

# STATION NEWS

THE CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION



## THE CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

STATION NEWS  
*PUTTING SCIENCE TO WORK FOR  
SOCIETY*

The mission of The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station is to develop, advance, and disseminate scientific knowledge, improve agricultural productivity and environmental quality, protect plants, and enhance human health and well-being through research for the benefit of Connecticut residents and the nation. Seeking solutions across a variety of disciplines for the benefit of urban, suburban, and rural communities, Station scientists remain committed to "Putting Science to Work for Society", a motto as relevant today as it was at our founding in 1875.



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### DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

#### ADMINISTRATION

**DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI** gave a report to Landscape Architects on Station research in Jones Auditorium (September 13); welcomed the participants in the Garden Study School course in Jones Auditorium; and gave a report on Station regulations concerning the emerald ash borer (September 24).

#### ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY

**DR. JASON C. WHITE** participated in a Skype Conference call with the US EPA and Hasselt University (Belgium) researchers on the upcoming 9<sup>th</sup> International Phytotechnologies Conference to be held this month in Belgium (September 3); attended the 9<sup>th</sup> International Phytotechnologies Conference in Hasselt Belgium and gave a plenary lecture entitled "Plants and nanoparticles" (250 attendees), gave a regular platform presentation entitled "Interaction of plants and engineered nanoparticles" (45 attendees), and hosted the International Phytotechnology Society business meeting (65 attendees) (September 11-15); met with Professor Saion Sinha of the University of New Haven and Soumya Mangu (graduate student) regarding a research project within the Analytical Chemistry Department on nanotoxicology (September 18); hosted two representatives from Thermo Scientific for a presentation on a GC/MS/MS unit that the Analytical Chemistry Department may purchase (September 26); participated with Department Staff in an FDA FERN Chemistry Cooperative Agreement conference call (September 27); and was interviewed by Naomi Lubick, a free-lance science reporter in Sweden, on the Analytical Chemistry Department's research on nanoparticle interactions with food crops (September 27).

**DR. BRIAN EITZER** attended the annual FDA FERN Chemistry Cooperative Agreement Program meeting in Cincinnati and presented lectures entitled "2012 Laboratory update -Department of Analytical Chemistry - Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station" (50 attendees) and "QuEChERS-Exactive Pesticide Screening Protocol and Validation" (30 attendees) (September 10-14).

**DR. CHRISTINA ROBB** attended the annual FDA FERN Chemistry Cooperative Agreement Program meeting in Cincinnati and presented lectures entitled "Guidelines for Working with Powdered Products in a Portable Glovebox" (50 attendees) and "FSIS Capacity Exercise- Lessons Learned" (30 attendees) (September 10-14).

**DR. ROBERTO DE LA TORRE ROCHE** a platform presentation entitled "Fullerene-enhanced accumulation of DDE in agricultural crops" at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual International Phytotechnology Society Conference, Hasselt, Belgium, (45 attendees) (September 11-14).

**MR. WILLIAM BERGER** gave a platform presentation entitled "Effect of Hydrogen Peroxide on the Uptake of POPs by *Cucurbitaceae*" at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual International Phytotechnology Society Conference, Hasselt, Belgium, (45 attendees) (September 11-14).

**MS. TERRI ARSENAULT** attended the annual FDA FERN Chemistry Cooperative Agreement Program meeting in Cincinnati, OH (September 10-14).



# Bomen saneren grond bij Ford

Ook projecten in Helchteren, Lommel en Balen

GENK

Universiteit Hasselt gaat grassen planten op het militair domein in Helchteren om vervuilde grond van munitie en vuurwerk te zuiveren. Ook bij Ford Genk hebben ze populieren gezet die de bodem saneren. Speciale bacteriën aan de wortels eten de vervuiling letterlijk op. Professor Jaco Vangronsveld kreeg gisteren alvast een internationale onderscheiding voor baanbrekend werk in natuurlijke sanering.



