Mary Beth Henry is a UF/IFAS Extension Agent for Small Farms and Pesticide Training in Polk County. The Polk Small Farms program began in 2009 after Henry transferred from Hillsborough County, where she conducted educational programs for landscape professionals for three years. Ms. Henry looks forward to further developing the potential of small farms in Polk County, has recently conducted several beekeeping programs, and especially loves predatory mites. She holds a M.S. in Entomology from the University of Florida and a B.S. in Crop and Soil Sciences from Michigan State University.

Hugh Smith received his MS in 1993 and his PHD in 1999, both in entomology from the University of Florida. He has worked in integrated pest management of horticultural crops in the United States, Central America and the Pacific. In 2011, he joined GC REC as the vegetable entomologist, where his program focuses on chemical, biological and cultural control of insects and mites attacking horticultural crops.

Dr. Vallad is the vegetable and ornamental pathologist at the Gulf Coast Research and Education Center in Wimauma, Florida. He earned his Ph.D. in Plant Pathology from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 2003 studying the effects of soil amendments on disease in snapbean and cucumber production. He then worked on soilborne pathogens of lettuce as a Post-Doc at the University of California, Davis before joining the University of Florida in 2007. Dr. Vallad’s program is focused on the identification and management of vegetable and ornamental diseases, with a special emphasis on the integrated management of bacterial and fungal plant pathogens.