



## Two Graduate Research Assistantships – Land use effects on insect population dynamics

We are seeking two highly motivated Master's or PhD students to join the Kim Eco Lab in the Department of Entomology at Kansas State University. Members of the Kim Lab study the ecology of plant-insect interactions and how these interactions vary with insect management and land-use change. For more information about our current work, please visit [kimecolab.com](http://kimecolab.com).

### Project 1: Land management and climate effects on insect pollinators in grasslands

The grad student (MSc level) will on projects examining how grassland management and climate affect insect pollinator population dynamics. The research will involve a combination of fieldwork in tallgrass prairie and lab/greenhouse work. Students interested in the fields of insect population ecology and insect taxonomy are encouraged to apply.

### Project 2: Regenerative agricultural management effects on insect pests and beneficial insects in soybean

The graduate student (MSc level or PhD level) will work on projects examining how regenerative land management practices affect the spatial of insect pests and beneficial insects in soybean in Kansas agroecosystems. The research will involve a combination using modeling species occurrences using existing insect data and fieldwork to collect insects in soybean fields. The research sites will mostly be in east-central KS. Students interested in the fields of species occurrence modelling and GIS are encouraged to apply.

**Requirements:** Competitive applicants will have backgrounds in biology, ecology or entomology with an interest in conservation and insect biology. Prior experience doing fieldwork and being part of a research project is desirable. For project 1 (MSc level), applicants with experience in insect taxonomy are preferred. For project 2 (MSc or PhD levels), applicants with strong quantitative skills (GIS, coding) are preferred. Applicants interested in a PhD should have an MSc degree. For both positions, communication skills (oral and writing) are important as is the ability to work on a team.

Both positions will be competitively funded through research assistantships (tuition and stipend). We prefer that the student starts at the beginning of the spring 2027 semester (January 2027), but will consider earlier (fall 2026) or later start dates (summer 2027).

**To apply:** For consideration, please email a cover letter stating your research interests and qualifications, your CV with names and contact information for 3 references, and unofficial transcripts to Dr. Tania Kim ([tkim@ksu.edu](mailto:tkim@ksu.edu)) by July 31, 2026. Please indicate which position you are applying for in your email. We strongly encourage individuals who identify with groups currently under-represented in STEM fields to apply.



## **Information about the Department:**

The Department of Entomology maintains excellent research facilities with state-of-the-art equipment and a research insect collection. It was recently ranked the 4th best Department of Entomology in the world by the Center for World University Rankings; these rankings are based on the number and quality of professional publications produced by the department and quality of faculty research. The college of Agriculture was ranked 8<sup>th</sup> by Niche.com in its annual ranking of the Best Colleges for Agricultural Sciences.

Our mission is to: 1) provide entomological knowledge for a safe, sustainable, and competitive food, feed, and fiber system through integrated research and education; 2) maintain a stakeholder/clientele-driven focus to research, extension, and teaching activities; 3) generate fundamental information for the advancement of science and for applied uses; 4) train students for professions in education, government, business and industry; and 5) disseminate useful, unbiased information.