Foto Tom PALMAERS/Hbvl

"Bacteriën zitten overal. Ook planten zitten vol bacteriën die hen helpen groeien", zegt Vangronsveld. Vooral aan de wortels van planten en bomen zitten veel van die 'beestjes' en die blijken verontreiniging in de grond op te eten. "Uiteraard niet met de bedoeling om de bodem te saneren, wel als voedsel. Want bacteriën zijn heel flexibel en hebben geleerd om zich overal aan

aan te passen." Het Centrum voor Milieukunde (CMK) van UHasselt is dan ook op verschillende verontreinigde locaties - zoals in Overpelt en Lommel - bodemonderzoek gaan doen en kijken welke bacteriën daar zitten en hoe ze nog meer 'aangepast' kunnen worden om de grond te zuiveren. "Zo hebben we bacteriën meegenomen op het militair domein, waar de grond

vervuld is door het vernietigen van oude munitie en vuurwerk. In het labo hebben we dan vervuilde grond met DNT genomen, daar bacteriën bijgedaan en 96 uur later was er nog maar 35% DNT over."

Diesel

Samen met de Vlaamse afvalmaatschappij OVAM hebben ze ook 275 populieren geplant om de historische vervuiling met verf en solventen bij Ford Genk op te ruimen. "Met succes. Vier jaar hebben ze er over gedaan, de verontreiniging was weg. Intussen hebben we weer populieren geplant om dieselverontreiniging bij Ford op te ruimen. En ook dat lukt, de bacteriën zijn volop aan het werk."

**DE HISTORISCHE VERVUILING MET VERF BIJ FORD GENK HEBBEN DE BOMEN OP VIER JAAR TIJD WEGGEWERKT**

Professor Jaco Vangronsveld

Waarom populieren? "Dat zijn echte zaaiplanten, ze zuigen het grondwater naar zich toe en dus ook de verontreiniging."

Op het militair domein in Helchteren gaan ze volgend jaar als proef met grassen aan de slag. "Voor de afbraak van TNT. Geen bomen maar grassen omdat TNT in de bovenste laag van de grond blijft

hangen." Ook in Lommel en Balen hebben ze proefvelden met wilgen, populieren, koolzaad, mais en het beloftevolle tabak.

Zonne-energie

Vangronsveld: "Deze sanering - fyto-remediatie - is goedkoop en milieuvriendelijk: je moet vervuilde gronden niet afgraven of chemisch 'wassen'. Het kost alleen de energie om bomen te planten en eventueel nog extra bacteriën toe te voegen. Het werkt ook gewoon op 'zonne-energie': door de fotosynthese van de plant. Maar er zijn ook voorwaarden: zo moet je tijd hebben, je moet minstens op een jaar of vier rekenen. En de juiste plaats, waar je planten of bomen kan zetten. Daarom is bijvoorbeeld een deel bij Ford ook klassiek gesaneerd, omdat het in de gebouwen was."

Zo'n 365 internationale onderzoekers zijn deze week alvast naar UHasselt afgezaakt om mee te leren over de bacteriën. "Er is bijvoorbeeld veel belangstelling vanuit Azië en Afrika. Zoals Nigeria, waar je veel olie-verontreiniging hebt maar de middelen beperkt zijn."

Vangronsveld kreeg gisteren ook de Milton Gordon Award van de internationale phytotechnologie vereniging (IPS) voor het werk van zijn team aan het CMK. "Geld is er niet aan verbonden, alleen de eer."

Caroline VANDENREYT



## BIOCHEMISTRY AND GENETICS

**DR. RICHARD PETERSON** presented joint research undertaken with **Dr. Neil Schultes** in a poster at The 11th Nordic Photosynthesis Congress detailing the genetics and function of Arabidopsis LHCb7 locus (September 11-14).

**DR. NEIL P. SCHULTES** presented a talk on "Genetic Modification of Plant in Agriculture: A Scientists Perspective" to the Polish University Club of Connecticut at Central Connecticut State University (September 19) and taught a course on "Plant Taxonomy" to the Federated Garden Club at CAES (September 24).

