# Station News Aprogress report for staff

and Friends of America's first Agricultural Experiment Station

## **Departmental News**

### HONEY BEE EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING

By Dr. Kirby C. Stafford III

On June 4, 2008, Dr. Kirby Stafford and apiary inspector Ira Kettle conducted a honey bee emergency response training class at the Connecticut Fire Academy in Windsor Locks as part of their June Fire School. Ted Jones, president of the Connecticut Beekeepers Association and Winthrop Baum, former president of the Backyard Beekeepers Association assisted with the program. Following classroom instruction and a video on emergency response, an outdoor exercise on the use of foam to knock down live honey bees was conducted under the direction of Ted Jones, who is also a volunteer fireman.



Mr. Ira Ketttle and Dr. Kirby C. Stafford III





# ORGANIC VEGETABLE FARM WORKSHOP

By Kathy Johnson, NRCS

Over 60 people attended the Organic Vegetable Farm Integrated Pest Management (IPM) workshop held on June 30, 2008. The workshop was held at Fort Hill Farm, in New Milford, CT. Sponsors included - Fort Hill Farm, Northeastern IPM Center's Vegetable Working Group, CT NOFA, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Funding for this event was provided by the Northeast IPM Vegetable Working Group and the Connecticut Department of Agriculture's Ag Viability Grant Program.

IPM is a system based decision making approach that uses biological, cultural, physical, and chemical tactics to manage disease, weed, insect and other pest problems in the production and maintenance of plants and their health and does so in a way that minimizes risks to human health, society and the environment. Organic producers can benefit from IPM training. IPM practice includes scouting for pests, monitoring techniques, the use of threshold pest levels if appropriate, use of alternative management tools, evaluation and decision making guides, record keeping for pesticide use, crop health and pest

presence, beneficial organisms, and details of post treatment evaluation.

Bill Duesing, Director of NOFA moderated the workshop. He introduced Wayne Woodard, Director of the Sunny Valley Preserve. Paul Buccaglia rents Fort Hill Farm from the Sunny Valley Preserve, which is part of The Nature Conservancy. The farm is a great example of preserved farmland being used by an innovative and environmentally friendly farmer.

Dr. Kimberly Stoner of The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station presented information on managing vegetable pests on highly diversified organic farms like Fort Hill Farm. She worked with Paul Bucciaglia of Fort Hill Farm, through the NRCS IPM program. She worked on finding biologically-based methods of managing caterpillars in sweet corn and white grubs in strawberries, and solving other pest problems. She showed examples of insects and crop damage on a display table in the barn. Dr. Stoner is a research scientist at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. She specializes in alternatives to insecticides for managing insects on vegetable crops, including the use of crop rotations and cover crops, parasitic wasps, and choosing plant varieties resistant to insects.



Paul Bucciaglia gave a tour of the farm, including field demonstrations of cultivation equipment. Mr. Buccaglia uses cultivation and mulching for weed control. Fort Hill Farm is a certified organic farm producing vegetables, herbs, and small fruit in New Milford, CT. Mr. Bucciaglia, grows 35 different crops on approximately 18 acres. Produce is sold through a farmers market and a 380-share CSA. Most of the farm's transplants are produced in the greenhouse and they also grow greenhouse tomatoes in two additional hoophouses.

Kathy Johnson of NRCS spoke on the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Through EQIP, vegetable farmers can be awarded an incentive payment of \$100 per acre for up to 3 years for participation in the IPM program. An IPM specialist from either The CT Agricultural Experiment Station, such as Dr Stoner, or experts from the CT Cooperative Extension System will provide on farm training during the 3 year period. Jude Boucher and Leanne Pundt, both IPM experts with the CT Cooperative Extension System, were on hand during the workshop.

The workshop evaluation forms showed the event was really appreciated by the audience. One evaluation form stated, "nice blend of weed and pest control. Thanks for the yummy food. Very knowledgeable leader. The handouts are terrific." What a wonderful summary of this educational event. The forms also showed a tremendous interest in cover cropping and intercropping as a future workshop topic.

