Karen Vail Bio

Karen Vail received her Bachelor’s degree from Rutgers University, her Master’s degree from Virginia Tech., and her Ph.D. from the University of Florida. While working towards her Ph.D. degree, she was employed by USDA-ARS in the Imported Fire Ant and Household Insects Unit. Vail is currently a professor in the Entomology and Plant Pathology Department at the University of Tennessee. Her Extension/research programs have focused on managing the common bed bug *Cimex lectularius* L., odorous house ant *Tapinoma sessile* (Say), imported fire ants *Solenopsis* spp. and other urban pests. As the Extension urban entomologist, she provides leadership to pest management professionals, county agents, housing managers, other professionals, and the public on urban IPM programs.