



The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

PLANT SCIENCE DAY 2010

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PRESS RELEASE: The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station presents Plant Science Day 2010, 100th Anniversary, for Interested Citizens and Connecticut Media.

Hamden, CT, 2010 – The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) hosted interested citizens, legislators, and the media at their **100th annual *Plant Science Day*** at Lockwood Farm, a 75-acre research farm. Dr. Louis A. Magnarelli, Director of CAES, welcomed everyone to this yearly public event, which highlighted 100 years of research and resources that the Experiment Station offers to Connecticut residents. One of the key features of the day was the presentation of the Century Farm Award to Brown Family Farm, a Connecticut farm that has been in family operation for more than 100 years. Another highlight was the Samuel W. Johnson Memorial Lecture that was delivered by Dr. Dana Royer, Assistant Professor, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Wesleyan University. The title of his presentation was “What Fossil Plants Can Tell Us About Climate Change.” Additional short presentations by CAES scientists “Be Our Guest: The History of Plant Science Day,” “Chestnut Blight: A Trip Through Time,” and “Our Dynamic Connecticut Forest: 80 Years of Observation.” Technical demonstrations covered “Identification of Invasive Aquatic Plants” and “Control Options for Invasive Plants.” This year’s 100th Plant Science Day program had many events and activities to mark this special occasion and offered something-for-everyone, from novice gardeners to professionals to environmentalists, and included opportunities for attendees to discuss many topics of plant science on an informal basis with CAES scientists at their research plots. Attendees visited Barn Displays that highlighted the Station’s research programs from 1910 to 2010 and over 90 field plots and exhibits about the Station’s research programs that ranged from how to grow unusual crops such as edamame or vegetable amaranth to nanoparticle toxicity to agricultural plants. Attendees learned about birds and butterflies in the accessible Bird and Butterfly Garden, took walking tours of Lockwood Farm, and participated in activities for children, such as the “Passport for Kids.” Experts answered questions on plant identification and disease diagnosis, soil testing, and weed and insect identification.

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