UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA
IFAS Extension

Linking the People's Republic of China to the International Distance Diagnostic and Identification System Network

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Bio-Information

Dr. Pete Vergot III, Associate Professor & District Extension Director **– Project Leader**
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Dr. Vergot is directly involved with the communications and training of the DDIS system internationally, Dr. Vergot is a member and trainer of the International Plant Diagnostic Network. He has over 24 years working in Agriculture Education and Extension. Currently serving as the District Extension Director for University of Florida IFAS Extension, Northwest District Dr. Vergot works with over 70 County Extension Faculty in sixteen local counties of Northwest Florida. Dr. Vergot's major assignments include County Operations of Extension programs through the Northwest Extension District network of county offices, statewide International Extension training and program leadership and development and training for Information Technologies used by Extension faculty. He is currently President for the Association for International Agricultural and Extension Education.

Dr. Jiannong Xin, Senior Associate In, Office of Information Technologies
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Dr. Jiannong Xin is a specialist in IT applications in agriculture. He is a project lead in Information Technology with agricultural background at the University of Florida. He is the lead developer of the Diagnostic Network for University of Florida, International Plant Diagnostic Network, and Caribbean Regional Diagnostic Network. He has served as leaderships and active members of professional societies of American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE), CIGR, International Network for Information Technology in Agriculture (INFITA), and Association of Overseas Chinese Agricultural, Biological, and Food Engineers (AOC). He has served as organizing chair of several International Conferences on Computers in Agriculture and Natural Resources. He is current board members of CIGR, Florida Agricultural Emergency Response Team, and AOC. He is author or co-authors of over 60 publications. Dr. Xin is bilingual in the Chinese language.

Ms. Theresa Friday, Courtesy Agent, Santa Rosa County, MAg
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Ms. Theresa Friday is Santa Rosa County's Residential Horticulture Agent. Ms. Friday has assisted in field testing and developing the UF IFAS Extension Distance Diagnostics Identification System (DDIS). Ms. Friday coordinates the Santa Rosa County Master Gardener volunteer program. Volunteers complete an intensive course to learn about gardening. These trained volunteers then advise County residents on proper horticultural techniques. Ms. Friday is a graduate of the University of Florida with a degree in Environmental Horticulture specializing in landscape maintenance and nursery management. She received her Masters of Agriculture in Education and Communications from the University of Florida in 2005.

Ms. Teresa Olczyk, Miami-Dade County Extension Agent, MS
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Ms. Olczyk has 11 years of experience in providing extension educational programs in vegetable crops production, water and nutrient management, postharvest and Best Management Practices to the Miami-Dade County commercial vegetable growers. Currently her major responsibilities include extension programs for the largest in the state of Florida ornamental nursery industry in plant production practices, pest identification and control, and water and nutrient management for over 1,600 ornamental nurseries, located in Miami-Dade County. Teresa received her Masters of Horticulture degree from the Warsaw Agricultural University in Poland.

Mr. Lyle J Buss, Senior Biological Scientist, Entomology and Nematology, M.S.
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Mr. Lyle Buss is a key diagnostician and manager of the pest diagnostic lab at the University of Florida. His diagnostic laboratory is certified by the National Plant Diagnostic Network/Southern Plant Diagnostic Network. Mr. Buss has extensive experience on pest diagnosis through digital and live samples managing the Insect Identification Lab, handling approximately 500 actual samples and 200 digital image samples per year. He received a Master of Science in Entomology, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan in 1997.

Project Abstract

Plant and animal insects and diseases cause significant economic losses throughout the world. Therefore, their effects are felt wherever nations export farm products and families obtain their livelihood from farming. While integrated management strategies have been developed for many plant and animal insects and diseases, they are not always available to research scientists, extension workers and farmers. This project would establish discussions and projects on the benefits of a web-based rapid digital diagnosis system for animal and plant insect and disease problems. University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences has developed the Distance Diagnostic and Identification System (DDIS) for an international network.

The DDIS system is designed specifically for university agricultural specialists, diagnostic laboratories, and first detectors in the field. DDIS provides a collaboration and communication tool for first detectors, extension specialists and diagnosticians to share information on plant and animal problems. The system uses field data and digital media as tools for enhancement of diagnosis of plant disease, insect, weed, invasive species, plant management, physiology, and nutrient problems. Through interactions across the Internet between extension agents, scientists and specialists, problems can be quickly communicated and assessed. Scientists across the world can perform diagnosis and identification and provide best management practice recommendations to the first detectors in the field across the globe. The archived DDIS database becomes a resource for research, educational programs, and classroom teaching.

University of Florida IFAS Extension

Extension is a partnership between state, federal, and county governments to provide scientific knowledge and expertise to the public. The University of Florida (UF) administers the Florida Cooperative Extension Service. At the University of Florida, Extension is located in the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS), along with the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS) and the Florida Agricultural Research and Education Center, and is called UF/IFAS Extension.

UF/IFAS Extension encompasses thousands of Extension faculty members, scientists, educators, administrative staff, and volunteers, all working to provide solutions for your life. Dr. Larry Arrington is the director of UF/IFAS Extension.