History of the Animal & Dairy Science Department at the University of Georgia Tifton Campus
Pre 1932

✓ There wasn’t a formal livestock program at CPES initially.

✓ There was cooperative research with USDA including the identification of mules, jennies, and horses suitable for working
Dr. Byron Southwell

✓ Mr. Byron Southwell was hired in 1932 to establish a livestock research program at the Coastal Plain Experiment Station. Initially, all work was cooperative research with various USDA livestock and range management personnel. Retired in 1967
First beef herd

- First beef herd was established in 1932 and consisted of 12 polled Hereford cows
  - Research focus was on nutrition, genetics, and health

- George Dillard was hired in 1942 to conduct livestock research

- Dr. Southwell received his Ph.D. from Texas A&M in 1954 based on his research at CPES.
  - Dissertation title: “An Eighteen-year Genetic Study of a Herd of Polled Hereford Cattle”
First Dairy

- First dairy herd consisted of 28 purebred jersey cows and 9 crossbred cows (1933)

- In 1940, a new 40 stall stanchion dairy and small milk processing plant was constructed
  - Provided milk for dining hall and staff at Georgia State College of Men (ABAC), CPES staff and a retail delivery route in Tifton.
  - Garrett Jones was hired to manage dairy research in 1947
In 1933, swine research began with a herd of purebred Duroc and Poland China breeding stock.

- Very limited facilities consisting of outdoor pens and minimal shelter
- Most hogs were grazed on crop residues at that time

Parasitological research in cooperation with Zoological Division of the Bureau of Animal Industries began in 1943
1937

✓ Agriculture Research Building was constructed
Beef Research

- In 1940 the grazing research center was established in Alapaha with native crossbred cows: mix of Coriollo, Jersey, Shorthorn, Devon, and Red Poll.

- Dr. Glen Burton released Coastal bermudagrass in 1943.

- Angus herd was established through the purchase of 13 purebred cows and heifers from Otto Battle in Iowa in 1944.
Evaluation Centers

- Boar Test and Bull Evaluation Centers opened in 1958

- These programs were transferred to extension in 1974.

1970’s

- In 1971, the Georgia legislature appropriated funding to build new swine and beef research facilities.
- 21 registered Holstein heifers purchased in 1971
- Environmentally controlled, aluminum slatted floor confinement swine research unit opened in 1974
- Beef feedlot and feed mill was opened in 1974
- The Department of Animal Science and Department of Dairy Science merged to form the Department of Animal and Dairy Science in 1974
- 100 cow dairy facility with free stalls and flush system opened in 1975
Aquaculture

✓ In 1987, aquaculture research program was reinstated and Dr. Gary Burtle was hired.

✓ A well, reservoir and twelve 0.1 acre ponds were built during 1998 to 1989.

✓ In 1990, twelve 0.24 acre ponds were constructed.
Additional Facilities

✓ In 1998, construction was completed on a new 250 cow dairy facility

✓ The ARB was completely renovated and rededicated in 2018

✓ A new beef feeding facility with 24 pens was completed in 2018
Research Highlights

✅ Evaluation and development of improved forages including bermudagrass, pearl millet, Bahia grass, alfalfa, and other forages

✅ Nutrition and management of beef and dairy cattle and swine
  - Basic nutrition, byproducts, forage utilization, etc.
Research Highlights

✓ Swine housing and management systems

✓ Work to eradicate or control many of the parasites that affected swine and cattle

✓ Heat stress abatement and nutritional management of dairy cattle

✓ Waste water management
Department Heads and REI’s

✓ Dr. Byron Southwell, 1932-1967

✓ Dr. W. C. McCormick, 1967-1982
  ❖ Resident Director of CPES, 1982-1986

✓ Dr. Phil Utley, 1982-1996
  ❖ Assistant Dean, UGA Tifton Campus, 1995-2001

✓ Dr. Jerry Baker, 1996-2003

✓ Dr. Joe West, 2003-2008
  ❖ Assistant Dean, UGA Tifton Campus, 2008-

✓ Dr. John Bernard, 2008-Current
Additional Faculty

- George Dillard
- Garrett Jones
- W. P. Duncan
- Mr. Harrison
- Joe C. Johnson
- O. M. Hale
- D. W. Beardsley
- Robert S. Lowery
- Hollis Chapman
- Larry Newton
- Walter Neville
- Clyde Triplett
- Gary Hill
- Robert Stewart
- Keith Haydon
- Gary Burtle
- Robert Dove
- Neil McCarter
- Tim Shell
- Johnny Rossi
Current Faculty

- Gary Burtle, Aquaculture
- John Bernard, REI and Dairy Nutrition
- Claudia Dunkley, Poultry Science
- Jacob Segers, Beef Extension
- Sha Tao, Heat stress physiology
- Jennifer Tucker, Beef nutrition
Currently Staff

- Leslie Cromer, Business Manager I
- Katie Wilson, Administrative Associate I
- Jacob Nyhuis, Senior Farm Manager
- Andy Dunn, Farm Manager, beef
- Tracey Cook, Farm Manager, dairy
- Zach Collins, Sr. Ag. Specialist, farm
- Mike Keeler, Sr. Ag. Specialist, bull test
- Melissa Tawzer, Lab technician III
- Grace Nyhuis, Program Coordinator III, beef ext