Hampton Roads Agricultural Research and Extension Center
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https://www.arec.vaes.vt.edu/arec/hampton-roads.html

Assistant Professor: Applied Insect Ecologist

Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is seeking applicants for a 12-month tenure track position of Applied Insect Ecologist as part of its **SmartFarm Innovation Network** (SFIN) faculty cluster hire. The cluster hire of 13 new faculty positions will be filled over multiple years within several academic units and Agricultural Research and Extension Centers (ARECs). Collaborations of cluster hires and existing faculty will enhance interdisciplinary flagship programs at the nexus of digital, biological, social, and physical sciences and engineering with application to agriculture, food, and natural resources. This ambitious vision will create a statewide network of interconnected faculty, partners, and resources for scientific discovery and developing and deploying new technologies. The goal is to increase overall efficiency, resiliency, sustainability, and economic value of food, agriculture production systems, and natural resources and expand Virginia Tech's global leadership in this rapidly evolving domain.

This is an Assistant Professor position with equal appointment in research and Extension in the areas of invasive and emerging insect biology and integrated pest management (IPM). The position is located at the Hampton Roads AREC in Virginia Beach, near major ports of entry for the Eastern United States. The successful candidate's tenure home will be the Department of Entomology on the main campus (https://www.ento.vt.edu).

Responsibilities:

The successful candidate will be expected to develop a nationally-recognized, externally-funded research and Extension program on invasive and emerging insect pests impacting the nursery, greenhouse/ floriculture, landscape, and turfgrass industries. Areas of particular interest include, but are not limited to: insect ecology, biological control, population genetics, plant-insect interactions, and vectors of plant pathogens that are linked to the development of IPM strategies/tactics. The selected candidate will serve as a member of a team of scientists pursuing a systems approach to sustainable ornamental and turfgrass health, production and maintenance. The selected candidate will be expected to actively interact with faculty of the SFIN cluster as well as other faculty across the university.

The incumbent will also be expected to work closely with other Extension specialists and agents throughout the Commonwealth to plan, conduct and evaluate educational programs on insect pest biology and management for the nursery, greenhouse/floriculture, landscape, and turfgrass industries in the state. This Extension entomologist will serve clientele statewide through applied research, updating the Pest Management Guides (https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/456/456-017/456-017.html), information delivery, agent in-service training, and development and use of appropriate training/teaching materials.

Increased urbanization and the shipment of nursery stock and sod across the United States as well as from abroad has led to the increased spread of invasive species. Additionally, close proximity to dense human populations places severe constraints on management practices (i.e., insecticide use). These and other emerging constraints and challenges offer great opportunities for an enthusiastic entomologist to develop a productive professional career through discovering, producing, and implementing novel pest management approaches. Preference will be given to individuals with an established track record in invasive and emerging insect research and a demonstrated ability to secure extramural funding and publish in peer-reviewed, high-quality journals. The incumbent is expected to recruit and mentor graduate students.

Required Qualifications:

- PhD in entomology or a closely related discipline
- Experience in applied entomology
- Knowledge and experience in the planning, design, implementation and evaluation of field experiments and educational programming related to pest management
- An ability to work with diverse audiences, to communicate effectively (both oral and written), and to function effectively as a team member or leader.

Application:

Applications will be accepted online at http://careers.pageuppeople.com/968/cw/en-us/job/511890/asst-professor-applied-insect-ecologist. In addition to completing an on-line application form, the online package should include: 1) a cover letter highlighting the applicant's qualifications and fit to this position, 2) a current curriculum vita, 3) a two-page statement of research and extension interests and future research plans, and 4) three names and contact information of references who can assess the applicant's qualifications for this position. Review of applications will begin on Friday, January 3, 2020 and continue until a suitable candidate is selected. Inquiries concerning the position or application process should be directed to the Search Committee Chair, Dr. Chuan Hong (chhong2@vt.edu, 757-363-3908), Hampton Roads AREC, 1444 Diamond Springs Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23455.