



The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

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*Putting Science to Work for Society
Protecting Agriculture, Public Health, and the Environment*

Founded 1875

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) Department of Analytical Chemistry Receives ISO Accreditation from American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA)

New Haven, CT – The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Department of Analytical Chemistry is pleased to announce that they have been granted ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation by the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) after a thorough assessment and review of its quality management system and competence to perform chemical testing in food. This achievement of International Organization for Standardization (ISO) accreditation demonstrates the Department's competence to manage and perform activities defined by its Scope of Accreditation (A2LA Certificate #4133.01; <https://www.a2la.org/scopepdf/4133-01.pdf>). This includes the analysis of fresh and manufactured foods for pesticides by gas and liquid chromatography with mass spectrometry (GC-MS, LC-MS) and for arsenic by inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS).

The effort to achieve accreditation was supported by a 5-year \$1.5 million cooperative agreement with the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Achieving ISO Accreditation is critical for maintaining all current and future grants and projects with the FDA, including the Department's participation in the FDA Food Emergency Response Network (FERN) chemical terrorism program. According to Dr. Jason C. White, Department Head of Analytical Chemistry, "Although the accreditation process required that we change many of our policies and technical methods to meet the ISO Standard, the Department of Analytical Chemistry has been conducting high quality chemical analysis since 1875 and the awarding of accreditation is really proof of that long-standing capability."

Kitty Prapayotin-Riveros, Quality Manager for the Department, states that "compliance with the ISO17025 required significant re-organization and re-construction of documents, records, and training systems, as well as the writing a number of new administrative and technical procedures,

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for three different analytical platforms. Fortunately, with our great team analytical chemists, we were able to achieve this prestigious milestone.”

Discussions are currently ongoing with the FDA on how to sustain funding so as to not only maintain accreditation but also to expand the work to other foods, beverages and potential contaminants. All of this effort is designed to establish a nationally integrated food safety system.

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