

EXTENSION PLANT PATHOLOGY & MICROBIOLOGY 2022 ACTIVITIES & IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

DEVELOP AND DELIVER INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR THE DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT OF PLANT DISEASES TO SUPPORT & PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY, HEALTH AND ECONOMIC VIABILITY FOR THE CITIZENS OF TEXAS



KEVIN ONG

- Served as SME, representing the US on the North American Plant Protection Organization expert group on harmonization of ToBRFV testing protocol

- Identified and characterized several novel viruses and genetic variants of exotic viruses infecting cucurbits, olives, wheat, and wine grapes for the first time in Texas and the US; developed education and outreach materials to mitigate their spread

FEMI ALABI



KEN OBASA



- Made advances in applied research to mitigate fumonisin contamination in field corn, a mycotoxin problem that will become exacerbated in Texas as a result of climate change, and identified "Late-season Decline (LSD)", a new bacterial disease impacting corn

TOM ISAKEIT

- Applied research and extension activities addressing the use of biocontrol agents to reduce risks due to mycotoxins on corn, addressing the invasive disease, FOV4, on cotton and to reduce the impact of reniform nematode on cotton

PERSONNEL:
6 EXTENSION SPECIALISTS
3 EXTENSION PROGRAM SPECIALISTS
1 PROGRAM SPECIALIST
TOTAL FTES: 8.75

2022 CONTRACTS AND GRANTS = \$1.66 MILLION

SHEILA MCBRIDE

- Processed 1945 samples at the TPDDL-CS, providing diagnostic support to TDA in their citrus and phytosanitary program

DAVE APPEL



- Received the Southern Division APS - Outstanding Plant Pathologist award and Texas Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture Presidential award of merit

YOUNG-KI JO

- Improved diagnostics of Xylella fastidiosa and leaf dieback, and introduced fungicide resistance management for pecan scab, impacting a \$200 million pecan industry

- Led IR4 program for food safety of specialty crops: 2 projects were completed for 2 specialty crops (sesame and spinach), which contributes to approval of special use permits for pesticides on crops that have limited management options

KIM COCHRAN



PEDRO URIBE

- Surveyed stone fruit trees for PPV, almond witches' broom phytoplasma, European stone fruit yellows phytoplasma, phony peach disease and plum leaf scald, and citrus trees for the quarantine pathogens HLB and citrus canker

AMANDA VITAGGO

- Executed educational training for TDA Pesticide/Plant Quality inspectors and CEAs on survey and detection skills for pests, pathogens and abiotic factors