# STONER PRESENTATION ON "ORGANIC VEGETABLE FARM INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT" AT FORT HILL FARM IN NEW MILFORD

By Dr. Kimberly Stoner, CAES

On June 30, 2008, Dr. Kimberly Stoner spoke at an on-farm workshop for 67 people called "Organic Vegetable Farm Integrated Pest Management" at Fort Hill Farm in New Milford, CT. Dr. Stoner and Paul Bucciaglia, the farmer at Fort Hill Farm, spoke together about organic management of insect pests and diseases on vegetables, and then Paul Bucciaglia led a tour of the farm, highlighting his crop rotation plan, cover cropping, and weed management strategies. The workshop was sponsored by the Northeast Vegetable IPM Working Group and a Farm Viability Grant from Connecticut Department of Agriculture, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Connecticut (CT NOFA) organized and publicized the conference.





Pictures:

Top: Dr. Kimberly Stoner and Paul Bucciaglia speaking about pest management at Fort Hill Farm.

Bottom: Paul Bucciaglia (head just visible above the crowd) discusses his weed management strategies and shows his cultivation equipment to the audience.

# EXPERIMENT STATION RESEARCH ON INVASIVE AQUATIC WEEDS RECEIVES QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY SIGMA XI OUTSTANDING PAPER OF THE YEAR AWARD

A research study published in the journal *Ecology* by Dr. Robert Capers, Roslyn Selsky, Gregory Bugbee and Dr. Jason White entitled *Aquatic plant community invasibility and scale-dependent pattern in native and invasive species richness* has received the Outstanding Paper of the Year Award for 2007 from the Sigma Xi Chapter of Quinnipiac University.

#### **Administration**

DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI attended the Experiment Station Associates Board meeting and gave a report on Station research and other activities (June 12) and was interviewed by Marion Brown of the Connecticut Post about crop research at the Station (June 30).

#### **Entomology**

DR. JOHN F. ANDERSON talked to a group of graduate students from SCSU about the BSL-3 Lab (July 6, 2007); interviewed by Parisa Khakuei, Norwich Bulletin, about yellow jackets (August 9, 2007); gave a

talk about West Nile virus and mosquitoes to the North West Mental Health Group in Torrington (August 16, 2007); met with Sheila Allen Bell and others, New Haven Housing Authority, about bed bugs (September 5, 2007); gave a talk to the Northwest Mosquito Control Association about West Nile virus and mosquitoes, Whitefish, MT (October 11, 2007); gave a talk about extrinsic incubation periods for horizontal and vertical transmission of WNV at the annual meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Philadelphia, PA (November 6, 2007); taught procedures for injection of spirochetes into nymphal ticks to graduate students and post doctoral scientists in the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Maryland (December 3-5, 2007); interviewed by Erin Cox, Channel 8 News, Bed bugs, (January 24, 2008); gave talk entitled "Bed bugs, ticks, and mosquitoes and the diseases they transmit, CONN OSHA, Windsor (March 18); gave talk entitled "104 years of public health entomology at CAES, Plant Science Day in the Spring, New Haven, (April 24); discussed the BSL-3 laboratory to students from Bunnell High School in Stratford, New Haven (April 8); and gave talk entitled "Biting insects and ticks and associated with human pathogens in Connecticut. Hallmark, Inc. Enfield, CT (June 4, 2008).

MS. ROSE HISKES gave a talk about insects to 4<sup>th</sup> graders at Southington's Conservation Day in Southington (80 students) (June 5), chaired the State Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) Committee meeting in Windsor (June 12), gave a talk on "Pests of the Garden" to the Heritage Village River Garden Club in Southbury, (June 18); and participated in a CAPS state survey coordinator conference call (June 27).

DR. CHRIS T. MAIER spoke about native and exotic apple pollinators at a twilight meeting of the Connecticut Pomological Society at Hindinger Farms, Hamden (June 2).

DR. VICTORIA SMITH attended a Twilight Meeting of the CT Pomological Society, held at Hindinger Farms in Hamden, and discussed trapping for light brown apple moth with growers (approximately 60 participants) (June 2) and participated in a meeting of the CT Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey, and presented reports on Phytophthora ramorum surveys, confirmed nursery work on P. ramorum, chrysanthemum white rust survey, and light brown apple moth trapping (June 12).

