



Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences
Citrus Research and Education Center

Citrus Research and Education
Center
700 Experiment Station Road
Lake Alfred, FL 33850-2299
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**POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT # 00014563
REQUISITION # 0803539**

- Title:** Assistant Professor, Vector Entomology/Pathology
- Location:** Citrus Research and Education Center
University of Florida
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS)
Lake Alfred, Florida
- Salary:** Commensurate with Qualifications and Experience
- Review Date:** To ensure full consideration please apply online and submit additional materials by March 1, 2010. Position will remain open until a viable applicant pool is determined.

Duties and Responsibilities

This is a 12-month tenure-accruing position that will be 10% teaching (College of Agricultural and Life Sciences) and 90% research (Florida Agricultural Experiment Station) available in the **Citrus Research and Education Center**, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, at the University of Florida. This assignment may change in accordance with the needs of the unit. A faculty member is sought to examine relationships between microorganisms that cause citrus diseases and the insects that vector these diseases. The goal of this position is to minimize the impact of vector-borne diseases on citrus by devising control strategies based on disruption of the pathogen/vector/host disease interaction. Research should focus on insect vector/pathogen interfaces of significant citrus disease impact. Examples of such disease systems include: 1) native *Brevipalpus* mite species and the citrus leprosis rhabdovirus, 2) introduced Asian citrus psyllid (*Diaphorina citri*) and the citrus huanglongbing pathogen *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus*, and 3) introduced *Toxoptera citricida* brown citrus aphid and citrus tristeza decline and stem-pitting viruses; citrus disease systems that have serious implications for future world citrus production. The faculty member will be expected to examine genetic and physiological components underlying pathogen/vector competence, assess factors involved in transmission efficiency and pathogenicity, and utilize discovery to design and implement disease abatement strategies. Collaboration with plant pathologists, entomologists, soil scientists and horticulturists working on disease surveillance and control tactics, and vector, pathogen and host biology is expected. The faculty member will be part of a core team of scientists that respond to the threat of exotic and emerging citrus diseases. Tenure will accrue in the **Department of Entomology and Nematology**. The faculty

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member will participate actively in undergraduate education and graduate education by chairing graduate committees, serving on graduate committees, supervising thesis and dissertation research, supervising undergraduate research, and publishing the results with his/her graduate students. The faculty member will seek contract and grant funding actively to support his/her program. The faculty member will engage in Extension activities in his or her program area. All IFAS faculty are expected to demonstrate commitment and responsibility to the three functions, teaching, research and extension, of the Land Grant mission.

The successful candidate will engage in scholarly activities related to instruction, including teaching undergraduate and/or graduate courses, advising and mentoring undergraduate and graduate students, participating in curriculum revision and enhancement, seeking funding for the teaching program, supervising undergraduate and graduate research and creative work, publishing teaching-related scholarship, producing learning tools, and engaging in professional development activities related to teaching and advising. Faculty members are encouraged to support and participate in the CALS Honors Program, distance education, and international education.

Qualifications

An earned doctorate in **Entomology** or a closely related discipline is required. Postdoctoral experience is highly desirable. Candidates should have demonstrated skills in verbal and written communication, interpersonal relationships, and procurement of extramural funding. Candidates must be supportive of the mission of the Land-Grant system. Candidates must also have a commitment to IFAS core values of excellence, diversity, global involvement, and accountability. Proven experience in vector biology and pathology is required. Desired expertise areas include molecular biology, cell biology, behavioral ecology, physiology and/or genetics of arthropod vectors as related to their interactions with pathogens affecting plant production. Previous experience with fundamental investigations of pathogen acquisition and transmission with the applied goals of mitigating disease spread is an asset, but not required.

Background Information:

The successful candidate will be located at the Citrus Research and Education Center, Lake Alfred, FL. The CREC is an internationally recognized research center with research, extension, and teaching programs in agricultural engineering, biotechnology, breeding and genetics, horticulture, economics, entomology and nematology, plant pathology, physiology and biochemistry, post-harvest, soil science, water management, fresh fruit handling and processing. The Center has a staff of 200 people comprised of 33 faculty members of the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. See the CREC website for more information (<http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu>).

The University of Florida (<http://www.ufl.edu>) is a Land-Grant and Sea-Grant institution, encompassing virtually all academic and professional disciplines, with an enrollment of more than 48,000 students. UF is a member of The Association of American Universities. The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (<http://ifas.ufl.edu>) includes the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (<http://cals.ufl.edu>), the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station (<http://research.ifas.ufl.edu>), the Florida Cooperative Extension Service (<http://extension.ifas.ufl.edu>), the College of Veterinary Medicine (<http://www.vetmed.ufl.edu>), and encompasses 15 academic departments and the School of Forest Resources and Conservation, 9 interdisciplinary centers, 13 research and educational centers throughout the state, and Cooperative Extension units in each of Florida's 67 counties and the Seminole Tribe. The

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School of Natural Resources and Environment is an interdisciplinary unit housed in IFAS and managed by several colleges on campus. IFAS employs over 3400 people, which includes approximately 950 faculty and 2450 support personnel located in Gainesville and throughout the state. IFAS, one of the nation's largest agricultural and natural resources research and education organizations, is administered by a Senior Vice President and four deans: the Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, the Dean for Extension and Director of the Florida Cooperative Extension Service, the Dean for Research and Director of the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, and the Dean for the College of Veterinary Medicine. UF/IFAS also engages in cooperative work with Florida A&M University in Tallahassee.

Employment Conditions

This position is available **July 1, 2010**, and will be filled as soon thereafter as an acceptable applicant is available. Compensation is commensurate with the education, experience, and qualifications of the selected applicant.

Nominations

Nominations are welcome. Nominations need to include the complete name and address of the nominee. This information should be sent to:

Please refer to Position # 00014563
Dr. Larry Duncan
Chair, Search and Screen Committee
University of Florida
Citrus Research and Education Center
700 Experiment Station Road
Lake Alfred, FL 33850-2299
Telephone: 863-956-1151 extension 1299
Facsimile: 863-956-4631
Electronic Mail: lwdduncan@ufl.edu

Application Information

- Individuals wishing to apply must go online to <https://jobs.ufl.edu> and submit:
 - Faculty Profile – Short Application
 - Cover letter that states applicant's interest in the position and qualifications relative to the credentials listed above
 - Resume
- Official transcripts showing receipt of the doctoral degree and three letters of recommendation should be sent to Dr. Larry Duncan (see above).

The University of Florida is an equal opportunity and equal access employer. The "government in the sunshine" laws of Florida require that all documents relating to the search process, including letters of application, nomination, and reference, except transcripts, be available for public inspection. Persons with disabilities have the right to request and receive reasonable accommodation.

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