

Presented by: Dr. Peter E. Hildebrand, University of Florida

Victor Cabrera is quite an amazing individual. So far in his young career he has worked as a farm manager, extension agent, and extension planner all in his native Peru; as an assistant professor and extension dairy management specialist at New Mexico State University and is currently an assistant professor and extension dairy management specialist at the University of Wisconsin—in the state known as the dairy state! It has been my great pleasure to serve 1) on his Master's advisory committee as the representative of the farming systems minor he completed, and 2) as his advisor for the PhD in Interdisciplinary Ecology. His doctoral research involved modeling north-Florida dairy farm management strategies to alleviate ecological impacts under varying climatic conditions. The result was a user friendly decision support tool that incorporated crop and livestock models as well as an economic analysis via linear programming.

In only six years since receiving his PhD in Interdisciplinary Ecology, Victor has 22 refereed journal articles in a wide range of journals including among others: Agricultural Systems; Agriculture, Ecosystems, and Environment; Computer and Electronics in Agriculture; Climatic Change; Dairy Science; and Climatology. He has 45 extension publications and is co-author of three book chapters. He has also produced 35 decision support tools. Besides spending his time in research and extension, he has consulted in eight countries beginning when he was working on his PhD degree. He is currently working with a \$5,000,000 USDA grant: Improving Sustainability by Improving Feed Efficiency of Animals. Genomic Selection and Herd Management Tools to Improve Feed Efficiency of the Dairy Industry.

Even in his early career, Victor has received two honorary fellowship awards: the Alfred Topfer Faculty Fellow Award from the University of Wisconsin, and the Foundation Scholar Award in Dairy Production from the American Dairy Science Association. In his appointment to the latter, the National Dairy Science Association said the following: “. . . Cabrera combines applied research, interdisciplinary approaches, and participatory methods (sounds like the Interdisciplinary Ecology degree, doesn't it? And to continue with the Dairy Science Association statement. . .) to deliver practical, user-friendly, and timely decision support tools for dairy farm management. The scientific tools are aimed to improve dairy farm profitability, environmental stewardship, and enhance the resilience and long-term sustainability of the US dairy farm industry.”

Victor has a lovely wife, Milly, and two delightful children, Victor Jr. and Gabriela who also keep him quite busy.