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD, III organized and spoke on honey bees at the Honey Bee Response Training class at the June Fire School operated by the Connecticut Fire Academy (5 attendees), this was the first year such a class was offered (June 4); visited by Dr. Tom Murray from Yale University (June 5); participated in the North Atlantic Poultry Biosecurity and Pest Management Workshop and spoke on management of flies and other pests at the University of Connecticut in Storrs (June 10); spoke on the relationship between deer, ticks and Lyme disease at the Westport Weston Health District for the WWHD Board and First Selectmen for Westport and for Weston (June 13); with DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS was interviewed by Sam Gingerella, WTIC Radio, Farmington, CT about ticks, Lyme disease, mosquitoes, and West Nile virus (attendees 6) (June 19); and participated in affirmative action training in Hartford, CT (June 20).

DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER met with Win Baum, a beekeeper in Fairfield, about possible research projects. (June 17); participated in a workshop of the Back Yard Beekeepers Association on preventing swarming and making splits, and also met with Win Baum, the hosting beekeeper, on research projects, Fairfield (June 21); interviewed by Bill Leukhart, a reporter for the Hartford Courant, about the current health of bees in Connecticut (June 25); and spoke on Organic Pest Management at a twilight meeting at Fort Hill Farm, sponsored by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Northeast Regional IPM Program, and CT NOFA, New Milford (65 people attending) (June 30).

#### Forestry and Horticulture

DR. JEFFREY WARD spoke on "Fruits of the Forest" at Southington Nature Day (140 students, 20 adults) (June 5); administered practical and oral examination to arborist candidates for the Connecticut Tree Protection Examining Board (June 10); visited Schoolhouse Brook Park in Mansfield to advise Jennifer S. Kaufman, Parks Coordinator, on barberry control (June 12); provided a field tour of ongoing research sites for Chris Martin, CT State Forester (June 17); spoke on "Japanese barberry control" at the Japanese

Barberry Control Workshop in Exeter, RI (6 attendees) (June 21); participated in Connecticut Forestlands Council meeting in Middlefield (June 24); and interviewed about sycamores by John Burgeson of the Connecticut Post (June 30).

DR. MARTIN GENT attended a zone-till demonstration and open house at Nelson Ceccarelli Farm, Northford (75 attendees) (June 5); participated as official state representative to the NE1017 Regional Research Committee meeting on "Developing and Integrating Components for Commercial Greenhouse Production Systems" at Cornell University, Ithaca NY (20 scientists and extension attendees) (June 11-12); AJ Both, Extension Specialist Bioresource Engineering at Rutgers University, New Brunswick NJ, visited and toured the greenhouse facilities at CAES before giving a talk at the "CGGA Evening in the Greenhouse" Symposium on Energy Savings held in Jones Auditorium. (June 17); Sarah Ihunga of the John Barbara Foundation, Ellington CT, visited Lockwood Farm to examine hydroponics production of lettuce and tomato and to discuss technology transfers for farmers in Africa (June 25); and Kelvin Frye and Pawan Srivastava of Syndicate Sales Inc., Kokomo IN, visited to examine hydroponics production of lettuce and tomato, and to discuss a possible collaboration to conduct field trials (June 26).

DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD discussed new crops with John Holbrook at his farm in Bethel (June 13); discussed new crops research at Lockwood Farm with Dr. Pavanrachapudi, a visiting Indian agronomist (June 20); gave a tour of Lockwood Farm to the Outdoors Education Camp from Hamden Hall Country Day School (19 children, 2 adults) (June 23); attended a meeting of the Organics Recycling and Composting subcommittee of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee at DEP (June 24); and reported on Station activities at a quarterly meeting of the Council on Soil and Water Conservation in Windsor (June 25).

DR. WILLIAM NAIL participated in a grower meeting at the UMass Cold Spring Orchard Research and Education Center in Belchertown, MA (June 3); participated in a meeting of the State Consulting Committee for Agricultural Education at the Pfizer Global Research and Development Groton Laboratories (June 6); attended the annual meeting of the American Society for Enology and Viticulture in Portland, OR (June 18-20); and visited with Bob Dowler in Madison to evaluate a prospective vineyard site (June 26).

DR. SCOTT WILLIAMS conducted a botanical, wildlife, and habitat survey on a 48-acre parcel for the Guilford Land Conservation Trust (June 6); conducted a wildlife and habitat survey on a 33-acre parcel of land for the Guilford Land Conservation Trust (June 10); and spoke on "Barberry, mice, and ticks" at the Japanese Barberry Control Workshop in Exeter, RI (6 attendees) (June 21).

