



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

Friday, September 11, 2020

MEDIA CONTACT:

Dr. Jason C. White, Ph.D.

Director

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

123 Huntington Street

New Haven, CT 06511

Phone: (203) 974-8440

Jason.White@ct.gov

THE CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION RECEIVES \$3.2 MILLION IN FDA FUNDING

New Haven, CT -- The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) is pleased to announce that \$3.2 million in competitive funding has been awarded by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) under a research project cooperative agreement. The grant cycle runs from 2020-2025, at a funding level of approximately \$645,000 per year, with years 2-5 being dependent on performance and available funds. The CAES is the nation's first Agricultural Experiment Station and has a 145-year history of food and product safety surveillance and research, including 15 years as a member of the FDA Food Emergency Response Network (FERN) and 8 years under FDA funded-ISO accreditation programs for human and animal food surveillance projects. Previous contributions of CAES to FDA FERN include activation for the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Response effort in 2010; for food defense testing during national political conventions in 2012, 2016, and 2020; and for surveillance assignments focused on inorganic arsenic in juices and baby food, as well as melamine in pet and human food.

The new 5-year grant will fund technical and post-doctoral staff under a number of research and surveillance projects, including food defense, human food, animal food, and chemistry capability/capacity development. In cooperation with our state regulatory partners at the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Consumer Protection, this new grant will support the chemical analysis of over 1000 samples per year using ISO/IEC 17025:2017 accredited methods. In addition, up to 9 different method development projects were proposed that include activities such as verification analytical approaches for emerging contaminants such as PFAS and veterinary pharmaceuticals, as well as the validation of FDA methods on instrument platforms such as a hand-held X-ray fluorescence detector that could dramatically decrease analysis times. Dr. Jason C. White, Director of the CAES, comments that "this continuation of funding is critical to our efforts to ensure the safety of food and feed in the state and to Connecticut's partnership with the FDA to develop a nationally integrated food safety system." Michelle Seagull, Commissioner, Dept of Consumer Protection, adds that "As decades long food safety partners with The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES), we congratulate the efforts of CAES in securing this important grant."

###

Phone: (203) 974-8500

Fax: (203) 974-8502

Toll Free: 1-(877) 855-2237, CAES@CT.GOV

PORTAL.CT.GOV/CAES

An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer