

2026 Field Technician for Mosquito Monitoring & Integrated Pest Management Program

JOB DESCRIPTION:

The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) is seeking to fill a single seasonal laboratory and field technician position to support Maine's statewide mosquito monitoring program. This is a full-time (40 hours/week) position beginning June 1, 2026 and continuing through December 2026, with off-season work focused on outreach material development and support for integrated pest management (IPM) programming. There is potential for the position to continue through December 2027 depending on funding (decision announced November 2026).

The technician will assist with site coordination and setup, service mosquito traps weekly, and collect samples using standardized field protocols (including resting boxes and light traps). Fieldwork involves travel to multiple monitoring sites, navigating varied terrain, and working in outdoor conditions throughout the season.

In the laboratory, responsibilities include mosquito identification using morphological keys, maintaining cold-chain protocols for disease testing, preparing and submitting specimens to the Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL), managing data entry, and maintaining accurate records. Training in mosquito taxonomy and handling will be provided.

This position is a great opportunity for someone looking to build real, hands-on experience toward a career in entomology, public health, or applied environmental science. In addition to core responsibilities, the technician will have opportunities to develop skills aligned with their interests. Once field and lab duties are established, time may be allocated toward a self-directed project resulting in an IPM-related outreach product (e.g., educational materials, presentations, or other public-facing resources).

Work will be based in Augusta, Maine, with some opportunity for telework. Statewide travel is expected, including regular travel to monitoring sites between Augusta and Unity. Sampling occurs two to three days per week before 10AM; expect early mornings (around 6AM), independent fieldwork, and schedule adjustments based on weather. This is a contract position at \$18/hour.

KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS/ABILITIES:

Education and Experience:

- Biology, entomology, environmental science, public health, or related field
- Priority given to training or experience in insect identification and the use of dichotomous keys
- Interest in vector-borne disease, public health, or applied pest management is a plus

Computer Skills:

- Ability to use Microsoft Office applications including Word, Excel, Outlook, Teams, and PowerPoint

- Priority given to candidates who can conduct basic data analysis within spreadsheets (simple formulas, creating graphs, organizing datasets) and are comfortable documenting results
- Experience designing outreach materials (posters, presentations, or educational content) is a plus

Communication Skills:

- Strong verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to work independently in the field and communicate effectively with supervisors and collaborating partners
- Interest in communicating scientific information to a range of audiences, including through outreach materials or presentations

Organizational Skills:

- Ability to manage multiple responsibilities and transition between field, lab, and office-based work
- Strong time management and record-keeping skills, including accurate data collection in field conditions
- Ability to stay organized across multiple work environments (field sites, laboratory, office, and remote work)

Field and Lab Skills:

- Comfort working in both field and laboratory settings
- Comfortable handling live insects (specifically mosquitoes)
- Ability to traverse uneven terrain while carrying approximately 15–20 lbs of equipment (field sites are in wooded areas)
- Ability to navigate remote field sites and follow site-specific protocols
- Experience using a dissection microscope or willingness to learn

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Candidates must have a valid driver's license and be at least 18 years of age.

TO APPLY:

Please email a cover letter and resume or C.V. to Hillary Peterson (hillary.peterson@maine.gov). For questions, please email or call Hillary at (207) 215-4793.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

Monday, May 18