



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

Monday, May 26, 2020

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PLANT SCIENCE DAY 2020 OPEN HOUSE PRESENTED BY THE CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION WILL BE VIRTUAL

Date: Wednesday, August 5, 2020

Time: Program begins at 10:00 a.m.--Virtual

Event 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.--Virtual

Where: Virtual Event

More details to follow on our webpage <https://portal.ct.gov/caes>, Twitter [www.twitter.com/CT_CAES](https://twitter.com/CT_CAES), and Facebook pages www.facebook.com/CT.CAES

New Haven, CT--The 110th annual Plant Science Day open house event hosted by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) will be a **virtual event** this August. "Given the current concerns during the global pandemic and the fact that this event draws nearly 1000 visitors each year to our Lockwood Farm, we felt there was simply no way to safely hold an on-site live event," notes Dr. Jason C. White, CAES Director. The CAES Plant Science Day has a long history and was last cancelled during WWII, when a significant portion of the staff were on active duty. With this history in mind and by utilizing various available technologies, CAES has decided to host the first ever virtual Plant Science Day on Wednesday August 5, 2020. The virtual event will be held via ZOOM and other platforms and will feature updates on the Station's research advances in agriculture, food safety, the environment, forestry, and public health. The event is free and open to the public. Some parts of the day will be pre-recorded; others will be live streamed. Interactive Question and Answer services will be available, as will remote guided walking tours. More details will be available soon.

Some of the day's highlights will be the Century Farm Award and Samuel W. Johnson Memorial Lecture. The Century Farm Award is presented to a farm that has been in family operation for more than 100 years. The Memorial Lecture, named for Dr. Samuel Johnson, Director of the Station from 1877 to 1900, was established

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as a forum focusing on current issues of concern to Connecticut residents and beyond. This year's lecture will be presented (live streamed) by Mr. Bryan Hurlburt, Commissioner, Connecticut Departmental of Agriculture. CAES scientists will give oral presentations on "Return of Multi-Year Defoliations in Southern New England," "Industrial Hemp: An Emerging Crop in Connecticut," and "Plant Science Day Celebration: A History." Additional highlights will include pre-recorded technical demonstrations on container gardening, as well as management of deer and other herbivores in yards and gardens. A large number of poster displays featuring dozens of the Station's current research programs will be available for download and will include pre-recorded descriptions of the important work. There will also be pre-recorded messages from select guests and other dignitaries. Director White commented that "Since much of this unique content will be recorded and made available on our website and other social media platforms, we plan to reach out to schools in the state through the fall to provide these resources to educators."

We hope you will join us on our very first virtual Plant Science Day. Please stay tuned for further details. Keep checking for status updates on our webpage, twitter, and Facebook pages.



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Twitter (www.twitter.com/CT_CAES)

To visit our webpage, go to <https://portal.ct.gov/caes>, or just scan our QR code below with your smartphone.



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