

A Look Back at 2021:

Accomplishments and New Leadership at the Plant and Pest Diagnostic Clinic of Clemson University

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Background

- As a part of the Department of Plant Industry (DPI) at Clemson University, Plant and Pest Diagnostic Clinic (PPDC) serves its clients by providing high-quality diagnoses and management recommendations against a variety of plant problems.
- Under the umbrella of PPDC, there are two specialized labs, CTC and the MPPD Lab.
- NAL at the Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences serves under contractual agreement with PPDC to identify plant parasitic nematodes and provide management recommendations.

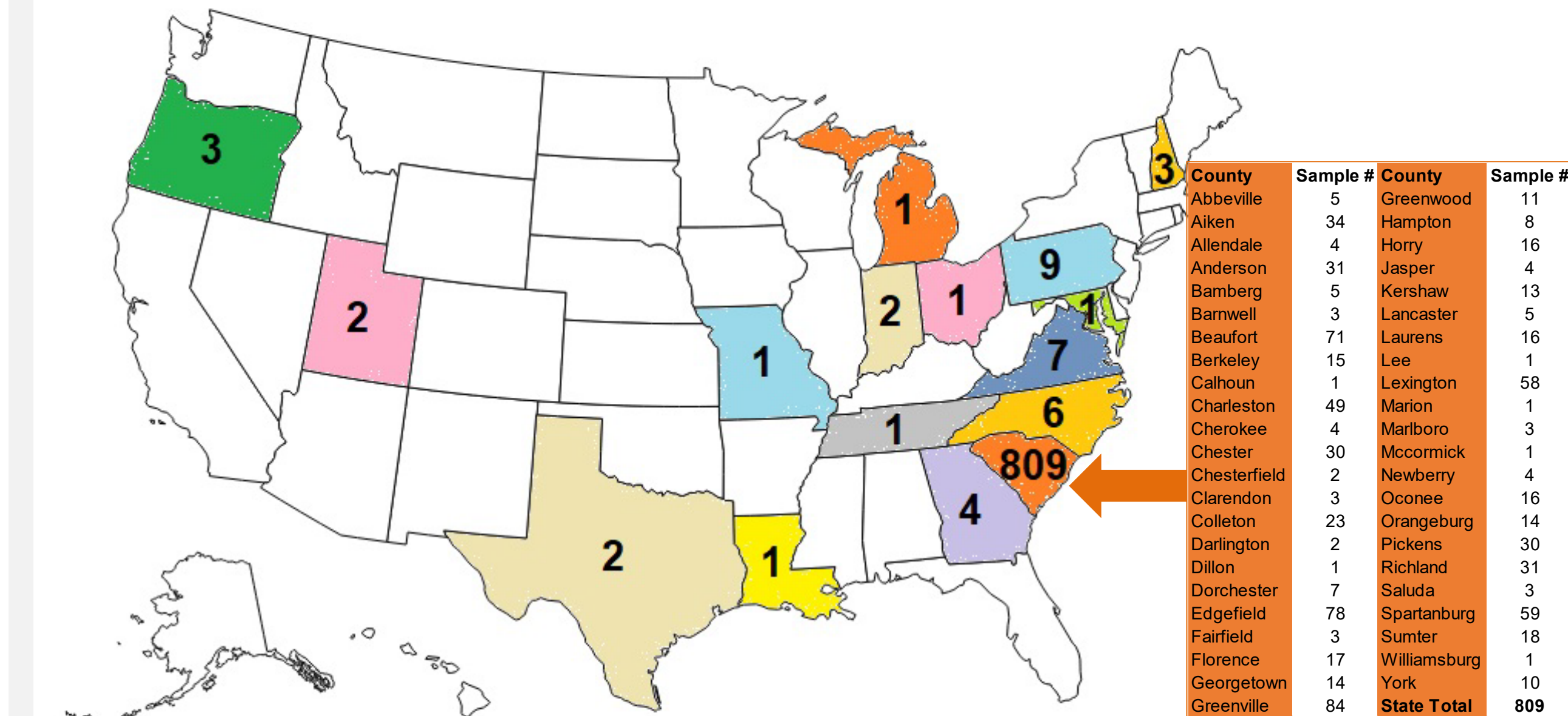
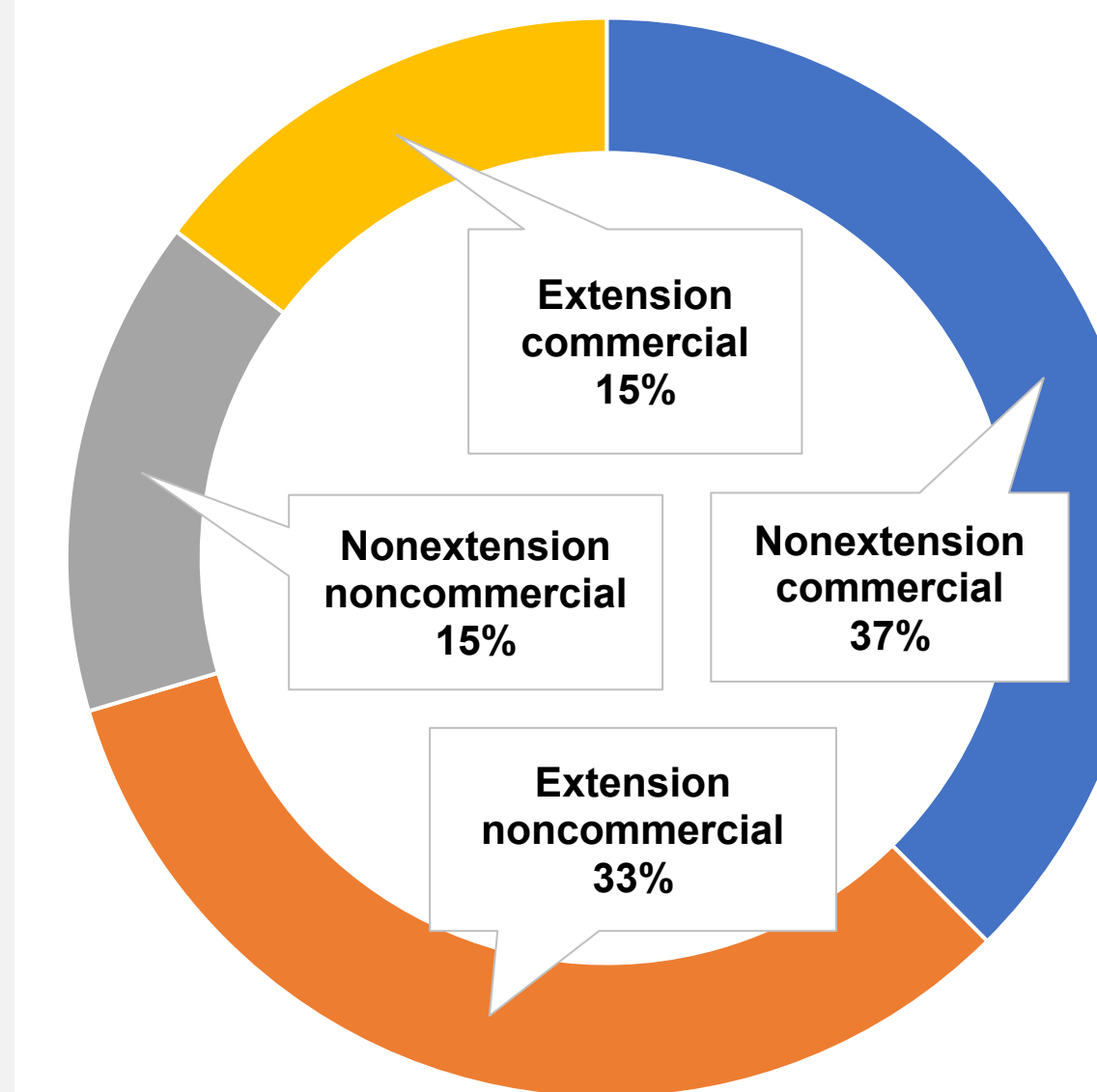
Plant and Pest Diagnostic Clinic (PPDC)

