



College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
Department of Entomology

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Many of you may not know me yet, but my name is Zach DeVries, and I am the new Urban Entomologist for the state of Kentucky, succeeding Dr. Mike Potter. As part of my job, I have the privilege of organizing and chairing the University of Kentucky Pest Control Short Course. This conference has been in operation for 49 years and has a reputation of being one of the premier training events in the country.

As you know, the world is currently facing a pandemic with little historical precedence. COVID-19 has caused major disruptions to our everyday lives, requiring us to make adjustments and sacrifices on a near-daily basis. While we cannot let this virus interfere with the important services we provide, first and foremost, we have a responsibility to protect the health and well-being of our attendees. Therefore, out of an abundance of caution, we have decided to cancel this year's University of Kentucky Pest Control Short Course. This decision does not come lightly and has been made to ensure all our attendees are able to continue working and protecting the health and well-being of those they serve. We hope that you can take this time that you would normally be immersed in pest control education, learning new techniques and networking with others in the profession, and spend it with your family, friends, and loved ones as we all work to get through these tough times together.

In temporary substitution for the training that we will not be able to offer this fall, we will be hosting a series of online webinars for credits, with more details to come later this fall.

Lastly, we want to assure you that the Short Course is not going anywhere! We have been in operation for 49 years, and we are already preparing for our 50th anniversary next fall, scheduled for November 9th-11th 2021. We hope you will put this on your calendar and plan to join us for what is sure to be one of the best conferences to date!

In the meantime, if there is anything I can do for you, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Zach DeVries', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Zachary DeVries
Conference Chairman
Assistant Professor of Urban Entomology