**Doctor of Plant Medicine Program**

Steinmetz Hall

Department of Entomology and Nematology

University of Florida, IFAS

1881 Natural Area Drive

Gainesville, FL 32611

Dear Instructor,

I am a graduate student in the Doctor of Plant Medicine Program at the University of Florida, conducting a youth outreach program on plant health and invasive species under the supervision of Dr. Amanda Hodges. The purpose of this study is increase awareness concerning invasive species through the education of middle and high school age youth through educational programming. The results of the study may help state regulatory plant health officials detect arthropod pests and diseases and protect various agricultural commodities. These results may not directly help your students today, but may benefit food security and health of natural ecosystems. With your permission, I would like to ask your classes to participate in this study.

Per our initial correspondence, I will be conducting a series of outreach events. Each event will consist of a pre-survey, short scripted PowerPoint presentation, brief discussion, and hands-on activity. This will be followed by a post-survey that will include the same questions which will help assess knowledge gained amongst your students. The pre- and post-surveys will be recorded anonymously. Participants will not be asked for their name or any other personal information. Survey results will only be reported in the form of group data on a per class basis. Participation or non- participation in this study should not affect the children’s grades or placement in any programs.

The series of presentations will be as follows, and presentation materials can be made available at your request for your review:
1) Introduction to Entomology: this presentation will consist of an 8 question pre- and post-survey.
2) Invasive Species that Affect Plants: presentation materials can be found online at the Protect U.S. Community Invasive Species Network website: <http://www.protectingusnow.org/>. This presentation will consist of an 8 question pre- and post-survey.
3) Plant Biosecurity – Local and Global Perspectives: presentation materials can be found online at the Protect U.S. Community Invasive Species Network and the University of Florida, Entomology website: https://entnemdept.ifas.ufl.edu/hodges/ProtectUs/presentations/Plant\_Biosecurity.pdf. This presentation will consist of an 8 question pre- and post-survey.
4) Careers in Agriculture: this presentation will consist of an 8 question pre- and post-survey.

You have the right to withdraw consent for your class participation at any time without consequence. There are no known risks or immediate benefits to the participants. No compensation is offered for participation. If you have any questions about this research protocol, please contact me at cf1193@ufl.edu or my faculty supervisor, Dr. Amanda Hodges, at achodges@ufl.edu. Questions or concerns about the children’s rights as research participants may be directed to the IRB02 office, University of Florida, Box 112250, Gainesville, FL 32611, (352) 392-0433.

Sincerely,

Craig Frey

I have read the procedure described above. I voluntarily give my consent for my classes, to participate in Craig Frey’s study of plant health and invasive species. I have received a copy of this description.

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          Instructor                                  Date