



## *The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station*

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*Putting Science to Work for Society  
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### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **State Monitoring Program Concludes for the 2021 Season**

New Haven, CT - The State of Connecticut Mosquito Management Program (MMP) announced that the seasonal mosquito trapping and testing program coordinated by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) has ended for the 2021 season. The program monitors the types, numbers and locations of mosquitoes and tests them for the presence of viruses that can cause illness including West Nile virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus (EEE).

The CAES maintains a network of 108 mosquito-trapping stations in 87 municipalities throughout the state. Mosquito trapping for 2021 began June 1 and concluded October 22. The CAES trapped and tested more than 390,000 mosquitoes this season. The mosquitoes were grouped (pooled) by species, location and date of collection, and tested for viral infection. Positive findings are reported to local health departments and on the CAES website at <https://portal.ct.gov/CAES/Mosquito-Testing/Introductory/State-of-Connecticut-Mosquito-Trapping-and-Arbovirus-Testing-Program>.

"We collected more mosquitoes this year than during any of the previous years of the mosquito monitoring program. Favorable weather conditions led to exceptionally high numbers of mosquitoes," said Dr. Philip Armstrong, Medical Entomologist at CAES. "Although populations have declined substantially in recent weeks to very low levels, we encourage residents to continue to take precautions against mosquito bites until the first killing frost."

#### WNV Surveillance

During 2021, WNV was identified in 208 pools of mosquitoes. The positive mosquitoes were collected at trap sites in 43 towns in all Connecticut counties (Fairfield, Hartford, Litchfield, Middlesex, New Haven,

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New London, Tolland, Windham) from June 21 to October 18. The majority of positive mosquito pools were from urban and suburban sites in Fairfield, Hartford and New Haven counties during the months of August and September. Four Connecticut residents were reported with WNV-associated illnesses this year. The patients are residents of Berlin, Bridgeport, Hartford, and West Haven with dates of onset from August 20- October 2. The most recent human case was from Berlin. While WNV infections are not usually fatal, patients with meningitis or encephalitis may suffer lasting symptoms resulting from neurological damage.

#### EEE Surveillance

EEE was identified in two pools of mosquitoes collected September 23 in Voluntown. No human or domestic animal infections were reported. EEE is a rare illness in humans, and only a few cases are reported in the United States each year, mostly in the Atlantic and Gulf Coast states. However, it often causes serious neurologic illnesses and fatalities. During 2019, a large outbreak of EEE occurred in the Northeast and Midwest U.S., with 4 human cases (3 fatalities) occurring in Connecticut.

#### Connecticut Mosquito Management Program

The response to mosquito transmitted diseases in Connecticut is a collaborative inter-agency effort involving the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES), the Department of Public Health (DPH), the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Pathobiology at the University of Connecticut (UCONN). These agencies are responsible for monitoring mosquito populations and the potential public health threat of mosquito-borne diseases. The response to mosquito-transmitted diseases in Connecticut is a collaborative inter-agency effort involving the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES), the Department of Public Health (DPH), the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Pathobiology at the University of Connecticut (UCONN). These agencies are responsible for monitoring mosquito populations and the potential public health threat of mosquito-borne diseases.

For information on WNV and EEE, what can be done to prevent getting bitten by mosquitoes, the latest mosquito test results and human infections, visit the Connecticut Mosquito Management Program web site at <https://portal.ct.gov/mosquito>.

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