## ENTOMOLOGY

**MR. MARK H. CREIGHTON** gave a presentation on honey bee health and hive registration to members of the Eastern Beekeepers Association in Brooklyn (75 attendees) (September 16); was interviewed about honey bees and beekeeping by Scott Tucker of Expedition Earth Productions Inc. Mr. Tucker did some filming at the apiary at Lockwood Farm for a video he is producing about honey bees (September 19); gave a presentation on honey bee health and urban beekeeping to the Wethersfield Garden Club in Wethersfield (25 attendees) (September 24); spoke about honey bee hive registration and honey bee health at the Backyard Beekeepers Association meeting in Weston (75 attendees) (September 25); spoke about honey bees, beekeeping, and honey bee biology to students at Montessori School in New Hartford (20 students) (September 28).

**MS. KATHERINE DUGAS** staffed a table in the Agricultural Exhibits Building about emerald ash borer and Asian longhorned beetle at the Woodstock Fair (September 3); staffed a table about emerald ash borer and Asian longhorned beetle at the Hebron Harvest Fair (September 7); spoke about invasive plants and insects to the Madison Garden Club (50 attendees) (September 11); staffed a table in the Connecticut Building about emerald ash borer and Asian longhorned beetle at the Big E in West Springfield, MA (September 25); staffed the Tolland County Extension Master Gardeners table and provided information about the emerald ash borer and Asian longhorned beetle at the Durham Fair (September 29).

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**MS. ROSE T. HISKES** organized and staffed a Forest Pest table at the Hebron Harvest Fair in Hebron (September 6 and 9); organized and staffed a Forest Pest table at the Four Town Fair in Somers (September 13-16); gave an emerald ash borer update at the Connecticut Groundskeepers Association meeting in Windsor (11 attendees) (September 17); participated in a CAPS state survey coordinator conference call (September 20); staffed a Forest Pest table at the Big E in West Springfield, MA (September 25); participated in a Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group symposium planning committee meeting in Windsor (September 26); organized and helped staff a plant identification workshop for students in the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Accreditation course in the gardens at the Valley Laboratory in Windsor (32 attendees) (September 29).

**DR. GALE E. RIDGE** along with other panelists, talked about ants with her focus on ants of New England on the Colin McEnroe Show on WNPR (September 12); trained mattress recycle and refurbish employees on self-protection against bed bug infestation in Bridgeport (20 attendees) (September 13); spoke about bed bugs and their management in multi-unit housing at the International Real Estate Managers New England meeting in Wallingford. The managers at the meeting represented a membership of 75,000 both nationally and internationally and the information she gave them as well as the CAES bed bug website is going to be used by the organization to better manage bed bug issues in their properties (90 attendees) (September 27); spoke about bed bugs and the health industry at the Connecticut Environmental Health Association fall conference in Mystic (115 attendees) (September 27).

**DR. CLAIRE E. RUTLEDGE** gave talks on emerald ash borer trapping and biosurveillance at a field day on emerald ash borer sponsored by the Connecticut Tree Protective Association in Prospect (80 attendees) (September 6); gave the talk "Who's eating our trees" at a program titled "Saving Connecticut's Trees," jointly sponsored by the Experiment Station Associates and the Connecticut branch of the American Society of Landscape Architects, in Jones Auditorium (40 attendees) (September 13); gave a talk titled "Four invasive insects to watch out for" at a "Hot Topics" class for Master Gardeners in Bethany (50 attendees) (September 25).

**DR. VICTORIA L. SMITH** participated in a *Phytophthora ramorum* Safeguarding Meeting, as the representative for the Eastern Plant Board, sponsored by the National Plant Board, USDA-APHIS-PPQ, and Oregon Department of Agriculture, held at the Red Lion Hotel in Salem and on the Oregon State University campus at Corvallis, Oregon (30 participants) (September 24-28).

**DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD III** was interviewed about the gypsy moth by Bob Miller of the Danbury News Times (September 4); with **DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI**, met with Chris Martin and Kenneth Collette, CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, to discuss the firewood regulations (September 13); spoke on ticks, Lyme disease, West Nile virus, and emerald ash borer at a meeting of the Spring Glen Garden Club held at the cottage at Lockwood Farm (12 attendees) (September 17); spoke on the state perspective on the emerald ash borer quarantine and state permit requirements at an EAB forum for the CT Tree Protective Association in Jones Auditorium (52 attendees) (September 18); with **DR. SCOTT C. WILLIAMS**, met with Natalie Ketchum (Town of Redding First Selectman), Doug Hartline (Town of Redding Health Officer), JoAnn Brooks (Town of Redding Land Use Coordinator), David Streit, Georgina Scholl, and Dr. Anthony DeNicola (White Buffalo, Inc.) to discuss the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-funded tick management study in the Town of Redding titled "An Integrated and Individual Tick Management Program to Reduce Risk of Lyme Disease in a Residential Endemic Area" (September 19); participated in a national meeting of the Experiment Station Section and Experiment Station Directors and chaired a meeting of the Northeast Multi-State Activities Committee in Portsmouth, NH (102 attendees) (September 29).

**DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER** made a presentation and answered questions as part of a Public Policy Teach-In, "Where Have All the Bees Gone," sponsored by the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA), at the Common Ground Country Fair in Unity, Maine (70 attendees) (September 22). Other panelists were David Hackenberg, the commercial beekeeper who sounded the initial alarm about Colony Collapse Disorder; Theresa Gaffney, blueberry grower and beekeeper; and Dr. Frank Drummond, researcher on bees, blueberries, and pollination at the University of Maine. In addition, there will be an article in the MOFGA Newspaper about the forum, quoting Dr. Stoner extensively, which will go to the 4,000 members of MOFGA.



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### ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

**DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS** was interviewed about the occurrence of four human cases of West Nile virus in residents of Stamford by Kate King, Stamford Advocate (September 14); was interviewed about the abundance of human cases of West Nile virus in the Greenwich and Stamford area by Lisa Chamoff, Greenwich Times (September 17); was interviewed about the 2012 West Nile virus season by Marc Sims, Connecticut Public Radio and Steve Sevino, WQUN Radio (September 18); was interviewed about the effectiveness of a West Nile virus horse vaccine by Lisa Chamoff-Greenwich Times (September 19); hosted a formal laboratory rotation for Dr. Melissa Gittman, a Yale New Haven Hospital Microbiology Fellow (September 27).

**MR. GREGORY BUGBEE** spoke to the Branford Garden Club on *Container Gardening Indoors and Out* (approx. 25 attendees) (September 10); participated in a meeting of public officials at the New Fairfield Town Hall on *Using herbicides to Control Eurasian Watermilfoil in Candlewood Lake* (approx. 10 attendees) (September 19); was interviewed by Bob Miller of the Danbury News Times on the 2012 aquatic survey results and using herbicides to control Eurasian Watermilfoil in Candlewood Lake (September 19); presented a talk entitled: *Improving Soil In the Home Garden* as part of a lunchtime seminar series at the South Central Regional Water Authority in New Haven (approx. 25 attendees) (September 26); With **MS. JORDAN GIBBONS** and Jennifer Fanzutti presented the results of the aquatic vegetation survey of Laurel Lake in New Hartford to members of the Laurel Lake Association (approx. 15 attendees) (September 30).

**DR. JOSEPH PIGNATELLO** was the keynote speaker at International Humic Substances Society National Meeting held in Hangzhou, China; and presented a talk entitled: *Role of Natural Organic Matter as Sorption Suppressant in Soil, or, what contribution does Environmental Black Carbon Make to Sorption of Organic Contaminants in Soil?* (September 9-13) and presented an invited talk entitled: *Environmental Function of Black Carbon in Soil* at the School of Geographical Sciences, Fujian Normal University, Fuzhou, China (September 17).

