

Station News A PROGRESS REPORT for staff and Friends of America's first Agricultural Experiment Station



Station Research on Mosquitoes Recognized

Recent Station research results identifying salt marsh mosquitoes and the American robin as carriers of West Nile encephalitis virus was recognized by Discover Magazine (January 2006 issue) as being one of the top 100 science stories of 2005. This story, which was ranked #43 in importance, included details on how this new information on robins and a previously unrecognized mosquito vector changes the strategy for mosquito control. Mosquito management programs should include salt marsh

mosquitoes as well as a bird-feeding mosquito species. (Image from: Google images American Robin photograph from book 542 x 620 pixels - 53k – jpg www.naturesound.com)

Please be sure to check out our intranet (<http://eww.insidecaes.state.ct.us>) and internet (<http://www.caes.state.ct.us>) pages for updated telephone and staff listings.

Intranet (telephone listings):

<http://eww.insidecaes.state.ct.us/telephonestaff/telestaff.htm>

Internet (telephone listings):

<http://www.caes.state.ct.us/telephonestaff/telestaff.htm>

Internet (departmental listings):

<http://www.caes.state.ct.us/Departments/departments.htm>

Departmental News

Administration

DR LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI met with Experiment Station Associates at Lockwood Farm and gave a report on Station research (December 1); attended the fruit growers' annual meeting in Glastonbury (December 6); and attended an Invasive Plants Council Meeting in the State Capitol (December 13).

Analytical Chemistry

DR. DAVID STILWELL was interviewed by Kris Christen of Environmental Science and Technology News on CCA pressure treated wood (December 8).

Entomology

GALE RIDGE spoke about the History, Epidemiology, and social impact of past major flu pandemics and the potential effects of H5N1 Avian flu today for the Amity Senior High School senior class in Woodbridge (December 2) and was interviewed about Sod webworm ecology in the Canadian Eastern Provinces for Internet publication of Ecology Action Center in Halifax, Nova Scotia (December 7).

DR. CHRIS MAIER displayed a poster on the winter moth at the Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Pomological Society in Glastonbury (ca. 50 people) (December 6) and presented a poster titled "Seasonal Activity Patterns and Hosts of Northeastern Cedar Longhorns (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae)" while attending the Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America" in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida (ca. 1800 people attended the conference) (December 17).

DR. VICTORIA SMITH attended the National Meeting of the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey, held in Nashville, TN; (200 participants) (December 6-8), participated in a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey, held in Nashville, TN, as the Ad Hoc representative of the Eastern Region; (20 participants) (December 9); met with George Hudler of Cornell University, to discuss CAES participation in the National Plant Diagnostic Network (December 14).

DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER participated in a retreat of the NOFA Interstate Council (representatives from 7 states) to plan activities for the coming year at Old Chatham, NY (December 1); spoke at the NOFA Organic Land Care Update Course about new developments in the Organic Land Care program Tolland (December 8); and led a retreat of the CT NOFA Board of Directors to evaluate the previous year and plan the coming year in Hamden (December 10).

Forestry and Horticulture

DR. JEFFREY WARD presided at the Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Board of Directors meeting in New Haven, CT (December 6); administered practical and oral examinations to arborist candidates for the Connecticut Tree Protection Examining Board (December 14); visited by Jody Bush, Colleen Murphy-Dunning, and Christopher Ozyck of the Yale Urban Research Initiative to discuss urban tree inventories. (December 16).

DR. MARTIN GENT served as Program Chair and attended the New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference in Manchester, NH (December 13-15); moderated a session on Greenhouse Tomato and gave a talk on "Watering and nutrition throughout the year" (100 attendees) (December 14); moderated a session on Winter Growing and gave a talk on "Fertilizer and season affect the composition of salad greens grown in high tunnels" (100 attendees) (December 15).

DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD participated in the annual meeting of the Connecticut Pomological Society in Glastonbury (December 6); presented a talk "Sweet Potatoes for New England" at the New England Vegetable and Fruit Growers Conference in Manchester, New Hampshire (200 attendees) (December 13); spoke on Station IPM research at a meeting of the State Technical Committee in Tolland (20 attendees) (December 14).

DR. WILLIAM NAIL attended meeting of the Connecticut Grape and Wine Association (December 5); attended a meeting of the Connecticut Farm Wine Council at the Valley Laboratory (December 5); presented a talk "Critical Issues in Early Vineyard Establishment" at the New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference 2005 in Manchester, New Hampshire (90 attendees) (December 14-15); and presented a description of the wine grape research program at CAES, which was published in November-December issue of Wine East magazine.

Plant Pathology and Ecology

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS gave two presentations entitled "Bacterial spot of stone fruits" and "Update on peach diseases" at the Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Pomological Society in Glastonbury (approx.

62 attendees) (December 6); and gave a presentation entitled “Daylily rust: Biology and current status” at the Connecticut NOFA Organic Land Care Update Course in Tolland (approx. 60 attendees) (December 8).

DR. WADE H. ELMER served as a committee member in the MS thesis defense of Stephani Sliniski at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, MA (December 1).

