



The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

Putting Science to Work for Society since 1875

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Friday, September 26, 2025

Anticipated Position: Assistant Scientist II CANNABIS PRODUCT MICROBIOLOGIST

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) is seeking a full-time **ASSISTANT SCIENTIST II CANNABIS PRODUCT MICROBIOLOGIST** in an anticipated regulatory-focused position in the Analytical Chemistry Department, which is the state-designated laboratory for cannabis. The scientist will head the new state Microbiology Cannabis Reference Laboratory Section, to be housed at the CAES Griswold Research Center, located at 190 Sheldon Road, Griswold, CT, and will supervise the activities of a Research Technician who will be hired for the laboratory. Duties include testing cannabis products for the presence of mold and microbes, including *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*), Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli*, *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Salmonella* species, *Aspergillus fumigatus*, *A. flavus*, *A. niger*, and *A. terreus*. The testing scope involves the use of microscopy and quantitative polymerase chain reaction (qPCR) techniques to identify contaminant microbes. The Scientist is expected to implement ISO 17025 accreditation standards to leverage administrative and technical requirements like document control, record-keeping, sample chain of custody, and SOP development, adherence, and maintenance. Training on the ISO standard will be provided, as testing procedures under the program are expected to align with accredited programs. Another expectation in the role is the development of a relevant research program in the food safety domain.

Required Qualifications are a Ph.D. in Environmental Microbiology, Food Microbiology, or a closely related microbiological discipline; demonstrated experience with identification of bacterial and fungal contaminants through methods including qPCR, selective plating, water activity analysis and microscopy; and demonstrated experience with methods development and validation in product microbiology.

Preferred Qualifications include demonstrated understanding of ISO 17025 accreditation standards, demonstrated experience in a food or microbiology regulatory role, a record of scholarly publications or other technical written documentation in food and environmental microbiology, experience developing and maintaining SOPs, experience in data analysis and maintenance, demonstrated English fluency, demonstrated organizational skills, and a year or more of experience in training or supervising research staff. Preferred qualifications also include a willingness or interest to coordinate with regulatory agencies at the state and national levels, to participate in networking events and activities in the cannabis regulatory field, and to participate in collaborative research related to microbial contamination of consumer products.

The starting salary is \$90,256/yr with competitive medical, dental, and pension benefits. Interested candidates should submit electronically: 1) Curriculum Vitae; 2) statement of professional interests; 3) PDFs of 3 publications; 4) Contact information for three references, and 5) official university transcripts; to be sent to: Dr. Jason White, Director, CAES at Jason.White@ct.gov; and Dr. Christian Dimkpa, Head, Department of Analytical Chemistry, CAES at Christian.Dimkpa@ct.gov. Website: <https://portal.ct.gov/caes>. Review of applicants will begin immediately and will continue until a suitable applicant is found.

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, status as a victim of domestic violence, 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, P.O. Box 1106, New Haven, CT 06504, (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).

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