

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station **111th Plant Science Day- Welcome Back!** **August 4, 2021**



Jason C. White, Ph.D.

Director, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station



111th PLANT SCIENCE DAY

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2021

THE CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
LOCKWOOD FARM, 890 EVERGREEN AVENUE, HAMDEN, CT 06518

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Gates Open at 9:30 a.m. - Program Begins at 10:00 a.m.
Event 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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10:00 a.m. MORNING GREETING AND OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Jason C. White, Director
The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

10:45 a.m. OUTSTANDING YOUNG FARMER AWARD / CENTURY FARM AWARD PRESENTATION

11:05 a.m. EXPERIMENT STATION ASSOCIATES

Ms. Cheryl Cappiali, President
Experiment Station Associates

11:15 a.m. SAMUEL W. JOHNSON MEMORIAL LECTURE

Mr. Brent Peterkin
Executive Director, Gather New Haven

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PRESENTATIONS ON RESEARCH

10:15 a.m. Beech Leaf Disease: Emergence and Spread in Connecticut and New England

Dr. Robert E. Marra

1:15 p.m. Industrial Hemp: An Emerging Crop in Connecticut

Dr. Walter J. Krol and Ms. Terri Arsenault

1:45 p.m. Plant Science Day Celebration: A History

Dr. Kirby C. Stafford III

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- *Barn Displays* • *80 Field Plots and Exhibits* • *Technical Demonstrations* • *Plant Disease Diagnosis and Plant Identification*
- *Insect Identification* • *Questions Answered* • *Passport for Children* • *Connecticut Pesticide Credits Offered / All Categories and Private Applicator (PA) Category / 3.25 Total Credit Hours*



CAES 111th Plant Science Day

- 51 “field” plots across the Farm.
- “Virtual Barn” with exhibits from each Department
 - Entomology- “Maggots in Murder and Medicine”
 - Valley Laboratory- “Palmer Amaranth: A New Devastating Pigweed to Watch Out for”
 - Plant Pathology and Ecology- “Soil Protists and Plant Health”
 - Environmental Sciences- “How Mosquito Feeding Behavior Impacts Disease Transmission”
 - Analytical Chemistry- “Food and Feed Safety Investigations and Research at CAES”
 - Forestry and Horticulture- “Healthy Forests, Healthy People”
- 18 Outside exhibitors



CAES Update- Director

- Director Emeritus Dr. Theodore Andreadis retired on April 1, 2020, after 40 years of state service
- I was appointed by the CAES Board of Control as Director on April 1, 2020
- I have worked at CAES since 1997
- My PhD is in Environmental Toxicology
- I was Department Head in Analytical Chemistry from 2009-2020 and CAES Vice Director from 2013-2020



CAES Update- COVID-19

- Agency operations have been significantly impacted by COVID-19
- March 2020- 75% of staff classified to work from home
- Diagnostic, regulatory and public health programs remained open and operational with COVID-19 plans in place for social distancing and PPE use
- June 2020- Transition to 50% staffing with COVID-19 operational plans in place
- July 2021- 100% staffing but supporting requests for up to 50% telework



CAES Update

- Valley Laboratory Renovation project- Approval for a \$17.8 million renovation and new construction at the Valley Lab. The structure was built in 1940. Coincides with the 100-year celebration of the Valley Lab (September 2, 2021)

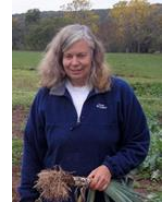


- New Haven greenhouse project- funding acquired from several sources to construct a state-of-the-art greenhouse in New Haven (~\$500,000). Project is out to bid.



CAES Update- Retirements

- Dr. Theodore Andreadis- Director Emeritus
- Dr. Francis Ferrandino- Emeritus Scientist, Department of Plant Pathology and Ecology
- Dr. Abigail Maynard- Department of Forestry and Horticulture
- Mr. Peter Thiel- Department of Plant Pathology and Ecology
- Ms. Jane Canepa-Morrison- The Valley Laboratory
- Michael McHill- Lockwood Farm



CAES Update- Hires

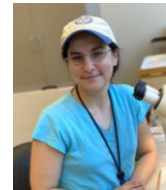
- Dr. Susanna Kerio- Assistant Scientist in the Department of Forestry and Horticulture



- Dr. Christian Dimkpa- Head of the Department of Analytical Chemistry



- Ms. Katherine Dugas- Research Technician in the Insect Inquiry/Plant Disease Information Offices



- Ms. Noelle Khalil- Research Technician in the Tick Testing Laboratory



- Ms. Jamie Cantoni- Research Assistant, Department of Entomology



- Ethan Paine- Research Technician, the Valley Lab



CAES Update- Upcoming Hires

- Urban Agriculture/Food Security- Dr. Leigh Whittinghill; starting October 8, 2021 (Asst. Prof. at KY State University)
- Agriculture and the Environment- Interviewing now
- Analytical Chemist- Interviewing now
- Adult Use Marijuana Program
 - The Department of Analytical Chemistry will be the regulatory testing laboratory for the Department of Consumer Protection Division of Drug Control
 - 3 new positions effective October 1- Scientist, Research Technician, Quality Manager



A very special thank you to the 2021 Plant Science Day Planning committee and to CAES staff!



Jason C. White, Ph.D.

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