

# Isabella Grace Gafanha

210 Upchurch Hall | Auburn, AL 36849 | 954.610.4962 | [igg0009@auburn.edu](mailto:igg0009@auburn.edu)

## EDUCATION

**Master of Science** in Meat Sciences

Expected graduation: Dec 2025

Auburn University | Auburn, AL

Thesis: Predicting the shelf-life of ground beef based on the initial microbial community profile

**Bachelor of Science** in Animal Sciences

2020 – 2023

Auburn University | Auburn, AL

## EXPERIENCE

**Graduate Research Assistant** | Auburn, AL

Jan 2024 – Present

Belk Lab, Animal Sciences, Auburn University

Supervisor: Dr. Aeriell Belk; [adb0097@auburn.edu](mailto:adb0097@auburn.edu)

**NCBA Cattle Convention Intern** | San Antonio, TX

Feb 2025

Convention Intern for Cattle Con 2025

**Golden State Foods Internship** | Opelika, AL

May 2023 – Jun 2023

Quality Summer Intern

- Learned quality control tasks
- Shadowed quality director
- Constructed work instructions for quality tasks

**Auburn University Meats Laboratory** | Auburn, AL

Jan 2022 – Jan 2024

Student Employee

- Harvesting cattle and swine
- Fabrication of carcasses
- Processing and packaging beef and pork products

**Auburn Gymnastics Academy** | Auburn, AL

Aug 2021 – Jan 2024

Team and Pre-Team Coach

- Coaching pre-team and team level gymnastics classes

## TEACHING & INSTRUCTION

**Undergraduate Mentor**

Jan 2025 – Present

- Working with undergraduate to analyze data

**Graduate Teaching Assistant**

Jan 2024 – Present

**Muscle Foods** | Auburn, AL

2 semesters

- Developed laboratory material

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- Lead laboratory section instructor
- Substitute course lecturer

## **Extension Instructor**

Jan 2024 – Present

### **Beef 101 and Beyond** | Auburn, AL

- Curriculum development for Beef 101 short course
- Instructor for short course programming
- Conducted survey research to gauge course needs and effectiveness

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Abstract | Predicting the shelf-life of ground beef based on the initial microbial community profile

Abstract | Pre-extraction treatment methods for isolating microbial DNA from ground beef samples

Abstract | The microbiome of cleaning tools used in meat processing facilities

## **SEMINARS & PRESENTATIONS**

Reciprocal Meat Conference 2024 | Abstract: Fecal shedding of potentially pathogenic organisms and fecal microbiome dysbiosis of cattle exposed to different levels of transportation stress

Auburn University Academic Graded Seminar. June 6, 2024 | Assessing the effects of pre-harvest handling and stunning methods on meat quality

American Society for Microbiology-Southeastern Branch 2024 | Poster presentation

Alabama Beef Cattle Conference 2024 | Presentation

Three Minute Thesis Competition 2024 | Presentation: Predicting the shelf-life of ground beef based on the initial microbial community profile

## **INVOLVEMENT**

**Auburn Graduate Student Council** | Senator

Aug 2024 – Present

**Auburn University Quiz Bowl** | Coach

Jan 2024 – Present

**American Society for Microbiology** | Member

Aug 2024 – Present

**American Meat Science Association** | Member

Jan 2024 – Present

**Animal Sciences Graduate Student Association** | Member

Jan 2024 – Present

**Women's Meat industry Network** | Member

Apr 2024 – Present

**Auburn Undergraduate Research** | Ruminant Nutrition

Mar 2022 – Aug 2022

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**Greek Life** | Alpha Xi Delta

Aug 2021 – Dec 2023

**Block and Bridle** | Member

Aug 2020 – Dec 2023

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

Veterinary Assisting Certification

Alpha Xi Delta | Order of the Rose Award

National Society of Collegiate Scholars