Molecular Pathogen and Pest Detection (MPPD) Lab

Commercial Turfgrass Clinic (CTC)

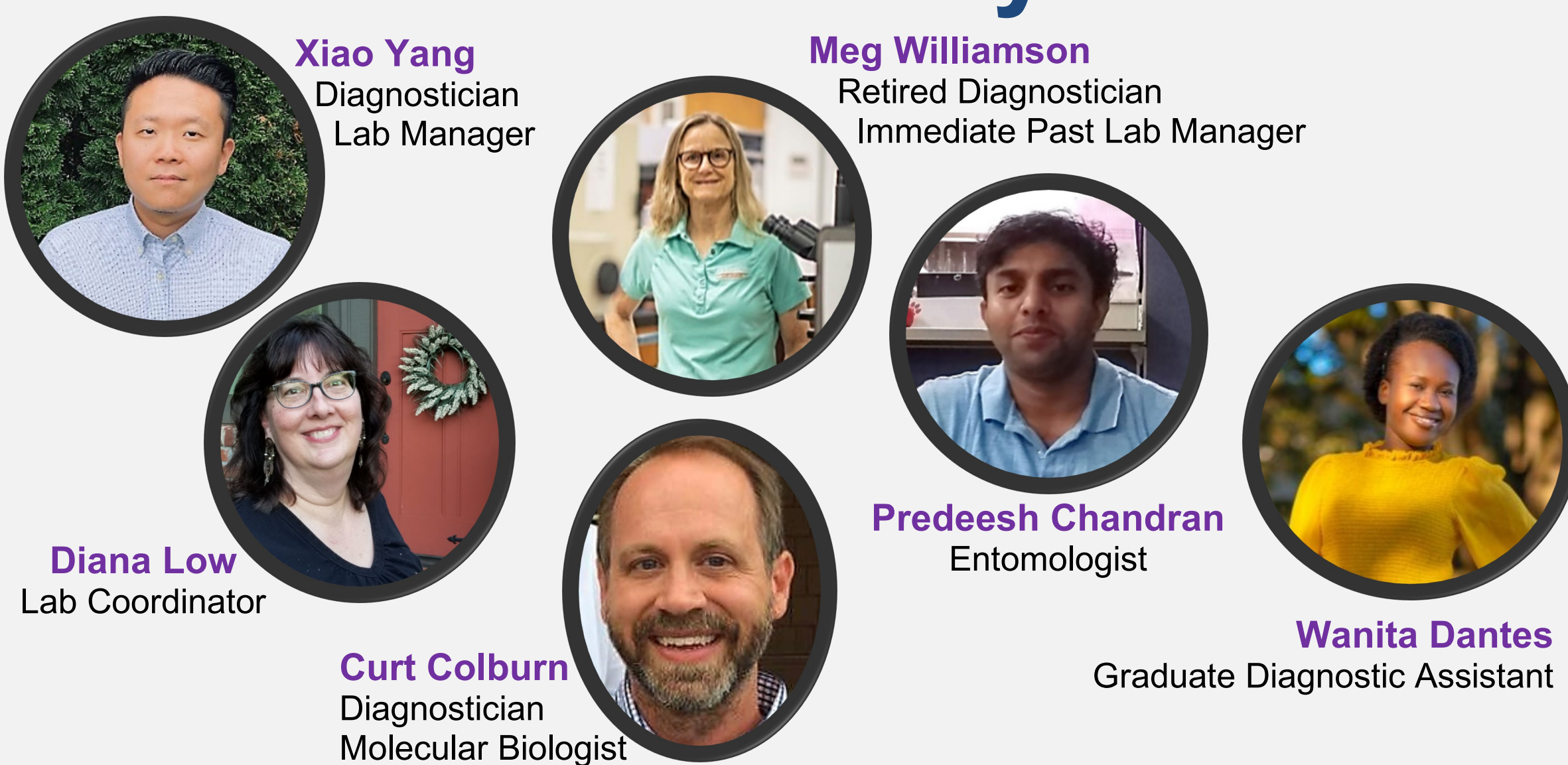
Nematode Assay Laboratory (NAL)

2021 PPDC Sample Sources



- 95% of the samples in 2021 were from 45 counties within SC. The remaining 44 samples were from 15 other states outside of SC. Homeowners, home gardeners, and clients referred by extension agents count half of PPDC's clients.
- PPDC samples were from extension vs. nonextension commercial vs. noncommercial sources.

Key Personnel



- Meg Williamson retired in 2021, while continues to contribute to PPDC as a part-time diagnostician.
- Dr. Xiao Yang took the role of Lab Manager in Dec. 2021.
- Wanita Dantes joined PPDC in 2022 as the Graduate Diagnostic Assistant.

