FES Vice-President-Elect Nominee

Dr. Cindy L. McKenzie received her B.S. in Agricultural Business from Sul Ross State University in Alpine Texas followed by M.S. degrees in Range Animal Science and Biology. Her first exposure to entomology came in the form of a graduate research assistantship and involved collection and identification of aquatic insects from desert stream ecosystems to determine abundance and diversity of insect fauna as indicators of changes in water quality. Hooked on entomology but not wanting to completely give up her love of large animals, she began to work on insect pests of livestock with her M.S. research involving a survey of parasitoids of horn fly in rangeland ecosystems. In 1991, she received her Ph.D. from New Mexico State University in entomology with a concentration in insecticide toxicology and resistance management. Her dissertation research entailed the characterization of insecticide resistance in the horn fly.

Dr. McKenzie conducted postdoctoral research at Oklahoma State University on IPM and insecticide resistance management strategies for cotton/melon aphid as well as insect-plant disease interactions between purple blotch of onions and thrips infestations. She began her professional career in 1995 with FMC Corporation as a Research Biologist in Yuma Arizona. In 1998 she became a Research Entomologist with the USDA-ARS-USHRL in Fort Pierce, Florida. Her main research focus since joining ARS has been the discovery and testing of environmentally safe management tactics for invasive pests (primarily whitefly) using biorational pesticides and biological control agents, and the elucidation of the interactions between insect pests, their host plants, and the plant viral diseases vectored by these insects. Dr. McKenzie has taken a basic and applied approach when utilizing genomics tools to study plant-insect-pathogen interactions. For example, using real-time reverse transcriptase-PCR techniques to demonstrate Tomato Yellow Leaf Curl viral transcription activity in the whitefly, applying gene microarray technology to examine plant physiological responses in tomato to whitefly feeding, and utilizing microsatellite technology to detect, track and monitor the recent invasion of the Q biotype of *Bemisia tabaci* in the United States.

Dr. McKenzie has been a member of FES since arriving in Florida in 1998 and has participated in many whitefly symposiums, either as a speaker or organizer/moderator (1999, 2004, 2006), co-organized the Teachers Workshop in 2003, and served on the local arrangements committee.