Postdoctoral Researcher – Ecology and Physiology of the New World Screwworm

Auburn University, Department of Entomology & Plant Pathology

Join the front line of the screwworm invasion

We're looking for a postdoctoral researcher to join a newly funded USDA project investigating one of the most important livestock pests threatening North America: the New World screwworm.

This two-year position will investigate how host use, physiological performance, and climate shape the spread of the New World screwworm. The project combines international field ecology, stable isotope analysis, and physiological ecology. The successful applicant will spend time working in **Mexico and Panama** alongside USDA APHIS collaborators while being based at Auburn University in Alabama.

What you'll do

- Design and lead field sampling campaigns in Mexico and Panama
- Conduct stable isotope analyses (δ13C, δ15N, δ18O, δ34S)
- Measure insect thermal tolerance and desiccation resistance
- Collaborate with the USDA APHIS trapping network
- Lead manuscripts for peer-reviewed publication

We're looking for someone with experience in one or more of the following:

- Field ecology
- Physiological ecology
- Stable isotope ecology
- Entomology
- Wildlife biology
- Quantitative ecology

Qualifications

Applicants should have completed a Ph.D. in ecology, entomology, biology, wildlife science, or a related discipline before the start date.

Experience with stable isotope techniques is a plus but not required. Spanish language skills are also a plus.

Salary

$52,000–58,000 per year (negotiable based on experience), plus benefits.

Funding is available for **two years**.

Application

Send a brief cover letter and CV to Dr. Clint Penick (czp0134@auburn.edu) – www.penicklab.com

Research Technician – Field & Laboratory Ecology

Auburn University, Department of Entomology & Plant Pathology

Join the front line of the screwworm invasion

We're looking for a motivated research technician to join a newly funded USDA project investigating one of the most important livestock pests threatening North America: the New World screwworm.

This two-year position will investigate how host use, physiological performance, and climate shape the spread of the New World screwworm. The project combines international field ecology, stable isotope analysis, and physiological ecology. The successful applicant will assist with fieldwork in **Mexico and Panama** alongside USDA APHIS collaborators while being based at Auburn University in Alabama.

Responsibilities

- Assist with field sampling campaigns in Mexico and Panama
- Prepare samples for stable isotope analyses ($\delta^{13}C$, $\delta^{15}N$, $\delta^{18}O$, $\delta^{34}S$)
- Assist with insect thermal tolerance and desiccation experiments
- Maintain laboratory samples and equipment
- Organize field and laboratory data
- Coordinate logistics with USDA APHIS collaborators
- Support undergraduate researchers and general laboratory activities

Qualifications

Required:

- B.S. or M.S. in biology, ecology, entomology, wildlife biology, or related field
- Strong organizational skills
- Ability to work independently and as part of a collaborative team
- Willingness to travel internationally and work in field conditions

Preferred:

- Previous laboratory research experience
- Field ecology experience
- Experience working with insects
- Spanish language skills

Salary

$32,000–36,000/year (negotiable based on experience), plus benefits.

Funding is available for **two years**.

Application

Send a brief cover letter and CV to Dr. Clint Penick (czp0134@auburn.edu) – www.penicklab.com