MR. JOSEPH P. BARSKY spoke on "How trees grow" at Southington Nature Day (140 students, 20 adults) (June 5).

#### Plant Pathology and Ecology

DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS, with MS. PAMELA SLETTEN, attended a grafting workshop sponsored by Michigan State University and the MSU Extension program. Instructors Mario Mandujano and Roger Miller demonstrated and supervised practice in grafting techniques at a bench and in the field in Petoskey, Michigan (May 30-June 1).



Dr. Sandra Anagnostakis



Instructor Mario Mandujano and Ms. Pamela Sletten

DR BOTOND BALOGH attended the Connecticut Pomological Society Twilight Meeting at Hindinger Farm in Hamden (June 2) and attended the UCONN Vegetable Growers Twilight Meeting at Cecarelli Farm in Northford (June 5).

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS participated in the Connecticut Pomological Society Twilight Meeting and discussed diseases of tree fruit with growers at Hindinger Farm in Hamden (45 adult attendees) (June 2); participated in the Connecticut Tree Protective Association (CTPA) Summer Meeting Planning Committee as a member in Southington (June 9); assisted the Connecticut Tree Protection Examining Board with oral examinations for the arborist exam in New Haven (June 10); participated in the Connecticut Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) meeting and provided updates about Chrysanthemum White Rust and Ramorum Blight in Windsor (June 12); met with Chris Martin (DEP, new State Forester) and discussed how members of the Department of Plant Pathology and Ecology interact with DEP foresters in both research and service (June 17); and participated in the Board Meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association (CTPA) in Farmington (June 19).

DR. WADE H. ELMER attended the UCONN Vegetable Growers Twilight Meeting at Cecarelli Farm in Northford (June 5); moderated the Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Association meeting on "Energy in the Greenhouse" in Jones Auditorium (71 adult attendees) (June 17); and visited with Dr. Pavanrachapudi, an agronomist from India, at Lockwood Farm (June 20).

DR. FRANCIS J. FERRANDINO attended the Vineyard Twilight Meeting for New England Wine Grape Growers on "Early Season Management of Hybrid Grape Varieties" (cosponsored by UMASS Extension Fruit Program and The Massachusetts Farm Wineries & Growers Association) at UMASS Cold Spring Orchard in Belchertown, MA (June 3).

DR. ROBERT E. MARRA gave a talk titled "How plants grow" to residents from The Village at Mariner's Point (East Haven) in Johnson-Horsfall (20 adult attendees) (June 4).

#### Soil and Water

DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS presented an overview of the Stations research and surveillance program on mosquitoes and arboviruses to Hank Gruner, Vice President of Programs for the CT Science Center in Hartford (May 6); was interviewed about the State Mosquito Trapping and Testing Program for West Nile and eastern equine encephalitis viruses by Marc Sims-CT Public Radio (June 13); was interviewed about the State Mosquito Trapping and Testing Program for West Nile and eastern equine encephalitis viruses and the outlook for 2008 by Sam Gingerella, WTIC Radio in Farmington (June 19); was interviewed about the season's first isolation of West Nile virus from mosquitoes collected on Barn Island in Stonington by Fran Schneido of CBS radio, Marylynn Moss of the Norwich Bulletin, and Metro News (June 20); was interviewed about the season's first isolation of West Nile virus from mosquitoes, local mosquito abundance and the prognosis for 2008 by Bob Miller, News Times, Danbury (June 23); and was interviewed about the season's first isolation of West Nile virus from mosquitoes collected on Barn Island in Stonington by Victor Zapana New Haven Register (June 25).

DR. PHILIP ARMSTRONG served as a senior judge at the New Haven Science Fair (May 13-14).

MR. GREGORY BUGBEE attended a Quinnipiac University Sigma Xi Chapter meeting to accept the outstanding paper of the year award (May 1); spoke at the Brass City Harvest in Waterbury on *Improving Soil in the Home Garden* (May 5); interviewed by Robin Robina of the Waterbury Republican on "Soil Improvement." (May 5); spoke to an 8th grade class at Old Lyme Middle School on *Soils* (May 15); presented a poster on the *CAES Invasive Aquatic Plant Program* at the annual meeting of the Connecticut Federation of Lakes in East Hampton (May 16); spoke on *Container Gardening Indoors and Out* at a meeting of the Greater Bridgeport Men's Garden Club in Stratford (May 22).