### FORESTRY AND HORTICULTURE

**DR. JEFFREY WARD** administered practical and oral examination to arborist candidates for the Connecticut Tree Protection Examining Board (September 12); spoke on "Assessing forest health" at a workshop organized by the Guilford Conservation Commission (9 attendees) (September 18); assessed the health of Norway maples on Prospect Street at the request of the Christy Hass, Deputy Director, New Haven Parks and Recreation (September 19); spoke on "The biodiversity crisis: invasive plants" for the Harvard Club of Fairfield County in Greenwich (31 attendees) (September 20); interviewed by Bridget Ruthman of the Waterbury Republican about the effect of weather on fall colors (September 22); visited with Jennifer Kaufmann, Parks Coordinator-Town of Mansfield, to discuss invasive plant control (September 24); participated in an Execution board meeting of the Connecticut Urban Forest Council in Middlefield (September 25).

**DR. MARTIN GENT** Robert Riviere and two others visited to talk about greenhouse design and growing hydroponic lettuce (September 12).

**DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD** judged fruits and vegetables at the North Haven fair (September 6); discussed Connecticut agriculture and the New Crops Program on the talk show "Where We Live" on WNPR (September 7); lectured on "The Experiment Station's New Crops Program: Helping Connecticut's Farmers" as a part of the Biology Department's Seminar series at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven (45 students) (5 faculty) (September 24).

**DR. SCOTT WILLIAMS** with **DR. KIRBY STAFFORD**, interviewed by science writer Carl Zimmer about blacklegged ticks and Lyme disease in Connecticut for Outside Magazine (September 18); with **MR. MICHAEL SHORT**, hosted the University of Connecticut's Natural Resources and the Environment's Wildlife Techniques class in demonstrating vegetation regen-



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eration sampling, East Haddam, CT (September 21); met with Doug Hartline (Town of Redding Health Officer) and Dr. Anthony DeNicola (White Buffalo, Inc.) to discuss a Centers for Disease Control-funded study “An Integrated and Individual Tick Management Program to Reduce Risk of Lyme Disease in a Residential Endemic Area” in Redding, CT. (September 27).

**MR. MICHAEL R. SHORT** attended a CT Tree Protection Association emerald ash borer day-long talk and field tour in Prospect (September 6).

## PLANT PATHOLOGY AND ECOLOGY

**DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS** presented the papers “Chestnut restoration” and “Asian chestnut gall wasp on species and hybrids of chestnut in Connecticut” at the International Chestnut Congress held in Shepherdstown, WV (105 adult attendees) (September 5-9).

**DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS** participated in the monthly meeting of the CTPA Board of Directors in New Haven (September 11); participated in the CT Tree Protection Examining Board’s September meeting and assisted with the oral exam required to become a licensed arborist (September 12); organized and moderated the CTPA evening seminar “Emerald ash borer in Connecticut” in Jones Auditorium (52 attendees) (September 18); was interviewed about fall color and the impact of the quirky weather this season by Brigitte Ruthman of the Waterbury Republican-American (September 20); gave a presentation titled “*Sphaerobolus*—The artillery fungus” for the Rivercrest Condo Association in Cheshire (25 attendees) (September 20).

**DR. ROBERT E. MARRA** gave a talk titled “Important Plant Diseases of the Northeast” at the New York Botanical Gardens in the Bronx, as part of a training program for landscape professionals (75 adult attendees) (September 13).

## VALLEY LABORATORY

**DR. RICHARD COWLES** participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Environmental Council (CTEC) to discuss difficulties that municipalities have been having with the ban of pesticide use on K-8 schoolgrounds, Wethersfield (12 participants) (September 12); presented a 2 hour walking tour of “Pests of Christmas Trees” in Belchertown, MA, for the Massachusetts Christmas Tree Growers' Association (50 attendees) (September 15); presented “Preserving Ash Trees” at a special meeting of the CTPA focused on emerald ash borer, New Haven (50 participants) (September 18); participated as a virtual attendee for “eFly,” an organizational meeting for scientists east of the Mississippi on current research and identifying additional research needs for spotted wing drosophila management, North Carolina State University (30 attendees) (September 20); and lectured on “Insect Pests of Athletic Turf” for Dr. Jason Henderson's Athletic Turf Management course at UConn, Storrs (10 attendees) (September 25).

