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## Past Issues

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## Online Training Available:

<http://pmu.ifas.ufl.edu/>

## Pest Management in and Around Structures:

<http://www.eXtension.org/>

## School IPM Focus- October is Farm to School Month and Children's Health Month



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

spend on locally purchased foods.

In the late 1990's a few pilot projects titled *Farm to School* in California and Florida began in schools (K-12) with the goal of enabling every child to have access to nutritious food while simultaneously benefiting communities and farmers. Today, Farm to School is operational in more than 10,000 schools, spans all 50 states, and has resulted in more than \$13 million dollars

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) and the **University of Florida-IFAS Extension** have partnered to strengthen the statewide Farm to School Program. Dr. Danielle Treadwell and Dr. Karla Shelnett lead IFAS' team in this effort. They are joined by 7 full time staff that supports local and statewide program efforts. This month's article will highlight this beneficial program, and how it is working to increase the health and education of children in schools today. For more information on the Farm to School program, click [here](#).

## Farm to School: How it works

Farm to School is broadly defined as a program that connects schools (K-12) and local farms with the objectives of serving healthy meals in school cafeterias, improving student nutrition, providing agriculture, health and nutrition education opportunities, and supporting local and regional farmers. Since each Farm to School program is shaped by its unique community and region, the National Farm to School Network does not prescribe or impose a list of practices or products for the Farm to School approach.



At its core, Farm to School is about establishing relationships between local growers and schools to provide children opportunities to experience healthy foods and understand the role agriculture plays in their lives. Farm to School programs include (but are not limited to):

- Supporting school wellness by assisting schools to earn recognition and a financial award for their efforts through the USDA Food and Nutrition Service's Healthier U.S. School Challenge program (HUSSC)
- Including local products in school meals-breakfast, lunch, afterschool snacks-and in taste tests, educational tools and classrooms snacks
- Introducing food-related curriculum development and experiential learning opportunities through school gardens, farm tours, farmer in the classroom sessions, chefs in the classroom, culinary education, educational sessions for parents and community members and visits to farmers' markets

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## Benefits of Farm to School



- Strengthen children's and communities' knowledge about, and attitudes toward, agriculture, food, nutrition and the environment
- Increase children's healthy food choices by increasing consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables during school breakfast, lunch and snack programs
- Benefit school food budgets, after start-up, if planning and menu choices are made consistent with seasonal availability of fresh and minimally processed whole foods.
- Support economic development across numerous sectors and promote job creation
- Increase market opportunities for farmers, fishers, ranchers, food processors and food manufacturers

- Decrease the distance between producers and consumers, thus promoting food security while reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and reliance on oil



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## Children's Health Month: Increasing Pest Awareness in the Classroom

Schools across the country are making health and education a priority. This allows us, as pest management professionals, to focus on how the many uses of today's classrooms may impact pest issues. No longer do we only use the classroom as a teaching venue. Today, classrooms serve as break rooms, snack rooms, and arts-and-craft shops in addition to educational arenas. The increase of functionality has also resulted in an increase of food in the classrooms. It is logical to assume in nearly every situation that food leads to pests inside the classrooms. With this in mind here are some helpful tips to reducing the likelihood of pests in the classroom:

- Store left over dried foods (rice, pasta, etc.) in sealable storage containers to reduce access to pantry pests
- Vacuum crumbs, wipe up drink spills, and dispose of used food containers and disposed of properly to make living spaces less desirable to pests
- Limit the use of cardboard boxes for storage since pests use these boxes as harborage and breeding sites
- Maintain IPM practices such as de-cluttering and keeping closets/pantries organized

For more information on **De-Cluttering**, controlling **pantry pests**, **staying organized** in the classroom and **Children's Health Month**, click on the bolded orange text!

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## Get your CEUs today! Special School IPM Online Offerings

If you only need a couple of hours, try our online offerings:

**The ABCs of IPM** is available in **English** and **Spanish**. The ABCs of IPM video set is a comprehensive training program for school employees and anyone interested in the basics of IPM in schools.

