

Graduate Research Assistantship (PhD) – Brown Marmorated Stink Bug Ecology

We seek a highly motivated student who holds an MS degree (Entomology or Biology) to conduct basic and applied research on aspects of brown marmorated stink bug ecology and behavior that relate to mitigating its status as an agricultural and/or nuisance pest, beginning Spring semester, 2017. The student will be co-advised by Drs. Chris Bergh (Virginia Tech, Winchester, VA) and Tracy Leskey (USDA ARS Appalachian Fruit Research Station, Kearneysville, WV), who will assist the candidate with developing specific project objectives, questions, and potential experimental approaches. Prior to completing the academic program, field research during the summer will be conducted at the Virginia Tech's tree fruit and wine grape Research and Extension Center in Winchester (<http://www.arec.vaes.vt.edu/alson-h-smith/>).

Upon completion of required course credits in Blacksburg, the student will be expected to reside in Winchester for the remainder of the program. The Entomology program at the Winchester station includes a large and well-equipped laboratory, greenhouse space, dedicated vehicles, and summer student assistants annually. The candidate would also have access to Dr. Leskey's facility and equipment in Kearneysville (about a 45 min drive from Winchester).

The candidate should possess excellent oral and written proficiency in the English language, have strong academic credentials, demonstrable productivity from the MS program, and should be able to work independently and as part of a group. A competitive stipend and tuition is in place for the duration of the program.

For further information, please submit a cover letter describing career goals and research interests, curriculum vitae, academic transcript, and the name and full contact information for three references to Dr. Chris Bergh (cbergh@vt.edu; 540-869-2560 ext. 32).