

Opportunity Title: USDA-ARS Postdoctoral Fellowship in Invasion Ecology and the Management of Spotted Lanternflies

Opportunity Reference Code: USDA-ARS-NEA-2025-0141

Organization U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Reference Code USDA-ARS-NEA-2025-0141

How to Apply *To submit your application, scroll to the bottom of this opportunity and click **APPLY**.*

A complete application consists of:

- An application
- Transcript(s) – For this opportunity, an unofficial transcript or copy of the student academic records printed by the applicant or by academic advisors from internal institution systems may be submitted. Click [here](#) for detailed information about acceptable transcripts.
- A current resume/CV, including academic history, employment history, relevant experiences, and publication list
- Two educational or professional recommendations
- A copy of an abstract or reprint of an article

All documents must be in English or include an official English translation.

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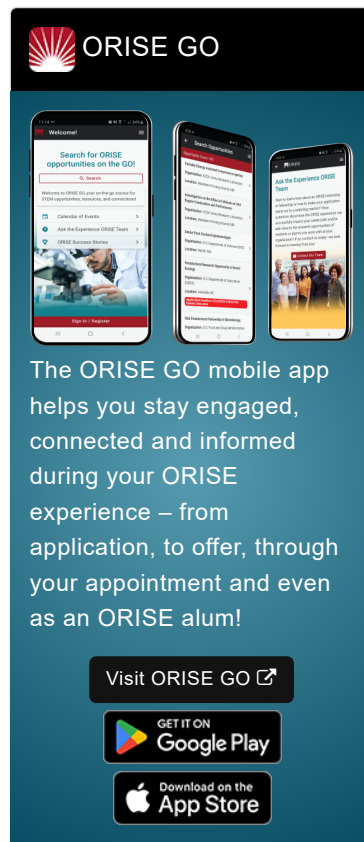
Application Deadline 1/16/2026 10:11:13 AM Eastern Time Zone

Description ***Applications are reviewed on a rolling-basis.**

ARS Office/Lab and Location: A research opportunity is currently available with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), located in Kearneysville, West Virginia at Appalachian Fruit Research Station.

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief scientific in-house research agency with a mission to find solutions to agricultural problems that affect Americans every day from field to table. ARS will deliver cutting-edge, scientific tools and innovative solutions for American farmers, producers, industry, and communities to support the nourishment and well-being of all people; sustain our nation's agroecosystems and natural resources; and ensure the economic competitiveness and excellence of our agriculture. The vision of the agency is to provide global leadership in agricultural discoveries through scientific excellence.

Research Project: The postdoctoral fellow will gain experience by conducting research on the biology, ecology and behavior of the invasive spotted lanternfly, and their impact on grapevines. Areas of research include chemical ecology, insect behavior and integrated pest management with proposed outputs including novel attractants and improved monitoring tools for detecting presence, relative abundance and seasonal activity of spotted lanternfly in vineyards. Under the guidance of a mentor, the fellow



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will conduct independent research in both laboratory and field settings and also participate in multi-institutional team-based research efforts. The fellow will also have the opportunity to analyze and present their data at regional and national conferences and stakeholder events. Additionally, the fellow will have the opportunity to collaborate on additional aspects of this research including eDNA detection methods, dispersal behavior, and biological control.

Learning Objectives: Under the guidance of a mentor, the fellow will learn about and gain experience in:

- Conducting independent research aimed at developing sustainable management tactics for invasive species
- Conducting chemical ecology studies with the invasive spotted lanternfly to identify potential attractants or repellents
- Participating in studies aimed at managing spotted lanternfly at a landscape level
- Collaborating effectively within a multidisciplinary, multi-institutional team.
- Preparing and submitting peer-reviewed publications
- Preparing and presenting presentations at scientific and stakeholder meetings

Mentor(s): The mentor for this opportunity is Tracy Leskey (tracy.leskey@usda.gov). If you have questions about the nature of the research, please contact the mentor(s).

Anticipated Appointment Start Date: January 2026. Start date is flexible and will depend on a variety of factors.

Appointment Length: The appointment will initially be for one year but may be renewed upon recommendation of ARS and is contingent on the availability of funds.

Level of Participation: The appointment is full time.

Participant Stipend: The participant will receive a monthly stipend commensurate with educational level and experience. **The anticipated stipend is \$7,000 monthly.**

Citizenship Requirements: This opportunity is available to U.S. citizens only.

ORISE Information: This program, administered by ORAU through its contract with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to manage the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE), was established through an interagency agreement between DOE and ARS. Participants do not become employees of USDA, ARS, DOE or the program administrator, and there are no employment-related benefits. Proof of health insurance is required for participation in this program. Health insurance can be obtained through ORISE.

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Questions: Please visit our [Program Website](#). After reading, if you have additional questions about the application process, please email ORISE.ARS.Northeast@ornl.gov and include the reference code for this opportunity.

Qualifications The qualified candidate should have received a doctoral degree in one of the relevant fields. Degree must have been received within the past two years.

Preferred skills:

- Strong interest in translational research associated with invasive insect pests in agriculture.
- Experience in chemical ecology, behavioral ecology, scientific writing, and being in both a laboratory and field setting.

Stipend \$7,000.00 Monthly

Point of Contact [Janeen](#)

- Eligibility**
- **Citizenship:** U.S. Citizen Only
- Requirements**
- **Degree:** Doctoral Degree.
 - **Discipline(s):**
 - **Life Health and Medical Sciences** ([6](#) )