PMU Focus - Mosquitoes, Zika, IPM, Schools, and OSHA

By: Faith Oi

It was bound to happen: “Millions of bees dead after ….sprays for Zika mosquito...” (https://goo.gl/a6n606). In response, the many of us from the Entomological Society of America worked to develop the following statement which can be found at (https://goo.gl/3jevMu). Please share liberally. The key to control is destruction of larval habitats (eliminating standing water) and civic engagement (i.e., everyone pitches in):

Effective Mosquito Management Starts with an IPM Approach

“Mosquito-borne diseases such as Zika, dengue, and West Nile raise significant public health concerns that motivate well-intentioned efforts to manage mosquito populations. The Entomological Society of America (ESA) advocates pest control that is based on the science-based and well-understood principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). IPM is a comprehensive approach to dealing with pests using strategies that are effective, economically sound, and ecologically compatible.

Recent news reports have attributed harm to honey bees in Dorchester County, South Carolina to the aerial application of a mosquito control product. This unfortunate incident is a reminder that all public health agencies must adopt IPM principles for pest and disease control, including the important
step of informing and engaging all stakeholders.

IPM for mosquitoes involves identification of mosquito species and surveillance of their populations at all life stages. When populations of mosquitoes (immatures, adults, and especially pathogen-infected females which feed on blood) reach action levels, public health officials take steps to lower those populations using a variety of tactics that may include draining standing water to reduce populations of immature mosquitoes, releasing fish that eat immature mosquitoes, and treating immature and adult mosquitoes with pesticides. When mosquito populations need to be managed, professionals should use science-based IPM tactics that are effective, minimize harm to the public and the environment (including insect pollinators), and are sustainable. These tactics also extend to minimizing harm to honey bees and other pollinators. Although insect pollinators may be sensitive to some of the products used for mosquito control, their risk can be effectively managed by applying them in ways that maximize exposures to mosquitoes and minimize exposures to pollinators.

Protecting the public from insect-borne diseases is a community effort, and thus all stakeholders should be consulted and fully informed of the complete strategy for implementing IPM. The ESA supports further research efforts to develop a comprehensive understanding of the public health risks from insect-borne diseases, and, most importantly, urges all agencies to develop strategies that are consistent with IPM principles."

If you are a **school official** concerned about how to handle Zika, please refer to the CDC website which also includes references to OSHA requirements:  

Direct link to **OSHA Requirements and Zika**:  

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**Career Opportunities!**

Some opportunities posted here:  https://pmu.ifas.ufl.edu/pest-management-careers

**Upcoming Training Opportunities:**

...Did you know that PMU can help you by
• Partially satisfying the 482/5E-14 requirement for initial technician training hours?

Our Oct 12-14 Termite Masters and Nov 9-11 L&O Masters courses are open! (Oct 26-28 GHP Masters is full; waitlist only.) The state has graciously allowed us to hold the state certified operator examination at the end of each Masters course. We hold optional reviews in the evenings. To qualify, you must:

• Take the Foundations and Masters courses for GHP, WDO, or L&O

• Fill out an application package for the certified operator exam either
  o Online; deadline one week before exam

October 2016 Offerings:

Foundations of Lawn and Ornamental Pest Management
Date: October 5-7, 2016; Wed-Fri
Time: 8 AM-5 PM (W, TH); 8 AM-12 PM (F)
Place: UF/IFAS Apopka MREC, 2725 S. Binion Rd, Apopka, FL 32703-8504
Registration fee: $375

• Learn about the general Florida licensing requirements for technicians and sales staff.

• Be able to pass DACS vehicle inspections, practice doing a spill drill, and learn the best ways to minimize risks before, during, and after an application.

• Learn to identify diseases, insects, and weeds in lawns and ornamentals and best management practices for their control.

• Gain hands on experience reading and understanding pesticide labels, calculating treatment areas, and calibrating application equipment for lawns, shrubs, and other ornamental plants.

Register here

WDO Inspections and Form 13645
(2 seats remaining)
Date: October 6-7, 2016; Thurs-Fri
Time: 8 AM-5 PM (TH); 8 AM-12 PM (F)
Place: UF/IFAS Apopka MREC, 2725 S. Binion Rd, Apopka, FL 32703-8504
Registration fee: $220
• Do a WDO inspection at PMU’s house designed to challenge even experienced inspectors and much more!
• Learn the proper determination of “live, damage and evidence” and how to use DACS 13645.
• Learn about legal and regulatory issues associated with WDOs and contracts from Paul Mitola (FDACS) and Mark Ruff, industry attorney.
• Review WDO biology and behavior.

[Register here](https://example.com/register)

**Master of Termite Management** (Must have completed Foundations in order to advance.)

**FULL; WAITLIST ONLY. Next course: May 24-26, 2017.**

**Date:** October 12-14, 2016; Wed-Fri  
**Time:** 8 AM-5 PM (W, TH); 8 AM-12 PM (F)  
**Place:** UF/IFAS Apopka MREC, 2725 S. Binion Rd, Apopka, FL 32703-8504  
**Registration fee:** $375  
Review termite identification, biology and control and learn about wood-destroying beetles and wood-decaying fungi.  
Learn how:

• To do a proper borate application  
• Baits work  
• To use foam and application techniques to optimize the distribution of liquid termiticides in soil with the Bayer University toys  
• Learn about legal and regulatory issues associated with WDOs and contracts from Paul Mitola (FDACS) and Mark Ruff, industry attorney  
• Do an abbreviated WDO inspection at PMU’s house designed to challenge even experienced inspectors and much more!

[Register here](https://example.com/register)

**Master of General Household Pest Management** (Must have completed Foundations in order to advance.)

**FULL; WAITLIST ONLY. Next course: April 26-28, 2017.**

**Date:** October 26-28, 2016; Wed-Fri  
**Time:** 8 AM-5 PM (W, TH); 8 AM-12 PM (F)  
**Place:** UF/IFAS Apopka MREC, 2725 S. Binion Rd, Apopka, FL 32703-8504
Registration fee: $375

This fast-paced class is only offered once a year. Must have completed Foundations in order to advance.

- Learn about biting and stinging insects, stored product pests, and occasional invaders as well as how to recognize delusory parasitosis.
- Play with the tools of the trade, vacuums, steamers, foamers and practice spray patterns.
- Prepare for an introduction to vertebrate pests that carry disease causing organisms.
- Learn about the legal liabilities of GHP work.
- Practice affidavit writing and working with DACS on licensee inspections.

Register here

December Course

Expert of Termite Management (Must have completed Foundations and Masters in order to advance.)

Date: December 7-9, 2016; Wed-Fri
Time: 8 AM-5 PM (W, TH); 8 AM-12 PM (F)
Place: UF/IFAS Apopka MREC, 2725 S. Binion Rd, Apopka, FL 32703-8504
Registration fee: $375

Click on "Register here" for course descriptions or go to http://pmu.ifas.ufl.edu/courses for more information

Learn more from IFAS

- UF/IFAS has Extension Offices in each of Florida’s sixty-seven counties. We also have twelve Research and Education Centers (RECs) and Research and Demonstration Sites (RDSs).
- If you need help a great place to start is your local County Extension Office. With an office located in every county it has never been easier to partner with the University of Florida and your local County Government. To find an office near
you please visit: http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/map/