**DR. DEWEI LI** traveled to China for collaborative research from mid-August to mid-September. During his visit, he and two of his collaborators (Prof Guihua Zhao and Prof Junfeng Liang) made a one-week field trip to the tropical rain forest in Jianfengling and Wuzhishan, Hainan Island to collect hyphomycete specimens and 126 specimens were collected. He worked on the specimens at Prof Zhao’s laboratory. He spent the following two weeks at Nanjing Forestry University (NJFU) to plan his sabbatic leave and adjunct professor appointment with the university and collaborators Drs. Jianren Ye and Xiaoqin Wu. He also gave a presentation “Development of Research on Systematics of *Stachybotrys* and *Memnoniella*” at College of Forest Resources and Environments, NJFU (35 attendees) (September 8). He met Dr. Jianhui Xue, vice president of NJFU (September 11). He visited Beijing Forestry University (BJFU) from (September 16-18), met Dr. Youqing Luo, an expert on the longhorn beetle, vice president of BJFU and Dr. Junchang Liu, director of Department of International Collaboration, and had discussions with a numbers of faculty members. A presentation on *Stachybotrys* was also given at BJFU with (27 attendees). When DeWei was in Nanjing, he was visited by Dr. Yong Wang, associate professor at Guizhou University to work on a manuscript on a new species proposed by Dr. Wang, DeWei, and other co-authors.





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Dr. DeWei Li in a rain forest in Jianfengling, China. Photo courtesy of Dr. Junfeng Liang.

**DR. TODD L. MERVOSH** presented a display about invasive insects and plants at Hilltop Farm Fest in Suffield (September 3); spoke about invasive plants at a meeting of the Sierra Club of Greater Hartford in West Hartford (20 attendees) (September 13); was interviewed about control of bamboo by Richie Rathsack of the Meriden Record-Journal (September 14); delivered a truckload of pumpkins grown at the Valley Laboratory to Northwest Park in Windsor for use at their Country Fair (September 19); spoke about management of invasive plants at a meeting of the Branford Land Trust (15 attendees) (September 25); and participated in a symposium planning meeting for the Conn. Invasive Plant Working Group at the Valley Laboratory (9 attendees) (September 26).



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## JOURNAL ARTICLES APPROVED SEPTEMBER 2012

**Douglas, Sharon M.** Juniper tip blights. CAES Fact Sheet (rev. September 2012)

**Elmer, Wade H.**, S. Useman, R. W. Schneider, **Robert E. Marra**, **James A. LaMondia**, I. A. Mendelssohn, M. M. Jimenez-Gasco, and F. L. Caruso. Sudden vegetation dieback in Atlantic and Gulf Coast salt marshes. Plant Disease

Haolin, L. N., **Neil McHale**, M. Ohure-Tagaki, K. Mysore and M. Tadege. An evolutionarily conserved repressive activity of WOX proteins mediates leaf blade outgrowth and development of floral organs in plants. Proceedings of the National Academy of Science

Keena, M. A., R. T. Trotter, M. E. Montgomery, and **Carole Cheah**. Effects of temperature and photoperiod on the aestival egg diapause of *Scymnus camptodromus* (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae). Environmental Entomology

**Stafford, Kirby C. III** and **Claire E. Rutledge**. The Emerald Ash Borer is found in Connecticut. CT Agricultural Weekly Report



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*Putting Science to work  
for Society.*



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Entrance to The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven on Huntington Street



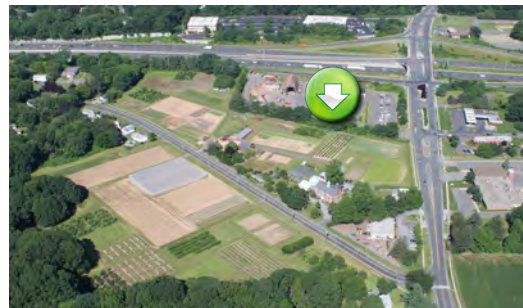
Main Laboratories, New Haven



Lockwood Farm, Hamden



Griswold Research Center, Griswold



Valley Laboratory, Windsor

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