

Spotlight on . . .

New Food Science Extension Agent Stephanie Brown

A huge Florida Gator welcome to Stephanie Brown, SWFREC's new state specialized extension agent in food science! Actually...make that Dr. Stephanie Brown, as she successfully defended her Ph.D. two weeks after beginning her time at the center in early June.

Stephanie comes to SWFREC from Oregon State University's Food Innovation Center (FIC) in Portland, where she worked as a food safety specialist since 2019. Her appointment included two positions: coordinator for the Western Regional Center to Enhance Food Safety and FIC food safety program coordinator.

Stephanie received her bachelor's degree in food science and technology with a certificate in agrosecurity from the University of Georgia in Athens. She earned her first master's degree at Georgia in food science, then her animal science M.S. degree from the University of Connecticut in Storrs. She served as a graduate research assistant at both institutions.

Dr. Brown defended her Ph.D. just last week with the University of Connecticut's Department of Animal Science. Her dissertation was titled "Antimicrobial Interventions for the Control of *Listeria monocytogenes* in Cheese Production."

Stephanie looks forward to working with and educating growers and food production workers across the Sunshine State.



"Florida has always had a special place in my heart," she says. "With my parents meeting at the University of Florida, I have always been hopeful I would get the opportunity to follow in their footsteps one day. I am delighted to have that opportunity through my new position at SWFREC. I look forward to supporting Florida's food industries and agricultural communities in the coming years."

Upcoming workshops that Dr. Brown and the rest of the UF/IFAS food science team will collaborate on include Produce Safety Alliance Grower Trainings offered in person and/or remotely, cleaning and sanitation workshops, and food safety supervisor trainings. To see a full list of offerings, click [here](#).

Contact Dr. Stephanie Brown at 239-324-4805 or stephaniebrown@ufl.edu.