**Assistant Professor, Agronomic Crops Entomology**

The Tidewater Agricultural Research and Extension Center (TAREC), in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech, seeks an Assistant Professor in Entomology or a closely related field with state-wide crop responsibilities of cotton, peanuts, grain crops (corn, wheat and barley) and soybeans in Virginia. This is a 12-month, tenure track faculty position, with an appointment of 50% Cooperative Extension (Virginia Cooperative Extension Service) 50% research (Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station). The successful candidate’s tenure home will be the Department of Entomology on the main campus (<https://www.ento.vt.edu>). This position is eligible to be part of the Center for Advanced Innovation in Agriculture as well as contribute to Virginia’s Smart Farm Innovation Network.

The candidate will be expected to develop an innovative and vigorous regional, national and internationally recognized, externally funded Extension and research program focused on state-wide integrated pest management to mitigate insect losses in cotton, peanuts, grain crops, and soybeans. These crops occupy a large and diverse geographic area and constitute $546.8 million in farm gate value to the Commonwealth (2022).

Extension responsibilities will focus on developing recommendations and delivery of timely technical training to county Extension agents, farmers (stakeholders), and crop advisors through a combination of applied research, print and electronic resources, face-to-face meetings, field days, and farm visits. The candidate will develop and deliver sound insect pest management guidelines to empower stakeholders to make better decisions. The candidate will address current and emerging insect pest issues pertaining to agronomic cropping systems in conjunction with faculty specializing in agronomy, disease management, precision agriculture, and other appropriate fields of study.

The incumbent is also expected to develop a balanced applied and basic research program that generates new knowledge to solve relevant insect pest issues that impact agronomic crops. This includes developing and implementing novel insect pest management practices that integrate current and emerging technologies into Virginia and Mid-Atlantic agronomic cropping systems. Research effort carries with it an explicit expectation of excellence in competitive grantsmanship and timely communication of scholarship and research findings via peer reviewed/refereed journal articles. The candidate is expected to develop a strong program in collaboration with other faculty at the Tidewater AREC as well as other ARECs and campus faculty appropriate to specific projects. International engagement and recognition are encouraged and expected as your career advances.

The candidate will be expected to recruit and mentor graduate students and participate in offering online courses where appropriate. Involvement with graduate education is highly desirable in order to develop the next generation of Extension agents, specialists, entomologists, farmers, and crop advisers through mentoring and training of graduate students. Finally, the successful candidate will be expected to provide service to the TAREC, department, college, university and state as the successful candidate’s expertise allows.

**Required Qualifications:**

* Ph.D. in Entomology or equivalent discipline with a concentration in Entomology by appointment start date.
* Effective communication and interpersonal skills.
* Capacity for effective instruction and mentoring of graduate students.
* Proven ability to publish in refereed journals.
* An ability to establish funding to support applied and basic research.
* An ability to establish an effective outreach presence in the Tidewater Region of Virginia, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the nation.
* Experience working in an interdisciplinary environment.
* An ability to obtain a Virginia Commercial Pesticide License (Category 10) within 12 months of hire date.
* Experience with field crop production systems.

**Preferred Qualifications:**

* Previous experience working with stakeholders, disseminating information, and implementing Extension programs.
* Experience in insect identification.
* Experience conducting applied field research.
* Demonstrated ability to secure extramural funding.
* Ability to deliver information and tools via modern media technologies to diverse audiences.
* Ability to effectively manage staff and graduate students.

Tidewater AREC (<http://www.arec.vaes.vt.edu/tidewater/index.html>) is located in Suffolk, Virginia, a diverse, growing community with convenient access to metropolitan areas of Norfolk, Virginia Beach and Newport News while being situated in the rural setting of western Tidewater. The 8 faculty and 13 full time staff at the TAREC specialize in research and extension programs directed at addressing critical issues in production of agronomic crops including corn, cotton, peanut, small grains, sorghum, soybean and commercial swine production.

**Application:**

Applications will be accepted online at <https://careers.pageuppeople.com/968/cw/en-us/job/526021/assistant-professor-agronomic-crops-entomology>. 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, September 15th, 2023 and continue until a suitable candidate is selected. Inquiries concerning the position or application process should be directed to the Search Committee Chair, Dr. David Langston (dblangston@vt.edu, 757-807-3536), Tidewater AREC, 6321 Holland Rd., Suffolk, VA, VA 23437.