

Dr. Hannah J Penn

Bio:

Dr. Penn received her Bachelor of Science in Entomology and Nematology from the University of Florida in 2011 followed by a Ph.D. in Entomology under the direction of Dr. John Obrycki from the University of Kentucky in 2016. Her dissertation research focused on the impacts of on-farm land use on the within-field spatial dynamics of conservation biological control within soybean fields. Following graduation, she was a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Biology at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, where she studied soybean herbivore interactions as well as spatial partitioning of arthropod communities and ant-seed interactions. She was then a postdoctoral researcher at Louisiana State University. While there, she surveyed *Varroa* mite control practices of beekeepers as well as how viruses vectored by the mite impact honey bee foraging decisions. In 2019, she was hired as an assistant professor of integrated pest management at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley in Edinburg, Texas, where she evaluated harvester ant preferences for crop seeds and met with Valley sugarcane growers about the Mexican Rice Borer. Throughout this time, she also worked with economists at Louisiana State University and the Ohio State University to survey soybean growers, beekeepers, and the general public about their insect management and conservation preferences. Dr. Penn was hired as a research entomologist at the USDA ARS Sugarcane unit (Houma, LA) in the summer of 2020.