Casey Harris

2612 Emmett Ave. E3

Tifton, GA 31794

Eric Johnson

560 Center St.

Jupiter, FL 33458

June 29, 2014

Dear Glades Crop Care:

I recently completed a master’s degree with a research focus on *Salmonella* in fresh produce irrigation water. My education and work experience have been a combination plant science, ecology, microbiology, and food safety. I currently work at the University of Georgia-Tifton with the Vellidis Research Group, which focuses on precision agriculture, farm irrigation, and climate issues. I am searching for full-time, long-term employment to begin within the next year.

I came across your company while searching for information about becoming an auditor on the PrimusLabs website (two third-party auditors in the southeast U.S. were from Glades Crop Care). Auditing is certainly not my only interest, however; with training, I could be a good candidate for other food safety consulting, crop scouting, or agricultural research. Some skills learned from my previous ecological survey experiences could transfer well to crop scouting.

I would like to assist growers in meeting challenges raised by the new Food Safety Management Act, as well as ongoing climate, water, and pest/disease issues. Please see my attached resume and transcripts, and contact me.

Sincerely,

Casey Harris

[csharris9@gmail.com](mailto:csharris9@gmail.com)

262-844-5017

Casey Harris

csharris9@gmail.com website: <caseyharris.github.io>

**Education**

M.S. Ecology, University of Georgia, Athens, GA May 2014

B.S. Botany, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI Dec. 2009

**Experience**

**Vellidis Research Group**, Crop and Soil Science, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA

Graduate Research Assistant and Research Professional II May-Aug. 2012 and May 2013-Present

* Food safety research. Our current project includes assessing *Salmonella* levels in farm ponds, irrigation systems, and fresh produce at harvest. My duties have included protocol development, aseptic sample collection, sample analysis, recordkeeping, statistical analyses, and writing papers. All of our projects are conducted on commercial farms.
* Master’s thesis: I studied the transport of *Salmonella* and *E. coli* in storm runoff from fields, forests, and streams into irrigation ponds in fresh produce production environments. I also conducted a GIS analysis to identify landscape characteristics associated with *Salmonella* levels in irrigation ponds. I assisted with other projects, including capturing farm wildlife to collect swabs/feces for testing.

**Odum School of Ecology**, University of Georgia, Athens, GA

Graduate Teaching Assistant and Lead Teaching Assistant Aug. 2011-Apr. 2012 and Aug. 2012-Apr. 2013

I taught laboratory sessions (45 students/semester) for a course titled “The Ecological Basis of Environmental Issues”. I also trained and supervised other teaching assistants, updated teaching materials, managed field trip logistics (200 students/semester), and maintained lab equipment.

**PACFISH/INFISH Biological Opinion Effectiveness Monitoring**,US Forest Service, St. Regis, MT

Riparian Vegetation Survey Technician May-Sep. 2009 and May-Aug. 2011

I surveyed stream habitats to provide science-based information for trout conservation and cattle grazing plans. This included identifying, quantifying, and collecting plants from remote areas, maintaining data on PDAs, assisting stream technicians, and traveling/hiking.

**Southeast Coast Network Inventory and Monitoring Program**, US National Park Service, St. Marys, GA

Terrestrial Monitoring Intern Feb. 2010-Feb. 2011

With a team, I systematically surveyed natural areas for species of plants, reptiles, and amphibians. I also set up sound recording devices and used handheld GPS to record locations. I created reference materials for species ID and used software to automate the analysis of 10,000+ hours of frog calls.

**Givnish Laboratory**,Department of Botany, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI Sep. 2007-Apr. 2009

Assisted with studies of shade tolerance and water stress in plants in greenhouse and field settings, including measuring leaf photosynthesis, growth, and soil moisture

**Great Lakes Water Institute**,University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI June-Aug. 2007

Assisted with studies of algal community composition under different nutrient availability and light conditions, including the use of nutrient flow analyzers, microscopy, and algae culturing

**Certifications**

Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) Certified, UGA Food Science Dept. June 2013

**Other**

Desire to work outdoors around plants

Advanced use of Microsoft Excel and other Microsoft Office software

Intermediate use of ArcGIS and QGIS mapping and spatial analysis software

Intermediate Spanish

Georgia Young Scholars Program Mentor 2013, 2014

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**Presentations, conferences, workshops**

Water Microbiology Conference, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill May 2014

“*Salmonella* in storm-driven surface runoff in vegetable farm landscapes in southern Georgia.”

How to Make Precision Farming Pay: Precision Ag. Consortium Workshop (facilitator), Tifton, GA Feb. 2014

The Center for Produce Safety 2013 Produce Research Symposium, Rochester, NY June 2013

Odum School of Ecology Graduate Student Symposium Jan. 2012

“Does algae regulate dissolved oxygen dynamics in a Coastal Plain blackwater stream?”

**Publications**

In preparation for publication (from master’s degree work):

Harris C. et al. Landscape factors associated with *Salmonella* prevalence in ponds used for fruit and vegetable farm irrigation in south Georgia, USA.

Harris C. et al. Comparison of storm-driven transport of *Salmonella* and *E.* *coli* in fresh produce farm landscapes in south Georgia, USA.

Aminabadi P. et al. Evaluation of foodborne pathogens in aquatic wildlife and irrigation ponds in southeastern Georgia.

National Park Service Reports: Byrne M.W. et al. Summary of amphibian community monitoring at Congaree National Park, 2010. Natural Resources Data Series. NPS/SECN/NRDS-2011/167. National Park Service, Natural Resource Stewardship and Science. Fort Collins, CO. Published report-2171218.

* Similar reports available for Cape Hatteras (2170210), Cape Lookout (2171212), Fort Sumter (2168915), and Moore’s Creek (2173051). <http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/reports/>

**Awards**

ABC Research Laboratories Travel Grant, Center for Produce Safety Symposium June 2013

Odum School of Ecology Small Grant Apr. 2013

University of Georgia Scholars of Excellence Full Assistantship Aug. 2011-Apr. 2013

**Professional associations**

Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association

National Environmental Health Association

**Relevant courses completed**

Plant pathology (PL PATH 300)

Plant anatomy (BOT 300)

Plant physiology (500)

Botany (BOT 130)

Ecology (BOT 460)

Genetics (BOT 466)

GIS / Advanced Spatial Analysis (GEOG 377, FANR 8400)

Statistics (FANR 6750, STAT 371)

Master’s Research and Thesis (ECOL 7000, 7300)