

# **The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station**

## **112<sup>th</sup> Plant Science Day**

### **August 3, 2022**



**Jason C. White, Ph.D.**

Director, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station



# 112<sup>th</sup> PLANT SCIENCE DAY

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2022

THE CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION  
LOCKWOOD FARM, 890 EVERGREEN AVENUE, HAMDEN, CT 06518

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*Gates Open at 9:30 a.m. - Program Begins at 10:00 a.m.*

*Event 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.*

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**10:00 a.m. MORNING GREETING AND OPENING REMARKS**

Dr. Jason C. White, Director  
The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

**10:45 a.m. CENTURY FARM AWARD PRESENTATION**

**11:05 a.m. EXPERIMENT STATION ASSOCIATES**

Ms. Cheryl Cappiali, President  
Experiment Station Associates

**11:15 a.m. SAMUEL W. JOHNSON MEMORIAL LECTURE**

Ms. Katie S. Dykes, Commissioner  
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP)

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**PRESENTATIONS ON RESEARCH**

**10:15 a.m.** Urban Agriculture for Food Security in Challenging Spaces

Dr. Leigh Whittinghill

**1:15 p.m.** Soil Organic Carbon: A Key Component of Soil Health in a Changing Climate

Dr. Itamar Shabtai

**1:45 p.m.** Laboratory Analyses of Processed Foods, Raw Agricultural Commodities and Animal Feed in Connecticut

Dr. Carlos Tamez

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- *Barn Displays* • *80 Field Plots and Exhibits* • *Technical Demonstrations* • *Plant Disease Diagnosis and Plant Identification*
- *Insect Identification* • *Questions Answered* • *Passport for Children* • *Connecticut Pesticide Credits Offered / All Categories and Private Applicator (PA) Category / 3.25 Total Credit Hours*

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# CAES 112<sup>th</sup> Plant Science Day

- 50+ “field” plots across the Farm.
- Barn exhibits from each Department
  - Entomology- “Wild Bee Diversity in Connecticut”
  - Valley Laboratory- “Armored Scale Pests of Christmas Trees”
  - Plant Pathology and Ecology- “Beech Leaf Disease in Connecticut”
  - Environmental Science and Forestry- “A New Environmentally Friendly Phosphate Fertilizer: Delivery of Less Leachable Nutrients from Biochar to Plants”
  - Environmental Science and Forestry- “Mycorrhizae and Urban Tree Health”
  - Analytical Chemistry- “Nano-enabled Agriculture Research at CAES”
- 20+ outside exhibitors



# CAES Update- Retirements

(Since April 2020- 20 Staff)

- **Scientists (12)**- Dr. Theodore Andreadis, Dr. Abigail Maynard, Dr. Brian Eitzer, Dr. Charles Vossbrinck, Dr. Wade Elmer, Dr. James LaMondia, Dr. Walter Krol, Dr. Jeffrey Ward, Dr. Kirby Stafford, Dr. Kimberly Stoner, Dr. Joseph Pignatello, Dr. Christina Robb
- **Technicians (4)**- Mr. Peter Thiel, Ms. Jane Canepa-Morrison, Mr. Michael Short, Ms. Morgan Lowry
- **Administration/Maintenance/Farm (4)**- Mr. Michael McHill, Mr. Eric Wagner, Ms. Sandra Carney, Ms. Jennifer Stevens



# CAES Update- Hiring

(Since April 2020- 24 Staff!)

- **Scientists (13)**- Dr. Andrea Gloria-Soria (GF), Dr. Carlos Tamez, Dr. Anuja Bharadwaj, Dr. Leigh Whittinghill, Dr. Itamar Shabtai, Dr. Meghan Linske, Soilborne Plant Pathologist, Organic Contaminants in Food, Agricultural Entomologist, Forest Ecology and Climate Change, Environmental Chemist, Emerging Food Contaminants, Invasive Aquatic Plant Species
- **Technicians (8)**- Mr. Ethan Paine, Mr. John Ranciato (GF), Kitty P.-Riveros (GF), Summer Stebbins (GF), Gerda Magana (GF), Jacqueline Lareau (GF), PDIO, OAIS
- **Administration/Maintenance/Farm (3)**- Mr. John Donovan, Secretary to the Director, Fiscal Officer



# CAES Update

## ➤ Office of Aquatic Invasive Species (sHB 5143)

- Effective July 1, 2022.
- 3 new positions- 1 Scientist, 1 Post-doc, 1 Technician
- Coordinate research efforts in the state associated with AIS control and eradication to reduce duplication of efforts and costs;
- Be a repository for statewide data on the health of rivers, lakes, and ponds in relation to the presence of AIS;
- Regularly survey the health and ecological viability of the state waterways in relation to the presence and threat of AIS;
- Educate the public about aquatic invasive plants and steps the public can take to reduce the plants' impact;
- Advise municipalities on AIS management; and
- Be a liaison among organizations and state agencies (such as DEEP, Department of Agriculture, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Connecticut Federation of Lakes and Ponds Associations, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, municipal inland wetlands commissions, Connecticut River Conservancy, and councils of governments) for AIS control and eradication issues.
- The bill requires the office to coordinate its efforts and responsibilities with the state's Invasive Plants Council.



# CAES Update

## ➤ **Adult Use Marijuana**

- Legalized on July 1, 2021; sales in Dec. 2022
- CAES Department of Analytical Chemistry will be the state regulatory testing laboratory
- 3 new positions- 1 Scientist, 2 Technicians
- Test for THC/cannabinoids, terpenes, heavy metals, pesticides, and mycotoxins
- Oversight laboratory for private labs, assist the Department of Consumer Protection Division of Drug Control in surveillance, investigations, audits, consumer/grower complaints,....



# CAES Update (last year)

- Valley Laboratory Renovation project- Approval for a **\$17.8** million renovation and new construction at the Valley Lab. The structure was built in 1940. Coincides with the 100-year celebration of the Valley Lab (September 2, 2021)



- New Haven greenhouse project- Funding acquired from several sources to construct a state-of-the-art greenhouse in New Haven (**~\$500,000**). Project is out to bid.





# CAES Update (this year)

- Valley Laboratory Renovation project- Approval for a **\$26 million** renovation and new construction at the Valley Lab. The structure was built in 1940. Coincides with the 100-year celebration of the Valley Lab (September 2, 2021)



- New Haven greenhouse project- funding acquired from several sources to construct a state-of-the-art greenhouse in New Haven (**~\$1,200,000**). Project is going back out to bid.



# A very special thank you to the 2022 Plant Science Day Planning committee and to all CAES staff!



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