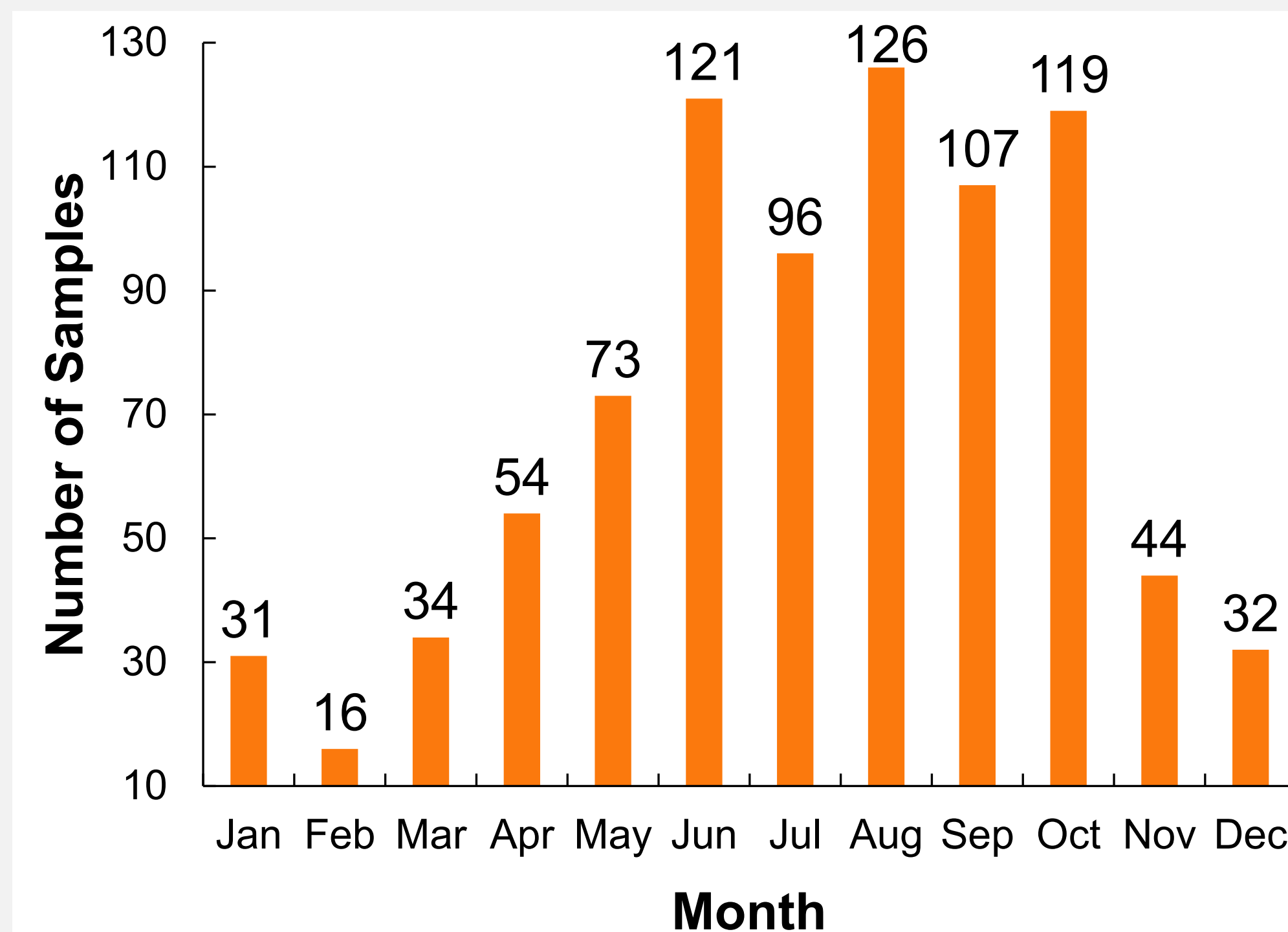
2021 Highlights

- A credit card payment system was set up to make it easier for clients to pay for services.
- The MPPD Lab expanded its services by providing diagnostic services to detect the American foulbrood pathogen *Paenibacillus larvae* and the European foulbrood pathogen *Melissococcus plutonius* for beekeepers.
- PPDC found plant problems new to SC: Asian citrus psyllid, *Neofusicoccum parvum* on industrial hemp, *Xanthomonas campestris* on ranunculus.



2021 Sample Loads

- A total of 853 samples were processed at PPDC in 2021, 18% more than the 2020 sample load.
- Majority of 2021 samples were received from June to October.
- CTC received 53 samples in 2021, a 15% increase from 2020.
- The MPPD Lab processed 18 fee-based samples and more than 1,500 survey samples at DPI.
- NAL processed 1434 samples in 2021, a 27% increase from 2020.



Acknowledgments

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