Soil and Water

DR. JASON WHITE spoke at the University of Massachusetts (Amherst) weekly Department of Plant and Soil Science seminar series; “Bioavailability of weathered persistent organic pollutants in soil: Is phytoremediation possible (December 6).”

DR. CHARLES VOSSBRINK gave a talk to Miss Maturo’s second grade class at Savin Rock grammar school in West Haven. The talk was entitled “The World of Spiders” and featured a large live, *Nephalia claviceps* from Florida and numerous photographs and preserved specimens. The talk was followed by a half hour question and answer session and demonstration (December 9).

DR. PHILIP ARMSTRONG presented abstract titled “First Isolation of La Crosse Virus from New England” at the 54th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene in Washington DC (December 14).

Valley Laboratory

TIMOTHY ABBEY attended the NOFA Organic Land Care Update course at the Tolland County Agriculture Building in Tolland (December 8).

DR. RICHARD COWLES presented “Management of White Grubs and Root Weevils,” to strawberry growers at the New England Vegetable and Berry Growers’ Association meeting, Manchester, NH, (110 attendees) (December 13), and “Prospects for conventional breeding of strawberries for tolerance to black vine weevils,” at the Symposium “Biology and Management of Root Weevils,” National Meeting of the Entomological Society of America, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, (30 attendees) (December 17).

DR. JAMES A. LAMONDIA examined candidates for the Connecticut arborist license and participated in the quarterly meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protection Examining Board in New Haven (December 14).

DR. DEWEI LI presented “Research on airborne and indoor fungi at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station” to faculty and staff of the Environmental Health Center at UCONN Medical Center (11 attendees) (December 7). DeWei had discussions with faculty members and staff before and after his presentation.

DR. TODD L. MERVOSH presented a guest lecture on “Weed management for ornamental plants” for an undergraduate weed science class at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst (50 students) (December 6); participated in a meeting of golf course superintendents in Avon (December 7); and hosted a symposium planning meeting for the Conn. Invasive Plant Working Group at the Valley Lab (10 people) (December 12).

Journal Articles Approved December 2005

Anderson, John F., Theodore G. Andreadis, and Andy J. Main. West Nile, Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis, Jamestown Canyon, and Flanders viruses isolated from mosquitoes (Diptera:Culicidae) captured in subterranean, ground, and canopy habitats in Connecticut. *J. Med. Entomol.*

- Diuk-Wasser, Maria, H. Brown, Theodore Andreadis, and Durland Fish. Modeling the spatial distribution of mosquito vectors for the West Nile virus in Connecticut, USA
- Elmer, Wade H. Evaluation of *Fusarium* resistance in cultivars of china asters in the field, 2005. Biological and Cultural Tests
- Elmer, Wade H. Effect of fungicides and biologicals with and without acibenzolar-S-methyl on *Fusarium* rot of gladiolus, 2005. Biological and Cultural Tests
- Hiskes, Rose. Hibiscus sawfly, *Atomacera decepta*. Fact sheet
- LaMondia, James A. Evaluation of fungicides for tobacco blue mold management, 2004. APS Fungicide and Nematicide Tests
- LaMondia, James A. Evaluation of fungicides for Bottrtis fruit rot in strawberry, 2005. APS Fungicide and Nematicide Tests
- LaMondia, James A. Evaluation of fungicides for tobacco blue mold management, 2005. APS Fungicide and Nematicide Tests
- LaMondia, James A., Francis J. Ferrandino, and MaryJane Incorvia Mattina. Fungicide drift from aerial and ground spray application to Connecticut shade tobacco. CAES Station Bulletin
- Maynard, Abigail. The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station investigates new specialty crops: Personal-sized watermelons. Connecticut Weekly Agricultural Report
- Mervosh, Todd L. and D. Gumbart. Management of oriental bittersweet vines and pale swallowwort at a Connecticut coastal reserve. Northeastern Weed Science Society, 2006 Proceedings (Abstract)
- Mervosh, Todd L. and John F. Ahrens. Quinoclamine for control of liverwort in the propagation of woody ornamentals. Northeastern Weed Science Society, 2006 Proceedings (Abstract)
- Nail, William R. and G. H. Howell. Pruning and training system effects on yield and vegetative growth of Concord grapevines in Michigan. Proceedings of the Sixth International Cool Climate Symposium for Viticulture and Oenology
- Williams, Scott C. and Jeffrey S. Ward. Overabundant white-tailed deer as seed dispersal agents (abstract). Presentation at the 62nd Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, ancestry, national origin, sex, religious creed, age, political beliefs, sexual orientation, criminal conviction record, genetic information, learning disability, present or past history of mental disorder, mental retardation or physical disability including but not limited to blindness, or marital or family status. To file a complaint of discrimination, write Director, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, P.O. Box 1106, New Haven, CT 06504, or call (203) 974-8440. CAES is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Persons with disabilities who require alternate means of communication of program information should contact the Chief of Services at (203) 974-8442 (voice); (203) 974-8502 (FAX); or Michael.Last@po.state.ct.us (E-mail).
