

Bug-Wise

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Who Can I Call About Insect Problems?: The table on the back list the areas of expertise and provides contact information for the extension entomology specialists working in Mississippi. You may want to file this away for future reference as to who to contact about specific insect-related issues. But first we would like to introduce you to two new additions to the extension entomology faculty and provide a brief overview of the extension entomology team.

Dr. Jeff Harris came to MSU in July of this year to serve as Extension Apiculture Specialist. Dr. Harris will provide training and support to both commercial and hobby beekeepers. Jeff brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to this position, having worked as a commercial beekeeper himself, and, having served on the faculty of the USDA, ARS Honey Bee Breeding, Genetics, and Physiology Research Laboratory at Baton Rouge for the past 15 years. The beekeeping industry has faced many new and difficult challenges in recent years and we are fortunate to have Dr. Harris here to assist Mississippi beekeepers.

Dr. John Guyton also came to the department this June, transferring from the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Dr. Guyton will cover 4-H entomology and coordinate the annual Bug and Plant Camp. John has been one of the key coordinators of Bug Camp since it was first initiated by Dr. Mike Williams. Bug Camp is attended by campers from all over the nation, with ages ranging from ten to adult. Dr. Guyton has an infectious enthusiasm for science and biology and a long, successful history of training and motivating youth and adults in these areas. We are pleased to have him on board to invigorate the 4-H Entomology Program.

Other Extension Entomology Specialists include:

Dr. Jerome Goddard has been with the department for four years. Jerome covers medical and veterinary entomology issues across the state. Dr. Goddard specializes in ticks and bed bugs, but he can be contacted for information and advice on anything insect-related to human or animal health, such as mosquitoes, ticks, bed bugs, lice, biting flies, or cattle or poultry pests.

Dr. Angus Catchot is the person to contact about insect problems in any of the major row crops: cotton, corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, as well as wheat or stored grain.

Dr. Blake Layton covers insect problems affecting homeowners, including household and structural pests, as well as insect pests of home vegetable gardens and ornamental plants. Blake also covers insect pests of commercial horticulture and vegetable crops, as well as hay and forage crops.

Mr. Elmo Collum, located at the Central Mississippi Research and Extension Center in Raymond, is our state pesticide applicator training specialist, covering both commercial and private applicator training. Elmo works across multiple disciplines, providing training on safe handling and use of insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, and other agriculture-related chemicals.

About Our New Department Name: In November of 2011 the department of Entomology and Plant Pathology merged with the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Our new department name is longer, but aptly descriptive. We are in the **Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Entomology and Plant Pathology** (often abbreviated as **BCH-EPP**). **Dr. Scott Willard** serves as our Department Head.

Blake Layton, Extension Entomologist