CEUs: 2 CORE  
Cost: \$20  
Online, available anytime

### Good Neighbor Practices

This module will introduce you to the way we measure pesticide drift. Pesticide drift can happen when chemicals applied on one area move to another area. This movement can be the chemical as it is volatilizing or can be on dust particles that are being blown to another area. Once you learn about drift we will talk about people's perceptions of drift and how you can work to increase your communication with your neighbors and minimize the change of drift around schools. When you are finished watching the tutorial you will be given a 10 question quiz on the material. If you score an 80 on the quiz you will be able to print an FDACS CEU form that you can use the next time you renew your pesticide applicator license. If you do not score an 80 we would encourage you to review the module again and retake the quiz (for no additional charge).

CEUs: 1 CORE  
Cost: \$10  
Online, available anytime

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## Upcoming Training Opportunities

We are in the final stretch of 2013 PMU! **GHP Expert** is now open for registration! Classes are limited to 20 participants, including Masters and Expert levels. Master level classes are only offered once a year. Expert level classes are offered every other year.

### Summary

Click on highlighted course titles for more information or to register.

Nov 6-8, [Foundations of Turfgrass Pest Management](#), **COURSE FULL; CLOSED**

Must advance through Foundations to qualify for these courses:

Nov 13-15, [Termite Masters](#)

Nov 15, Termite and WDO exam (must also meet state requirement; write "PMU" on application)

Must advance through Foundations and Masters for qualify for this course

Dec 4-6, **GHP Expert**

**2014 GHP and Termite Courses are open! Look for more next month.**

### WDO category

Jan 29-31, 2014, [Termite Foundations](#)

Mar 13-14, 2014 (date change from previous announcement), WDO Inspections and Form 13645

July 30, 2014, [Termite Basics](#)

## GHP Category

Feb 13, 2014, Bed Bug Management

Feb 26-28, [GHP Foundations](#)

July 31, 2014, [GHP Basics](#)

## NOVEMBER OFFERINGS

### Foundations of Turfgrass Management

Topics and activities will include

- How to reduce your risk through proper safety training (e.g., pesticide storage, transport, use, and spill management)
- Turfgrass management (e.g., distinguishing grasses, weeds and different pest signs and symptoms; ID of weather-related stresses, compaction, irrigation and mowing problems)
- Understanding pesticide labels, common formulations, integrated pest management, and pesticide resistance management

**Date: Nov 6-8, 2013; W-F**

**COURSE FULL; CLOSED**

**Place: UF/IFAS Apopka MREC**

**Time: 8 AM-5 PM (W, TH); 8 AM-12 PM (F)**

**Cost: \$350**

[Register here](#)

### Master of Termite Management

This fast-paced class is only offered once a year. **Must have completed Foundations in order to advance.**

- Review termite identification, biology and control and learn about wood-destroying beetles and wood-decaying fungi
- Learn how to do a proper borate application
- Do baits work?
- Use foam and application techniques to optimize the distribution of liquid termiticides in soil with the Bayer University tools
- Hear about the top 10 reasons that certified operators get in trouble and how to avoid them from Mark Ruff, industry attorney
- Do an inspection for WDOs at PMU's house designed to challenge even experienced inspectors
- Practice a licensee inspection with a DACS inspector and learn about the duties of a certified operator

**Date: Nov 13-15, 2013; W-F**

**Registration Deadline: Nov 5, 2013; Friday (only 5 slots remaining)**

**Place: UF/IFAS Apopka MREC**

**Time: 8 AM-5 PM (W, TH); 8 AM-12 PM (F)**

**Cost: \$350**

**Register here**

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## News!



We hope you will submit news items and would be happy to help you write a story if you have an idea but don't have the time to write up the information. We like to share news and video when it happens using our social media outlets- **Twitter**, **Facebook** and **YouTube**. When you send news we will post it on one or more of these sites and again in the monthly newsletter. Feel free to send news or announcements as soon as they happen and we will post them. We hope this will get you more visibility. Please send news items to **Michael Bentley**.

Visit our website for back issues of **Florida School IPM News**. You can scan the QR code on the right with your smart phone or tablet to get there faster. You will need a QR code reader!