



CAES

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

Putting Science to Work for Society

150th ANNIVERSARY
1875 – 2025

123 Huntington Street

New Haven, CT 06511

203.974.8500

Toll free: 1.877.855.2237

Fax: 203.974.8502

Email: caes@ct.gov • portal.ct.gov/caes

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

MEDIA CONTACT

Jason C. White, Ph.D.

Director, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

123 Huntington Street; New Haven, CT 06511

Phone: (203) 974-8440; E-mail: Jason.White@ct.gov

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Celebrates its 150th Anniversary

New Haven— The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) is honored to announce it's the 150th anniversary. The federal Hatch Act of 1887 authorized the establishment of Agricultural Experiment Stations on the campuses of the land grant colleges/universities of agriculture in each state of our union. However, the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station had actually formed 12 years earlier, in 1875 (150 years ago!), and as such, is the first and oldest Agricultural Experiment Station in the country. The founder of CAES and of the AES system in the United States was Professor Samuel Johnson. Johnson was a Yale University Analytical Chemist with a keen interest in agriculture; he spent time in Europe in the mid-1800s and witnessed the Agricultural Experiment Station system that existed there. He thought that concept of technically trained scientists working directly with farmers to help solve their problems was something that needed to exist in the United States. As such, in early 1875 he petitioned that CT State Legislature to establish the CAES; the statute was passed in the summer of 1875 and with a two-year budget of \$2400, the CAES was established. Importantly, that statute specified that the CAES was to remain independent, and as such, we are still an independent state agency; the only AES in the country that is not part of a university. After 2 years on the campus of Wesleyan University, followed by about 5 years in the Sheffield School of Science at Yale University, we moved to our current location in New Haven in 1882. The AES system now employs over 13,000 scientists, not only in the US but also in Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Northern Mariana Islands. The central mission of the Agricultural Experiment Stations is to "conduct original research, investigation, and experiments which contributing to the establishment and maintenance of the agricultural industry in the United States." Dr. Jason C. White, current and 10th Director of the CAES states that "we live this mission through our motto, "Putting Science to Work for Society."

On this important anniversary, Governor Ned Lamont states "For a century and a half, the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station has provided research and discoveries that are fueling our state's agricultural industry, which generates billions for our economy, employs thousands, and is responsible for producing the food that keeps Connecticut running. We are committed to supporting Connecticut farmers and the agricultural products they grow, and one of the many ways we do that is through the work of the Agricultural Experiment Station. Connecticut is the home of the very first Agricultural Experiment Station in the country, and I wish this office many more years of success to come."

Protecting Agriculture, Public Health, and the Environment

An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer



CAES

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

Putting Science to Work for Society

150th ANNIVERSARY
1875 – 2025

123 Huntington Street

New Haven, CT 06511

203.974.8500

Toll free: 1.877.855.2237

Fax: 203.974.8502

Email: caes@ct.gov • portal.ct.gov/caes

In addition, CT Department of Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt states that “It is remarkable that Connecticut is home to the nation’s oldest and longest running agricultural experiment station. We are proud to partner with CAES on programs which aim to advance agriculture in our state, and commend Dr. White, his team, and predecessors for engaging the state’s farmers to identify issues and perform the research necessary to find solutions.”

The CAES will be engaging in a number of activities over the course of this year to celebrate our last 150 years and to look ahead to the next 150! Dr. White states that “As the 10th Director of the CAES, it is a privilege and honor to be the steward during this important year and celebration.”

Please see the video below for a quick retrospective on our important work over the last 150 years.

https://youtu.be/MUcdAq_ZJnM

###