



## *The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station*

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

*Founded 1875*

### **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, August 19, 2016

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## **WEST NILE VIRUS NOW DETECTED IN NINE CONNECTICUT TOWNS**

**New Haven, CT** – The State Mosquito Management Program announced today that mosquitoes trapped in nine Connecticut towns have tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). So far this season, the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) has identified WNV infected mosquitoes in Bridgeport, Darien, Easton, Hartford, Newington, Stamford, Stratford, West Hartford, and West Haven.

“We are seeing a marked increase in the number of mosquitoes carrying West Nile virus with recent expansion into new locations in Fairfield, Hartford, and New Haven counties,” said Dr. Philip Armstrong, Medical Entomologist at the CAES. “These increases are currently being driven by warmer temperatures and recent rainfall events which have created additional mosquito breeding sites.”

"This is the most critical time of summer when virus activity reaches its peak in the mosquito population with increased risk of human infection," said Dr. Theodore Andreadis, Director of the CAES. "We encourage residents to take measures to prevent mosquito bites, such as using insect repellent and covering bare skin, especially during dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active."

No horses or humans have been reported with WNV-associated illnesses acquired in Connecticut this season. During 2015, 10 Connecticut residents developed WNV-associated illnesses including encephalitis and meningitis, none were fatal. Since 2000, 130 human cases of WNV-associated illnesses including 3 fatalities have been confirmed in the State; of these cases, 7 patients acquired WNV infection while travelling out of state.

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.

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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 other mosquito-borne viruses and how to prevent mosquito bites, visit the Connecticut Mosquito Management Program Web site at [www.ct.gov/mosquito](http://www.ct.gov/mosquito).

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