



The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

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*Putting Science to Work for Society
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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Reports Positive Mosquitoes for West Nile Virus in Five More Connecticut Towns

New Haven – The State Mosquito Management Program today announced that mosquitoes trapped in five new towns tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). These results represent the first positive mosquitoes identified in Bridgeport, Chester, Greenwich, Norwalk, and Stratford by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) this year. The mosquitoes were trapped from July 30 to August 5, 2015.

During 2015, WNV-positive mosquitoes have now been identified in a total of 11 towns: Bridgeport, Chester, Darien, Guilford, Greenwich, New Haven, Norwalk, Stamford, Stratford, Waterford, and West Haven. Additional WNV detections were reported from New Haven, Stamford, and West Haven during the last reporting period (July 30 to August 5, 2015).

“We are seeing an increase in the number of mosquitoes carrying West Nile virus with expansion into new locations especially in coastal Fairfield and New Haven counties,” said Dr. Philip Armstrong, Medical Entomologist at the CAES. “This is the most critical time of summer when virus activity reaches its peak in the mosquito population.”

“August and September are the months when people are at greatest risk of West Nile virus infection,” said Dr. Theodore Andreadis, Director of the Center for Vector Biology & Zoonotic Diseases at the CAES. “With higher temperatures and recent rainfall this past week, we anticipate further build-up of the virus in mosquitoes. We strongly encourage people in affected communities to take simple steps to prevent mosquito bites, such as using insect repellent and covering bare skin, especially during dusk and dawn when biting mosquitoes are most active.”

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The State of Connecticut Mosquito Management Program is a collaborative effort involving the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, the Department of Public Health, the Department of Agriculture, and the University of Connecticut Department of Pathobiology and Veterinary Science. These agencies are responsible for monitoring the potential public health threat of mosquito-borne diseases.

The CAES maintains a network of 91 mosquito-trapping stations in 72 municipalities throughout the state. Mosquito traps are set Monday – Thursday nights at each site every ten days on a rotating basis. Mosquitoes are grouped (pooled) for testing according to species, collection site, and date. Positive findings are reported to local health departments and on the CAES website at <http://www.ct.gov/caes/mosquitotesting>.

For information on West Nile and eastern equine encephalitis viruses and how to prevent mosquito bites, visit the Connecticut Mosquito Management Program Web site at www.ct.gov/mosquito.

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