



# *The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station*

123 HUNTINGTON STREET, P.O. BOX 1106, NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06504

*Founded 1875*

*Putting science to work for society*

## **SPRING 2011—OPEN HOUSE**

### ***SAFEGUARDING THE FOOD SUPPLY AND ENVIRONMENT***

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27TH, 2011, 1:00 PM**

**REFRESHMENTS (1:00PM-1:15PM)**

**SIGN-IN FOR PESTICIDE CREDITS (1:00PM-1:15PM)**

**WELCOME (1:15PM-1:30PM) Dr. Louis A. Magnarelli, Director**

#### **SHORT TALKS (1:30PM-3:00PM)**

**1:30pm-2:00pm**

***The Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Response: The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and the US FDA Food Emergency Response Network (FERN)***

**Dr. Jason C. White**

The Department of Analytical Chemistry has been a member of the FDA FERN chemistry Cooperative Agreement Program (cCAP) since 2005. The network, originally established in the recognition that agriculture and the food supply could be vulnerable to terrorist attack, has been activated for several non-terrorism events. In June 2010, our Department, along with an FDA laboratory and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, developed a new chemical screening method for oil contamination in seafood. Our laboratory subsequently analyzed and reported out samples that resulted in the re-opening of Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama state fishing waters.

**2:00pm-2:30pm**

***Examination of the Role that Pesticides Play in the Decline of Honey Bees***

**Dr. Brian D. Eitzer**

One of the many factors influencing the decline of honey bees is pesticide use. These chemicals are used in agricultural food production, by homeowners, by landscape care companies and by beekeepers. This presentation will discuss several ongoing research projects that The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station is participating in that are helping to elucidate the risks posed by pesticidal chemicals to honey bees.

**2:30pm-3:00pm**

***Nanomaterial Contamination of Agricultural Crops***

**Mr. Craig L. Musante**

Nanomaterials, with dimensions measured in billionths of a meter, have unique physical and chemical properties not observed with bulk materials. As such, nanomaterial use has increased dramatically in the last five years, including incorporation into over 1000 commercially available products. This research is investigating the impact of nanomaterial use in commercial

pesticides/fertilizers on agricultural crops and the resulting risk from potential food chain contamination.

#### **GUIDED TOURS (3:00PM-4:06PM)**

**3:00pm-3:22pm**

***1. The Department of Analytical Chemistry Laboratories***

**Dr. Jason C. White and staff**

The Department is the primary analytical laboratory for the state, analyzing over 1000 samples per year for the Departments of Consumer Protection, Environmental Protection, Agriculture, and Public Health. Analyses include pesticides/pollutants in food and the environment, heavy metals in toys and consumer products, and feed/fertilizer content. We also work with federal agencies such as the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Department of Agriculture (USDA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

**Location: Johnson-Horsfall Building; 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

**3:22pm-3:44pm**

***2. CT Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Mobile Laboratory***

The CT DEP Mobile Laboratory, part of the Emergency Response and Spill Prevention Division, is deployed for emergencies involving hazardous chemicals, wastes and other materials.

**Location: Between Johnson-Horsfall and Jenkins Buildings**

**3:44pm-4:06pm**

***3. The New Crops Program***

**Dr. Abigail A. Maynard**

Since 1982, the Department of Forestry and Horticulture has been investigating specialty crops to provide new opportunities for Connecticut's farmers. Over 40 fruits and vegetables have been studied including Belgian endive, artichokes, radicchio, heirloom tomatoes, sweet potatoes, and specialty melons. Research included variety trials and experiments to determine the best cultural methods for growing the crop in Connecticut.

**Location: Greenhouse near Jenkins Building**

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## **Biographical Sketches for Spring Open House 2011**

**Dr. Jason C. White** is the Chief Scientist in the Department of Analytical Chemistry at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES). Dr. White received his Ph.D. in Environmental Toxicology from Cornell University in 1997. After one year as a Post-Doctoral Associate at CAES, he joined the Department of Soil and Water in 1998. In 2009; he assumed the Department Head position in Analytical Chemistry.

**Dr. Brian D. Eitzer** is an Associate Agricultural Scientist in the Department of Analytical Chemistry at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES). Dr. Eitzer received his Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry from Indiana University in 1989. He joined the Department of Analytical Chemistry in 1989 and since then has been one of the Departments primary analysts working on organic chemicals in various environmental and food matrices.

**Mr. Craig L. Musante** is an Assistant Agricultural Scientist 1 in the Department of Analytical Chemistry at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES). Mr. Musante received his B.S. in Chemistry from Sacred Heart University in 1989 and his M.B.A. from the University of New Haven in 1992. He joined the Department of Analytical Chemistry in 1988 and since then, has been one of the Departments primary analysts working on inorganic chemicals in various environmental and food matrices.

**Dr. Abigail A. Maynard** received her B.S. degree from Columbia University and her MFS and PH.D degrees from Yale University. She worked 7 summers at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) before being hired as a scientist in 1988 in the Department of Soil and Water. She is now an Associate Scientist in the Department of Forestry and Horticulture where she is in charge of the New Crops Program.

**Jianping “JP” Chen** is the Director of the Mobile Laboratory of the Connecticut State Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Emergency Response & Spill Prevention Division. The DEP Mobile Laboratory is the primary Connecticut State Government mobile unit for chemical testing at environmental emergencies caused by oil spills, chemical releases or other incidents. Mr. Chen received his Master’s Degree in chemical engineering from UConn and has been working at DEP since 2000.

**Thomas F. McGloin** is a chemist with the Connecticut State Department of Environmental Protection Mobile Laboratory. Mr. McGloin has 37 years of laboratory experience, 20 of which are in laboratory management. He received his B.S. degree in Biology from Niagara University. He received his M.S. degree in Chemistry from Southern Connecticut University. His professional interests are in the area of environmental forensics, particularly as it relates to petroleum spills and the aging and weathering effects in the environment.

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# Guided Tours - Wednesday, April 27, 2011

## Short Talks (Jones Auditorium) (1:30pm-3:00pm)

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*The Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Response: The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and the US FDA Food Emergency Response Network (FERN)*  
Dr. Jason C. White

*Examination of the Role that Pesticides Play in the Decline of Honey Bees*  
Dr. Brian D. Eitzer

*Nanomaterial Contamination of Agricultural Crops*  
Mr. Craig L. Musante

## Guided Tours (3:00pm-4:06pm)

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1. *The Department of Analytical Chemistry Laboratories*  
Dr. Jason C. White and Staff

2. *Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Mobile Laboratory*  
CT DEP

3. *The New Crops Program*  
Dr. Abigail A. Maynard

