



The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

123 HUNTINGTON STREET, P.O. BOX 1106, NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06504

*Putting Science to Work for Society
Protecting Agriculture, Public Health, and the Environment*

Founded 1875

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, June 9, 2015

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Dr. Kirby C. Stafford III
Department of Entomology
The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
123 Huntington Street (zip 06511)
P.O. Box 1106
New Haven, CT 06504
Phone: (203) 974-8485
E-mail: Kirby.Stafford@ct.gov

Dr. Kimberly A. Stoner
Department of Entomology
The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
123 Huntington Street (zip 06511)
P.O. Box 1106
New Haven, CT 06504
Phone: (203) 974-8480
E-mail: Kimberly.Stoner@ct.gov

Pollinator Week in Connecticut

New Haven, CT - The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) announced today that His Excellency Dannel P. Malloy, Governor of the State of Connecticut, has proclaimed the week of June 15-21, 2015 as Pollinator Week in the State of Connecticut in recognition of the importance of pollinators, the assistance provided to beekeepers by CAES, and the research by CAES and the University of Connecticut on honey bees and wild bees. State Entomologist Dr. Kirby Stafford said that “the proclamation from Governor Malloy recognizing the importance of our pollinators is very timely with the recent release by the White House of a National Pollinator Strategy for the management and protection of our honey bees, native bees, and other pollinators, as well as for the Monarch butterfly. We appreciate the recognition of the importance of pollination to Connecticut by Governor Malloy.”

Pollinators play a vital role for Connecticut’s gardens and agriculture, and also for the reproduction of our vast diversity of native flowering plants. Honey bee pollination, provided by over 1,000 beekeepers with over 6,000 honey bee hives registered with the Office of the State Entomologist, has an estimated value of at least \$13.8 million to the orchards in the state. In addition, the state’s beekeepers also produced 155,991 pounds of honey from 227 operations valued at \$609,000 according to the USDA National Agriculture Statistic Service’s 2012 Census of Agriculture.

“In addition to the managed honey bee, there are at least 326 documented species of wild bees in the State of Connecticut” noted Dr. Kimberly Stoner. “Many crops, such as pumpkin and squash, are primarily dependent on these native bees for pollination.” Dr. Stoner studies pollination of pumpkin and winter squash on farms across the state and monitors native bee diversity in selected agricultural and natural habitats. CAES scientists participate in national, regional, and state projects measuring the exposure of honey bees to pesticides in pollen and the movement of pesticides into the pollen and nectar of flowering

Phone: (203) 974-8500 Fax: (203) 974-8502
Toll Free: 1-(877) 855-2237
WWW.CT.GOV/CAES

An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

plants treated with systemic insecticides. These research projects are funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, and the Horticulture Research Institute. CAES offers several fact sheets on ground nesting bees, bee species found on flowering plants on vegetable farms, protecting pollinators from pesticides, and planting flowers for bees in Connecticut. To see the list of all the CAES factsheets visit:

<http://www.ct.gov/caes/cwp/view.asp?a=2826&q=378162>.

###

Phone: (203) 974-8500 Fax: (203) 974-8502
Toll Free: 1-(877) 855-2237
WWW.CT.GOV/CAES
An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer