

Matthew (Matt) Hayes is a senior at Auburn University majoring in Horticulture with a focus in Fruit and Vegetable Production. He currently studies Integrated Pest Management Practices under Dr. Katelyn Kesheimer as an Undergraduate Research Assistant in the Entomology and Plant Pathology Department. Presently, Matt is working on a project that will be presented at the Entomological Society of America Conference this November. The project focuses on implementing entomology and other sciences into various elementary, middle school, and high school classrooms within the community to initiate familiarity with the sciences while promoting the study as a potential career field. Additionally, Matt has assisted with tomato pest trials as a Research Assistant with Dr. Wheeler Foshee in the Department of Horticulture.

Matt was selected as one of four Horticulture students to be awarded the Henry P. Orr Scholarship, allowing him to travel to South Africa in May 2019 to tour horticultural production sites. Overall, he has received 14 scholarships in his student career, thanks to the wonderful donors of Auburn agriculture and other generous programs. Traveling with different organizations and causes has broadened his world view and sense of wonder, consequently bringing to light the potential of working in agriculture abroad. Peru was the first country he visited in 2009, which initially stirred his desire to serve internationally. Since then, he has been able to travel around the world volunteering with nonprofit organizations in Uganda, Rwanda, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic. The drive and passion of Matt's studies is an accumulation of his international travels and his undergraduate experiences. To sum it up, his desire is for community development through applied research in agriculture, focusing on practical methods of pest management in food production.

In his free time, Matt loves traveling with his wife and dogs, and grilling out with friends and family. In the future, Matt plans to attend graduate school to further his studies of Integrated Pest Management and Sustainable Crop Management. Matt hopes to one day have a career focused on Integrated Pest Management in Food Production working with farmers domestic and internationally.