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CAES Seminar Series

"Reservoir targeted vaccination to reduce the risk of Lyme disease"

Dr. Sam R. Telford III

Professor, Dept. of Infectious Disease and Global Health
Tufts University

Wednesday, April 13, 2016
12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.
Food and coffee will be available at 11:45 a.m.

Jones Auditorium
The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
123 Huntington Street, New Haven, CT

Pathogens transmitted by ticks are the leading cause of arthropod-associated human diseases in the United States. Despite great improvements in public awareness and the availability of acaricidal modes of intervention, the spirochetal agent of Lyme disease (LD) now infects nearly 300,000 people every year. The geographical distribution of LD appears to be increasing as a result of intense development of habitat for housing and recreation, and increases in deer density, suggesting that the incidence of this zoonosis may greatly increase over the next decades. Although a variety of interventions at the individual and community level are available, to date risk reduction seems to rarely be achieved. Vaccinating mouse reservoirs may reduce the prevalence of spirochetal infection. Current research will be presented on utilizing a reservoir-targeted vaccine in promoting the principles of integrated pest management and complementary additional strategies for reducing Lyme disease cases.