

Research Internship in Ecology on Subtropical Grazinglands at Archbold Biological Station (Florida)

The **Agroecology program** at Archbold Biological Station's Buck Island Ranch (BIR) (www.archbold-station.org) is seeking an intern (**6 - 9 months**) to assist with grassland ecology, wetland ecology and range management research on our 10,400-acre cattle ranch in south-central Florida (Buck Island Ranch). The research intern will be supervised by Dr. Betsey (Elizabeth) Boughton in a diverse and fun lab consisting of an assistant research biologist, an environmental specialist, an ecohydrologist, a post-doctoral research associate, a data manager, 2 research assistants, and 2 research interns. The lab is supported by the data management and GIS department located at the Archbold Biological Station. We interact closely with the cattle operations staff at BIR.

Internship highlights

Buck Island Ranch is both an operational cattle ranch and an experimental field station, with a focus on applied ecology. We are thinking both locally and globally. Archbold Biological Station and its partner site University of Florida Range Cattle Research Center (UF RCREC) are part of the Long-term Agroecosystem Research Network (LTAR <https://ltar.ars.usda.gov>), a network of 18 agroecosystems across the United States that seek to address the grand challenge of maintaining multiple ecosystem services in food production systems.

Interns will:

- Experience life on a cattle ranch in a collaborative environment.
- Assist with our different research programs (see our two documentaries https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y6_VhY3aZB0, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rGV_G6dnYHg).
- Work 20 hours per week assisting with field and lab projects, typically but not always Monday – Friday.
- Dedicate remaining time to designing and implementing an independent research project that fits within our research program, with a report and a presentation at the end of internship.

Who should apply?

- Ideal for recent graduates with a Bachelor's degree in biology, environmental science or any related fields.
- Students interested in applied science who contemplate non-academic positions such as Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Students interested in pursuing a graduate degree in applied ecology, wetland ecology, rangeland ecology

Requirements and internship responsibilities

- Highly motivated and enthusiastic about living and working in a rural field-station setting.
- Respectful of others, as successful interns will share lodging with other interns.
- Detail-oriented with respect to following sampling protocols and managing data.
- High tolerance for the extreme heat and humidity that prevail during late spring through summer in southern Florida.
- Must have authorization for US employment.

Duties will include a combination of the following:

- Assist with plant community surveys (in wetlands and/or grasslands) and plant biomass collection.
- Assist with a new rainout shelter experiment and a new invasive species control experiment.
- Soil sampling, water sampling, and groundwater well monitoring.
- Lab work including soil sieving, biomass grinding, and basic chemistry analysis.
- Eddy covariance tower maintenance, and weather station maintenance.
- Data entry.

Benefit for the successful intern

- Interns will be trained in every aspect of scientific research, from project choice, experimental design, and statistical analysis to oral and written presentations. This will prepare interns for graduate school and/or higher-level report writing required by government agencies. Some interns published their projects in peer-reviewed journals.
- Opportunity to get more familiar with advanced technology (e.g., Eddy covariance, CO₂ and methane sensors).
- Experience in applied ecology.

Compensation

- Interns receive lodging at Buck Island Ranch (11 miles away from ABS).
- Weekly stipend of \$245.

How to apply?

- To apply please email the following to **Dr. Betsey Boughton** (eboughton@archbold-station.org).
 - A recent CV.
 - A cover letter stating research interests and a description of previous research experience.
 - The contact information for three references.
- Deadline to apply is **August 12, 2022** for a desired starting date in **late September or early October**.

Questions about the program

Please refer to Archbold Biological Station website for more details on our program:
<https://www.archbold-station.org>.

If you have additional questions regarding the program, please contact Dr. Betsey Boughton (eboughton@archbold-station.org).