

## CLEBER HENRIQUE LOPES DE SOUZA

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I am passionate about tackling new challenges and working collaboratively with people to achieve common goals. I firmly believe in the power of teamwork to foster discussions and improve ideas. In my opinion, research and development should be customer-oriented and aimed at making the best use of existing resources, while also prioritizing efficiency, profitability, and sustainability. I take pride in my work and strive to ensure the satisfaction of my peers and clients by delivering high-quality results. With a strong sense of ownership and commitment to excellence, I am always willing to that extra mile to ensure project success.

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Florida | Marianna, Florida, USA

**Feb 2024 – present**

#### **Assistant Professor on Forage Breeding | Jul 2022 – present**

- General: Appointment split between 70% research and 30% extension. The forage breeding program aims to release new cultivars with significant market impact and to train students to become highly skilled professionals in forage breeding. The research program focuses on breeding for biotic and abiotic stresses, seasonal distribution of forage production, biological nitrogen fixation, and seed production quality for integrated livestock systems in Florida and the Southeastern U.S. The extension program focuses on identifying producers' needs and promoting the adoption of newly released cultivars in coordination with agents, universities, the seed industry, and agricultural organizations. Species: bahiagrass, limpograss, small grains, perennial peanut, sunn hemp and crimson clover.

Papalotla Seeds | Regente Feijó, São Paulo, Brazil

**Jul 2022 – Feb 2024**

#### **Seed Production Research Manager | Jul 2022 – present**

- General: Management of developing seed production research in Brazil and Mexico. Ensure a consistent supply chain of high-quality improved hybrid seeds of tropical forages centered on productivity, stability, and predictability. Coordination of forage seed production areas and provision of technical support to supply and commercial departments. Management of the team responsible for implementing, conducting, and collecting data from experiments, and monitoring the seed field areas of production. Species: *Urochloa* spp. and *Megathirsus maximus*.

Gentos: technology on forage seed | Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil

**Out 2020 – Jul 2022**

#### **Seed Production Agronomist | Out 2020 – Jul 2022**

- General: Development of Gentos seed production in Brazil. Responsible for the production and supply of high-quality seeds, produced in partnership with growers. Planning of production areas to meet the estimated demand from the commercial sector, scouting of areas and partners for the production and processing of forage seeds. Planning, implementation, and technical monitoring of seed production areas. Developing markets and products with companies, universities, and farmers to promote the adoption of new technologies in forage crops. Species: ryegrass, fescue, white clover, red clover, Persian clover, and birdsfoot trefoil.

University of Florida | Gainesville, USA

**Jun 2019 – Jun 2022**

#### **Post-Doctoral Research Associate | Jun 2019 – Jun 2020**

- General: Implantation, conduction, evaluation, and coordination of experiments with summer and winter forages aiming production and higher efficiency of environmental resources. Data analysis and writing of technical and scientific articles.

Under-supervision of Dr. Esteban Rios in the forage breeding and genetic lab:

- Evaluation and selection of breeding populations in alfalfa, cowpea, accessions of bermudagrass, clovers varieties and ryegrass. Study of nutritive value and phosphorus concentration in a germplasm collection of bermudagrass.

Under-supervision of Dr. Marcelo Wallau in the forage extension team:

- Implementation, conduction and evaluation of demonstrative units and varieties trials of forages: wheat, triticale, rye, ryegrass, and oats on dairy farms in central Florida. Implementation of experiments for technological extension and field days in Saint Johns and Osceola counties, and at the Beef Research Unit (University of Florida) in Alachua.

**Graduate Research Assistant | Apr 2015 – Mar 2019**

Research group of forage breeding led by Prof. Dr. Miguel Dall'Agnol.

- Evaluation of agronomic performance, persistence, nutritive value, and nitrogen efficiency of hybrids of native grasses (*Paspalum sp.*); Characterization of forage production, botanic composition, and persistence of mixtures of legumes with *Paspalum sp.* hybrids; Crossing, evaluation, and selection of *bahiagrass hybrids* for forage and seed production, forage distribution, cold tolerance, and persistence; Multi-environment trials of varieties released by prof. Miguel Dall'Agnol and partners.

**Field Coordinator Forage Breeding Group UFRGS | Apr 2015 – Mar 2018**

- Planning, organization, and coordination of experiments in the field; Collaboration with professors to define experiments; Equipment and supplies management; Needs assessment, budgeting, and acquisition of inputs materials; Supervision of undergraduate and master students.

CDS Informática Ltda | Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil

Apr 2015 – Mar 2018

**Business Analyst | Apr 2015 – Mar 2018**

- Negotiations in electronic auctions, preparation of documentation for the company's participation in tenders (commercial proposals, certificates, and others); Analysis of public notices, preparation, and definition of strategy participation; Cost analysis, price composition, and preparation of commercial proposals, prospecting, and negotiation of suppliers, partners, and customers.

Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul | Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil

Apr 2013 – Mar 2015

**Graduate Research Assistant | Apr 2013 – Mar 2015**

Research group of studies in Ecology, Technology, and Production of Forage Seeds led by Prof. Dr. Lúcia Brandão Franke – UFRGS, Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.

- Management for seed production and seed analysis of *Paspalum sp.*, Ryegrass, White Clover, "Serradela", Bird's foot trefoil, and Vetch; cleaning, track, and determination of yield components; Seed quality tests: humidity, purity, density, germination, tetrazolium test and methods to overcome dormancy.

Cabanha Valle Nevado Ltda | Glorinha, RS, Brazil

Oct 2009 – May 2014

**Farm manager | Out 2009 – Mai 2014**

- Management budget, Administration of purchases and sales, and supervision of employees; Coordination and management of activities with beef cattle, horses, and sheep; Administration of vaccines and drugs; Forage planning and management; Operation and maintenance of tractor and other agricultural machinery.

## EDUCATION

**Ph.D. in Animal Science**, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil | 2015 - 2019

Research area: Plant breeding and forage germplasm characterization.

Dissertation title: "Seed and forage performance for an elite group of *Paspalum notatum* intraspecific hybrids."

**MS in Animal Science**, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil | 2013 - 2015

Research area: Production technology, and ecology of forage seeds.

Thesis title: "Management of consecutive cuts in the production and quality of wintergreen *Paspalum* seeds in the second year of cultivation"

**Bachelor's in engineering (Agronomist Engineer)**, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil | 2006 – 2012

**Computer Systems Technician**, Dom Feliciano School, Gravataí, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil | 2004 – 2006

