



The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

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Press Release: The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station hosts a tour of the Analytical Chemistry laboratory for the Connecticut Media, legislators and interested citizens.

New Haven, Conn., January 29, 2009 - The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) invited the media, legislators, and interested citizens for a tour of the Analytical Chemistry Laboratory at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station.

This laboratory is responsible for conducting analyses related to Connecticut's food, environment and product safety. The work of this laboratory often stands between Connecticut citizens and tainted products that might cause harm. Environmental samples are also tested that reveal potential problems of environmental contamination.

Dr. Mary Jane Mattina, Ph.D., State Chemist and Head of the Analytical Chemistry Department at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station led the tour and also announced the new name for the laboratory, pending the approval of the Experiment Station's Board of Control. The new name will be *The Food, Environment and Product Safety Laboratory* at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. This name will now better reflect the work that the laboratory actually does.

Louis Magnarelli, Ph.D., Director of The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, said while introducing Dr. Mattina, "We are very fortunate in Connecticut to have a well-equipped laboratory and well-trained and dedicated scientists and technicians who have responded admirably on numerous occasions to help solve highly relevant food and other product safety problems. The expertise of the staff and their adherence to high standards serve the state and nation well."

Dr. Mattina spoke about their recent work, some of which found melamine in foods imported from China, anti-freeze found in non-brand name toothpaste, chemicals found in recycled rubber

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products, and lead in toys imported from China. As well, Dr. Mattina described in her talk the comprehensive work done at the laboratory on the testing of foods offered for sale in Connecticut for possible contaminants.

The tour of the laboratory highlighted the operation of instruments and the staff answered many questions about them and the analytical work done on them.

Dr. Mattina concluded the tour by saying, "We are privileged at this laboratory to have the opportunity to protect and serve the citizens of Connecticut."

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