



# CAES

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

*Putting Science to Work for Society*

**150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**  
**1875 – 2025**

## 2025-2026 Seminar Series

123 Huntington Street  
New Haven, CT 06511  
Jones Auditorium  
12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.

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| September 17, 2025                               | Vipan Kumar, Ph.D. Associate Weed Scientist, Cornell University; "Challenges and Opportunities for Emerging Weed Problems in the Northeastern Field Crops"   |
| September 22, 2025<br><b>11:00 AM – 12:00 PM</b> | <b>LOCKWOOD LECTURE:</b> Rahul Bhattacharyya, Ph.D., Director, MIT Auto-ID Labs; Title TBA   |
| October 1, 2025                                  | <b>LOCKWOOD LECTURE:</b> Charles Nicholson, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biology, Roger Williams University; "The bitter & the sweet: exploring pesticide exposure and pollinator foraging at landscape scales" |
| October 15, 2025                                 | <b>LOCKWOOD LECTURE:</b> Joseph Coolon, Ph.D., Director of College of Integrative Sciences, Associate Professor of Biology @ Wesleyan University; Title TBA  |
| October 29, 2025                                 | Brian Scott-Smith, Broadcaster & Media Consultant; "Talking to the Media: The Do's and Don'ts of Getting Your Message Across"  |
| November 12, 2025                                | Sudhir Sharma, Ph.D., Postdoc, CAES' Department of Analytical Chemistry; "Tiny Steps Towards Major Goals - How Nanoparticles Can Help Ensure Cleaner and Safer Food Crops"                                       |
| November 26, 2025                                | Katherine Owens, Ph.D., National Geographic Explorer, Fulbright Scholar, Director of Environmental Studies Program @ University of Hartford; Title TBA   |
| December 17, 2025                                | Libby Indermaur, Ph.D., Postdoc, CAES' Valley Laboratory, "A tale of two pie plants: interdisciplinary approaches to advance disease management in pumpkin and rhubarb"  |

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| January 7, 2026   | Alvaro Garcia, Ph.D. Postdoc, CAES' Department of Analytical Chemistry; "Nanotechnology-Derived Biostimulants and Fertilizers for the Enhancement of Agri-Food Production"  |
| January 21, 2026  | <b>LOCKWOOD LECTURE:</b> Professor Jonas Baltrusaitis, Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA; "Sustainable by design: novel materials and processes for nitrogen cycling" |
| February 4, 2026  | Eric Slessarev, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Yale University, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology; "Title TBD, but something soils related"   |
| February 18, 2026 | Jessica Brown, Ph.D., Postdoc & Natalie Bailey, Technician I, CAES' Department of Environmental Science and Forestry; "Investigation of American Dog Tick Infestation Ecology on Horse Island in Branford's Thimbles"     |
| March 4, 2026     | Caleb Bryan, PhD, Postdoc, CAES' Department of Entomology; "Title TBA- something about bumble bee radio telemetry"  |
| March 18, 2026    | Hany Dweck, PhD, Assistant Scientist II, CAES' Department of Entomology; "The Making of a Pest Fly: Mechanisms of Olfactory Adaptation"   |
| April 1, 2026     | Blaire Steven, Ph.D., Scientist, CAES' Department of Environmental Science and Forestry; "The Axenic Mosquito to Study Host Bacterial Interactions. A CAES Success Story"   |
| April 15, 2026    | Summer Weidman, Technician II, CAES' Department of Environmental Science and Forestry & UConn Ph.D. Student; "Harnessing Remote Sensing Technology for Enhanced Management of Hydrilla"                                   |
| April 29, 2026    | Leigh Whittinghill, Ph. D., Assistant Scientist II, CAES' Department of Environmental Science and Forestry; "Monitoring Urban Farm Nutrient and Irrigation Use Efficiency: A Pilot Project"                               |
| May 6, 2026       | Raquel Rocha, Ph.D., Assistant Agricultural Scientist II, CAES' Department of Plant Pathology and Ecology, "Root-Knot Nematodes in Connecticut: Integrating Parasitism Insights and Innovative Management Approaches"     |
| May 13, 2026      | Robert Marra, Ph.D., Associate Agricultural Scientist, CAES' Department of Plant Pathology and Ecology, "Beech Leaf Disease: Insights from a co-evolved pathosystem in Japan."  |
| May 27, 2026      | Eli Ward, Ph.D. Title TBA   |