## PUBLICATIONS

Published

- Souza, C. H. L. de**, Motta, E. A. M., Brunos, A. P., Weiler, R. L., Simioni, C., Sampaio, R., Rios, E. F., Dall'Agnol, M. (2024). Seed yield and quality of *Paspalum notatum* Flüggé intraspecific hybrids. *Acta Scientiarum-Agronomy* 46(e62530). <https://doi.org/10.4025/actasciagron.v46i1.62530>
- Paudel, D., Wang, L., Poudel, R., Acharya, J., Victores, S., **Souza, C.H.L. de**, Rios, E., Wang, J. (2023). Elucidating the effects of organic vs. conventional cropping practice and rhizobia inoculation on rhizosphere microbial diversity and yield of peanut. *Environmental Microbiome* 18(60) <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40793-023-00517-6>
- Harlingg, J., Rios, E., **Souza, C. H. L. de**, Sollenberger, L. E., Dubuex, J. & Wallau, M. (2023). Defoliation management affects performance of alfalfa-bermudagrass mixtures in the southeastern USA. *Agronomy J.* 10.1002/ajg2.21296 (Accepted Dec. 2022).
- Souza, C. H. L. de**, Fernandes Filho, C., Canny, R., Sharma, N., Saha, M., Wallau, M., Baxter, L., Anderson, W., Harris-Shultz, K., & Rios, E. (2022). Unraveling Phenotypic Diversity in *Cynodon* spp. Germplasm for Dry Matter Yield and Nutritive Value in the Transition Zone. *Crop Science* <https://doi.org/10.1002/csc2.20871>
- Rios, E. F., Dubeux Jr, J. C. B., Vendramini, J. M. B., Wallau, M., **Souza, C. H. L. de**, Grossman, A. J., Lopez, Y., Munoz, P., Anderson, W., Baxter, L., Castillo, M. S., Saha, M. C., Queensberry, K., Blount, A., Reith, P., & Kenworthy, K. (2021). Release of a new forage bermudagrass cultivar from the USDA-NPGS cynodont collection. University of Kentucky.
- Biswas, A., Andrade, M. H. M. L., Acharya, J. P., **Souza, C. H. L. de**, Lopez, Y,... Rios, E. F. (2021). Phenomics-Assisted Selection for Herbage Accumulation in Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* L.). *Front. Plant Sci.* 12. doi: 10.3389/fpls.2021.756768
- Dareus, R., Acharya, J. P., Paudel, D. R., **Souza, C. H. L. de**, Tome Gouveia, B., Chase, C. A., ... Rios, E. F. (2021). Phenotypic diversity in the UC-Riverside cowpea mini-core collection. *Crop Science*, csc2.20544.
- Souza, C. H. L. de** & Wallau, M. (2020). The right steps for cool-season forage management. Panhandle Ag e-News, UF/IFAS Extension. Jan 31, 2020. Available at: <https://nwdistrict.ifas.ufl.edu/phag/2020/01/31/the-right-steps-for-cool-season-forage-management/>; Also featured on <https://www.morningagclips.com/steps-for-cool-season-forage-management/>; <http://florida.growingamerica.com/news/2020/02/right-steps-cool-season-forage-management>
- Saraiva, K. M., Dall'Agnol, M., Da Motta, E. A. M., Pereira, E. A., **Souza, C. H. L. de**, Simioni, C., ... Barbosa, M. R. (2021). Hybrids of *Paspalum plicatulum* × *P. guenoarum*: Selection for forage yield and cold tolerance in a subtropical environment. *Tropical Grasslands-Forrajeras Tropicales*, 9(1), 138–143. [https://doi.org/10.17138/tgft\(9\)138-143](https://doi.org/10.17138/tgft(9)138-143) <https://doi.org/10.1002/csc2.20544>
- Motta, Eder A. Minski da, Dall'Agnol, M., Rios, E. F., **Souza, C. H. L. de**, Weiler, R. L., Brunos, A. P., ... Nunes dos Santos, T. (2020). Agronomic performance of interspecific *Paspalum* hybrids under nitrogen fertilization or mixed with legumes. *Agrosystems, Geosciences & Environment*, 3(1). <https://doi.org/10.1002/agg2.20127>
- Motta, Eder Alexandre Minski da, Dall'agnol, M., Rios, E., **Souza, C. H. L. de**, Weiler, R., Simioni, C., ... Faraco Correa, A. (2020). Nutritive value and herbage mass in hybrids of *Paspalum plicatulum* × *Paspalum guenoarum* fertilized with nitrogen or in mixture with temperate legumes. *Grassland Science*, 66(4), 261–270. <https://doi.org/10.1111/grs.12280>
- Souza, C. H. L. de**, Lopez, Y., Munoz, P., Anderson, W., Dall'Agnol, M., Wallau, M., & Rios, E. (2020). Natural Genetic Diversity of Nutritive Value Traits in the Genus *Cynodon*. *Agronomy*, 10(11), 1729. <https://doi.org/10.3390/agronomy10111729>
- Graminho, L. A., Dall'Agnol, M., Pötter, L., Nabinger, C., Motta, E. A. M. da, **Souza, C. H. L. de**, ... Neto, D. (2019). Nitrogen use efficiency and forage production in intraspecific hybrids of *Paspalum notatum* Flüggé. *Chilean Journal of Agricultural Research*, 79(3), 447–455. <https://doi.org/10.4067/S0718-58392019000300447>
- Lopes, R. R., Franke, L. B., **Souza, C. H. L. de**, Bertonecelli, P., Graminho, L. A., & Pereira, É. A. (2018). Genetic parameters and predicted gains with selection of interspecific hybrids of *Paspalum* for seed production. *Crop Breeding and Applied Biotechnology*, 18(3), 284–291. <https://doi.org/10.1590/1984-70332018v18n3a42>
- Fachinetto, J. M., Dall'Agnol, M., **Souza, C. H. L. de**, Weiler, R. L., & Simioni, C. (2017). Genetic diversity of a *Paspalum notatum* Flüggé germplasm collection. *Revista Brasileira de Zootecnia*, 46(9), 714–721. <https://doi.org/10.1590/s1806-92902017000900002>
- Lopes, R. R., Ávila, M. R. de, Gasparetto, B. F., **Souza, C. H. L. de**, & Franke, L. B. (2017). Accelerated aging parameters in the prediction of physiological and sanitary quality of birdsfoot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus* L.) seeds. *Journal of Seed Science*, 39(1), 75–82. <https://doi.org/10.1590/2317-1545v39n1169264>
- Lopes, R. R., Franke, L. B., **Souza, C. H. L. de**, Bertonecelli, P., & Graminho, L. A. (2017). Genetic divergence among interspecific *Paspalum* hybrids based on seed production traits. *Ciência e Agrotecnologia*, 41(4), 390–401. <https://doi.org/10.1590/1413-70542017414006217>
- Lopes, R. R., Jaeschke Ost, H., **Souza, C. H. L. de**, Franke, L. B., Ost, H. J., de Souza, C. H. L., & Franke, L. B. (2016).

Management of consecutive cuts in the production and quality of wintergreen paspalum seeds. *Revista Brasileira de Zootecnia*, 45(10), 587–595. <https://doi.org/10.1590/S1806-92902016001000002>

Lopes, R. R., **Souza, C. H. L. de**, Bertoncelli, P., Franke, L. B. (2015). Overcoming dormancy and determining optimal temperature for slender serradella seed germination. *Revista Brasileira de Zootecnia*, 44(12), 413–419. <https://doi.org/10.1590/S1806-92902015001200001>

#### FUNDING AND AWARDS

2013-2015 – Scholarship for MSc Degree by Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel (CAPES Foundation). Amount: R\$ 36,000.00.

2015-2019 – Scholarship for PhD Degree by CAPES Foundation. Amount: R\$ 105,600.00.

Apr to October, 2018 – Scholarship for study abroad program at the University of Florida funded by the Animal Science Graduate Program at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul. Amount: R\$3,500.00.

#### LANGUAGES

Native Portuguese | Advanced English | Advanced Spanish