



The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

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Connecticut Bed Bug Forum Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Press Release: The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station hosts Connecticut bed bug forum for Connecticut housing authorities, pest control operators, health departments, sanitarians, housing code inspectors, and related businesses.

New Haven, Conn. (March 17th, 2009)–A Connecticut bed bug forum was held at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) where a 180 staff from local health departments, housing authorities, and pest control companies met to discuss the coordinated management of bed bugs in the State of Connecticut. In a half day program filled to capacity, participants also had the opportunity to listen to a number of lectures about bed bug biology, research, control, and several management issues.

Dr. Gale E. Ridge, an entomologist in the CAES Insect Inquiry Office, organized this event in cooperation with Pamela Kilby-Fox, Connecticut Department of Public Health, Diane Jorsey, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Judith R. Dicine, Connecticut Division of Criminal Justice, Tim Callahan, Norwalk Health Department, and Mike Lipsett, Connecticut Pest Control. She said in her opening statement that, “the purpose of this forum is to have a town hall meeting (supported by lectures), where professionals in health, pest control, and housing might collaborate on what can be done together towards the common goal of controlling an old, but resurging pest”.

Dr. Kirby C. Stafford III, Vice Director of CAES and State Entomologist, said in his welcome statement that “Bedbugs have reemerged as a major pest problem in Connecticut and we have seen an increase in bedbug related inquiries at the Experiment Station. In response to this new problem, Dr. John F. Anderson, Senior Scientist at CAES, initiated a bed bug research program and this timely forum was organized by Dr. Ridge. As a measure of the importance of this topic, many more wished to attend than could be accommodated and plans are underway to provide a public lecture on bedbug biology and control and a repeat of this specialist’s forum at a later date.”

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Dr. Ridge talked about bed bug biology, history, and factors associated with their recent resurgence. Dr. Anderson talked about research that he is conducting on bed bugs as well as other research and developments on bed bug control. A demonstration of the use of trained dogs for the detection of small bed bug populations was provided by Mr. Charlie Mastroberti and his two bed bug sniffing dogs, Ellie and Sniffer. Mr. Michael Siwek, Executive director of West Haven Housing Authority, talked about the housing authority experiences with bed bug issues and Attorney Judith R. Dicine from the Connecticut Division of Criminal Justice skillfully lead the audience through the legal issues of bed bug management. With the speakers forming an expert panel following the talks, the panel and audience discussed ways to help provide a coordinated management effort of bed bug control between different local and state agencies and pest control professionals in Connecticut.

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