

Entomological Society of America Plant-Insect Ecosystems Section

January 2017 – Special Announcement

<http://www.entsoc.org/pie>



*The P-IE Governing Council Announces
a New Activity!*

*Your feedback is requested on a proposed P-IE
Science Policy Field Tour:
Balancing Pest Management and Pollinator Health*

Background: At the P-IE Annual Business Meeting, held in conjunction with the International Congress of Entomology (ICE) in Orlando, FL in 2016, a symposium was presented that aligned to the new P-IE Pollinator Initiative. In particular, P-IE Section members were especially hopeful about the future of pollinators and related issues after hearing the Mississippi success story. Dr. Jeff Harris, Extension Specialist in Apiculture, Mississippi State University, presented the story in his talk, "Finding Common Ground Among People with Different Perspectives of the Pesticide-Pollinator Conflict." Positive feedback about Dr. Harris' presentation was brought forward to individual P-IE Governing Council members and at the P-IE feedback session held at the conclusion of ICE. During this feedback session, incoming P-IE President, Melissa Siebert shared an idea for a P-IE activity to build on the interest in Dr. Harris' talk. Rayda Krell, ESA Science Policy Fellow and P-IE Section Member, has enthusiastically coordinated with the Governing Council in shaping the activity.

Activity Proposed: P-IE will coordinate a science policy field tour in Mississippi with the cooperation from Mississippi State University to bring together P-IE Members and stakeholders, including those from government, science policy advocates, policymakers, and private and public sector scientists. The field tour will enable hands-on understanding of pollinators and the many issues on which they intersect, including: pollinator habitat, pests of pollinators, insect pests of economic importance, and row crop production (cotton, soybean, corn). The field tour will facilitate candid discussions with the goal of learning from a locally-executed case study in Mississippi, leveraging

best practices to other agroecosystems, and developing an action plan on how policies can be shaped to balance crop production and pollinator health.

Importance of the Proposed Activity:

- The field tour aligns to the new P-IE Pollinator Initiative launched in December 2015 with the goal of providing technical educational materials to members and to leverage this knowledge to the public, media, policymakers, and other key stakeholders.
- The P-IE Section will develop a reputation of bringing together stakeholders from diverse geographical and philosophical viewpoints, and research areas to share ideas, learn from each other through a specific case study, and to use the venue to capture opportunities and best practices that can be leveraged.
- A successful field tour for this Mississippi case study can serve as a precedent for the development of future field tours in other locations, perhaps annually, to address other pollinator case studies or other entomological concerns – such as ESA Grand Challenges related to invasive species and sustainable agriculture.

More Proposed Event Specifics:

- Intimate event with no more than 50 attendees.
- Attendee openings designated for invited stakeholders (~25).
- Attendee openings designation for P-IE Section Members (~25).
 - P-IE Section Members will apply to attend. Selection process will be led by the P-IE Pollinator Committee and approved by the P-IE Governing Council to ensure a balance of P-IE Section members across regions and sectors, and representation of students and professionals.
- Similar to a Society meeting, a registration fee will be assessed, but would include all expenses, including food, hotel, and transportation in Mississippi once the tour begins.
 - Attendees would be responsible for travel to the starting location.
- Without subsidies, registration fees are anticipated to exceed \$500 per person.
- The P-IE section will pledge to contribute P-IE funds to subsidize the overall cost for hosting 50 people and to enable a registration cost for the entire event of closer to \$500.
- Participants will make a three-day commitment, with arrival at their leisure to Jackson, MS for a starting evening reception on Day 1 and departure from Jackson, MS at the end of Day 3. See below “Field Tour Highlights”.
- Timing is tentatively scheduled for August 22-24, 2017.
- Any contributions from P-IE Section Member or organizations will enable scholarships for P-IE members, stakeholders, or fund aspects of the event thus reducing overall registration costs.

**Please provide any feedback, general recommendations to
Melissa Siebert (mwillrichsiebert@dow.com) or
Rayda Krell (krellr@wcsu.edu).**

Proposed Field Tour Highlights:

- Meeting hosted by Mississippi Farm Bureau at their state headquarters to discuss the development of the Mississippi Honey Bee Stewardship Program and learn how crop production and beekeeping members of Farm Bureau found common ground in the development of the program.
- In-field interaction with a local beekeeper, and gather feedback on Mississippi Honey Bee Stewardship Program in practice.
- Overview and in-field viewing of economically important insect pests of Mississippi crops and understanding of Integrated Pest Management programs developed, including in-field discussions with an agricultural consultant and grower.
- Hands-on learning about aerial pesticide applications, innovative technology used to enable safe applications, and view an actual field application.
- View an established conservation program.
- Tour Mississippi State University Delta Research and Extension Center in Stoneville, MS. View crop planter demonstration, research plots, and overview of pollinator-related research conducted.
- Interactive working session in which attendees discuss key points learned from the field tour based on the practices Mississippi stakeholders employed to enable stewardship program success. Discussion points, knowledge gained, and best practices developed from the Mississippi “case study” will be formally summarized in a report following the field tour, which will be leveraged by tour attendees and made available to the broad public.

P-IE Governing Council

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