

Dr. Michael Wierda is an Assistant in Extension focused on Pesticide Safety Education (PSE) based out of the Arizona Pest Management Center (APMC). Dr. Wierda chairs and serves on multiple committees related to Pesticide Safety Education Program Improvement and Modernization Initiative (PSEP IMI). PSEP IMI is a nationwide effort to bring robust and sustainable PSE to stakeholders through Cooperative Extension. Mike also works closely with Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to make sure PSE is part of IPM trainings and the IPM is part of PSE trainings. He is also working closely with the Office of Pest Management on updating exam and study materials for Certified and Qualified Applicators.

Mike earned his Ph.D. in Environmental Toxicology from Clemson University (CU) in Clemson, South Carolina. Prior to joining APMC, he was working as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Arizona testing the suitability of previously developed microsatellite markers in establishing baseline genetic data of AZ Bald Eagles and teaching Introductory Biology.