Navigating the trade-off between pest management and pollinator conservation in cucurbitis

General Field of the Project:
Ecology / agricultural biology

Faculty Mentor of the Project:
Dr. Karen Goodell, EEOB, goodell.18@osu.edu

Project Description:
This project seeks to understand the interplay among pesticide applications, pest control, the health of biocontrol arthropods (e.g., spiders), and pollination services provided by wild and domesticated bees in pumpkin farms throughout Ohio. Ultimately, we aim to generate data that will help inform pesticide management strategies that provide adequate pest control while minimizing harm to beneficial arthropods.

Position Description: This paid, fulltime research position is expected to begin June 1 and end August 20, with opportunities to continue working into the Autumn Semester, as schedule allows. Qualifications: Current OSU undergraduate pursuing a degree in entomology, ecology and evolution, biology, zoology, natural resources, or related field in good academic standing. Ability to work early mornings is required (earliest pick-up time from home is 5:00AM). Continued enrollment as an undergraduate in Autumn Semester 2018 is strongly preferred. Some field research or experience with insects and plants is preferred. Access to personal vehicle is preferred, but not required. Tasks and responsibilities include documenting and collecting pest insects on pumpkin plants, documenting pumpkin plant health, collecting and processing plant specimens, processing plant, insect, and soil specimens in the laboratory, and data entry / database management.

Target Audience: Student pursuing a degree in entomology, ecology and evolution, biology, zoology, natural resources, or related field is preferred; At least one course in at least one of the above disciplines is required. No minimum GPA is required

Required or desired skills or qualifications:
Ability to work outdoors in the summer is required. Basic insect identification skills are desired but not required. All relevant training will be provided while on the job.

Time Commitment: 35 hours per week, beginning Summer 2018 and into the first half of Autumn Semester 2018 if the student’s schedule allows.

Compensation:
The student will earn a wage of $10 per hour for the duration of the project.

What is the application deadline?
We will begin screening candidates in mid-April, but will accept applications until the position is filled.

How/who should interested applicants contact?
Please email Dr. James Hung, the postdoctoral researcher managing the project, at hung.205@osu.edu.

What information should applicants provide?
Please provide transcript, CV, a statement outlining relevant past experience and reason for interest in this position, and contact information for three references.