

Why the need for a Field Biologist?

The exacting and ever more demanding requirements of the food industry and its supply chain have resulted in pest management technicians and contractors providing more highly qualified personnel to undertake the necessary inspection, planning, risk assessment and strategy work.

This new approach has led to the Australian Environmental Pest Managers Association initiative to provide a formal development program for specialist role of (Pest management) Field Biologist

What does the Field Biologist do?

The Field Biologist plays a vital role in the pest management strategy for food industry operations. Working closely with the pest management technicians, the Field Biologist will:

- Determine the current levels of pest activity, their detection, incident and prevalence;
- Inspect the control processes being applied, and audit the quality and sufficiency of the pest management related records and determine and undertake trend analysis;
- Work in with site Quality, Food Safety and Pest Management personnel to examine and suggest alternate and additional controls to mitigate the risk of pest activity that could be introduced without affecting the HACCP and GMP requirements of the operation; and
- Provide advice on the typical habits, life cycle, sources, feeding needs and effective control methods for the pests present.

Our Field Biologist program

Our Field Biologist program draws heavily on the content of the *Code of Practice for Pest Management in the Food Industry in Australia and New Zealand*, and the *Pest Management Services for Food Businesses Food Safety Standard*.

The program is competency based and includes assessment throughout the course which is comprised of two (2) components:

- Online pre-course
- Face-to-face classroom based

Program Structure

The program is structured around familiarising you with the key aspects of the Field Biologist role and the important part that this role plays in ensuring the effectiveness of a credible, robust and sustainable pest management solution.

Duration: Pre-course online (expected 2-3hrs)

Two (2) days face-to-face in the class

Cost: \$3,300.00 per person (including GST)

Place: The course will be offered in Sydney

There are no formal pre-requisites for attending the course, but participants are expected to have a thorough working and technical knowledge of pest management practices in the food industry.

This program is delivered in a dynamic 'hands-on' learning environment, using a blend of theory and practical scenarios to support the learning outcomes.

Topics include:

- *Inspection techniques*
- *Auditing practices*
- *Trending analysis*
- *Risk assessment and risk management*
- *Action planning and reporting*
- *The entomology of insectoid pests*
- *HACCP & GMP*
- *Vertebrae and in-vertebrae pests and their features*

The course includes 'homework' on the night of day one and the completion of a post course short assignment to be completed before award of the Field Biologist recognition is provided.

Further Information

Whether you are looking to move into a Field Biologist position or you are already undertaking aspects of the role and wish to gain additional experience and accreditation, this course is for you.

For further information or enquiries on program dates and locations, please contact the office of Australian Environmental Pest Managers Association on 1300 307 114 or (07) 3268 4210.