



The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

Putting Science to Work for Society since 1875

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POSTDOCTORAL SCIENTIST: Fruit Pathology and Fungal Biology

With anticipated approval, the Valley Laboratory at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (Windsor, CT) is seeking applicants for a Postdoctoral Research Scientist position to conduct field and laboratory-based research on *Colletotrichum siamense*, the causative agent of strawberry anthracnose crown rot. The position is for 12 months, with the potential to extend. Benefits include competitive medical and dental insurance.

Scope: Strawberries are among the most important agricultural crops in the northeast US and *Colletotrichum siamense*, causative agent of Anthracnose Crown Rot (ACR), is a pathogen of existential concern in the area. While capable of killing the plant, *C. siamense* and other pathogens within the genus are also common endophytes, with the fungi often transitioning between these lifestyles for largely unknown reasons. This makes management of ACR complicated, as the organism may stay undetected in a field, only to emerge as a devastating pathogen when certain environmental conditions are met. Funded by the CAES Louis A. Magnarelli Postdoctoral Program, the candidate will conduct experiments in the field, greenhouse, and lab to understand the environmental, biotic, and genetic factors at play in this endophyte-to-pathogen transition.

Required Qualifications: Candidates must have a Ph.D. in plant pathology, microbiology, plant science, or a related discipline. Candidates must demonstrate communication (verbal and written) and organizational skills, research productivity, and willingness to master new skills. Candidates must have experience working with plant pathogenic microbes and/or agricultural crops. Candidates must be willing and capable of managing junior lab members in the generation and collection of data. Applicants must have a valid US driver's license and/or international driver permit.

Preferred Qualifications: Preferred candidates will have experience in scientific writing, with publications in peer-reviewed journals and/or papers that are in review. Preferred candidates should be capable of independently designing and running field trials and/or microbiological experiments in the laboratory.

To apply: Interested candidates must submit by email a single PDF document that includes: (1) a cover letter addressing the qualifications above, (2) a CV or resume, and (3) the names and contact information for two references (e-mail and phone numbers) to: Dr. Nathaniel Westrick (Nathaniel.Westrick@ct.gov). The review of applications will begin immediately and continue until a suitable candidate is identified.

About Us: Founded in 1875, the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) is a state-supported institution dedicated to basic and applied research that supports plant, environmental, and human health in Connecticut. Over eighty full-time researchers work at the main campus in New Haven, a 75-acre research farm in nearby Hamden, and at two satellite farms and laboratory facilities. CAES fosters a highly collaborative and collegial research environment and maintains close ties to nearby academic institutions, including Yale University and the University of Connecticut.

Equal employment opportunity means employment of people without consideration of age, ancestry, color, criminal record (in state employment and licensing), gender identity or expression, genetic information, intellectual disability, learning disability, marital status, mental disability (past or present), national origin, physical disability (including blindness), race, religious creed, retaliation for previously opposed discrimination or coercion, sex (pregnancy or sexual harassment), sexual orientation, veteran status, and workplace hazards to reproductive systems unless the provisions of sec. 46a-80(b) or 46a-81(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes are controlling or there are bona fide occupational qualifications excluding persons in one of the above protected classes. To file a complaint of discrimination, contact Dr. Jason White, Director, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, 123 Huntington Street, New Haven, CT 06511, (203) 974-8440 (voice), or Jason.White@ct.gov (e-mail). CAES is an affirmative action/equal opportunity provider and employer. Persons with disabilities who require alternate means of communication of program information should contact the Chief of Services, Michael Last at (203) 974-8442 (voice), (203) 974-8502 (FAX), or Michael.Last@ct.gov (e-mail).