



Speaker:

Bethany L McGregor

Research Entomologist

USDA-Agricultural Research Service

Center for Grain and Animal Health Research

Arthropod-borne Animal Diseases Research Unit

Date: Monday, April 11, 2022

Time: 4:00 pm - 4:50 pm

Format: Virtual Seminar

Zoom: 948 0131 1028

Passcode: 347039



Title:

“Finding the Flying Needle in the Haystack: Studying *Culicoides* Biting Midge Ecology and Vector Potential in the Field.”

Abstract:

Culicoides biting midges are small Dipteran vectors responsible for the transmission of numerous viruses of veterinary significance. While over 1300 species of *Culicoides* have been described worldwide, their small size makes studying, monitoring, and controlling these insects extremely challenging and relatively little is known about most species. Despite this, their role as vectors of Orbiviruses (bluetongue virus and epizootic hemorrhagic disease virus) and a reportable Rhabdovirus (vesicular stomatitis virus) makes the study of these insects imperative to protecting the health of livestock in the United States. Due to the lack of laboratory colonies for most *Culicoides* species, many aspects of the biology and ecology of North American *Culicoides* and the epizootiology of the pathogens they transmit must be inferred from field-based studies. In this seminar, several field-based approaches to studying the ecology of North American *Culicoides* will be presented, with special emphasis on spatial ecology, host interactions, phenology, and vector incrimination of *Culicoides* species in the US.

Refreshments will be served in the Entomology Building Courtyard at 3:00pm