's efforts in the 1890 Multi-State Project and the Center of Excellence for Natural Resources, Renewable Energy, and the Environment.

Post-Hurricane Michael, she addressed wood debris management in Florida forests and conducted studies on carbon sequestration and water resources in national forests. Ngatia also collaborates with USDA ARS on water contamination projects and partners with Kenyan universities on soil amendment and food security research. She has secured multiple grants and published over 20 peer-reviewed articles.

# DEC 2025

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



FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY

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