MR. JOSEPH PIGNATELLO attended the SETAC Europe Annual Meeting held in Warsaw, Poland and presented a talk entitled *Sorption Irreversibility of Hydrophobic Compounds in NOM Solids is Due to Inelastic Matrix Flexing* in a session on Long-Term and Non-Extractable Residue Formation of Organic Pollutants in Soils and Sediments. (Attendance: approximately 200, academicians and students) (May 24-30)

MS. ROSLYN SELSKY presented a talk on the *Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Invasive Aquatic Plant Program's Invasive Aquatic Plant Identification Workshops* to the Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force held in Lake George, New York (May 7); attended the Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force panel meeting where she informed the attendees about CAES IAPP and the Connecticut invasive aquatic plant survey results (May 8); served as a judge at the 2008 Connecticut Envirothon for the current issue presentations on "Managing Recreational Impacts on Natural Resources" given by student participants held at Northwest Park in Windsor (May 15); gave a presentation on possible future invasive aquatic plant species in Connecticut and invasive introduction prevention measures at the Connecticut Federation of Lakes in East Hampton (May 16); gave a workshop co-sponsored by the Newtown Office of Wetlands Enforcement and the Lake Zoar Authority on the identification of Connecticut invasive aquatic plants and the results of the 2007 surveys of Lakes Lillinonah and Zoar to an audience in Newton (May 18); attended the Connecticut Geospatial Council's meeting in East Hartford as the CAES representative (June 25).

MR. JOHN SHEPARD presented information and hands-on activities about mosquitoes, backyard insects and wildlife to an after-school group of 20 students at Benjamin Jepson Interdistrict Magnet School in New Haven (May 12) and spoke about insects and displayed specimens from the Station collection to Jamie Brocket's kindergarten and first grade class at Benjamin Jepson Interdistrict Magnet School in New Haven (22 students in attendance) (June 16).

MR. MICHAEL THOMAS presented information and hands-on activities about mosquitoes, backyard insects and wildlife to an after-school group of 20 students at Benjamin Jepson Interdistrict Magnet School in New Haven (May 12).

DR. JASON WHITE participated in the Ph.D. Dissertation defense of Cairn Ely, a candidate in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Connecticut. Part of the support for Cairn Ely's work came from a US EPA STAR grant awarded to CAES (May 30); participated in an EPA-sponsored conference call regarding the upcoming 5th International Phytotechnologies Conference. The meeting is in China this October and is being co-sponsored by the International Phytotechnology Society, of which I am the Vice President (June 6); and met with Dr. Pavanrachapudi of India's National Agricultural Service at Lockwood Farm. I gave him an overview of phytoremediation and invasive species research at CAES (June 20).

#### **Valley Laboratory**

DR. JOHN AHRENS spoke at the 50th Anniversary Meeting of the Massachusetts Christmas Tree Association in Hancock, MA on Current Herbicide Practices (Audience of 100 growers) (June 27); attended a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Christmas Tree Grower's Association, as an official advisor (July 9); along with DR. TODD MERVOSH, spoke at the twilight meeting of the Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers Association on new herbicides for Christmas trees under investigation at the Valley Laboratory (45 attendees from CT, MA, and RI) (July 10).

DR. CAROLE CHEAH gave two presentations on progress in biological control of hemlock woolly adelgid at the CTPA Summer Meeting, Farmington, (July17) and met with USDA Forest Service scientists at the Northern Research Station, Hamden, to discuss and set up cooperative insect artificial diet experiments (July 30).

DR. RICHARD COWLES presented "Management of Christmas tree insect pests" at the annual meeting of the Massachusetts Christmas Tree Growers' Association, Hancock, MA, (120 attendees) (June 27); "Armored scales, aphids and mites" for the CT Christmas Tree Growers' Association, Valley Laboratory, Windsor (40 attendees) (July 10), "Chemical control of hemlock woolly adelgid" presented twice at the Connecticut Tree Protective Association summer meeting, Farmington (200 total attendees) (July 17), and "Management of armored scales and spider mites", CT Christmas Tree Growers' Association, South Glastonbury (40 attendees) (July 17).

DR. JAMES A. LAMONDIA met with Bill Manning of the University of Massachusetts and Julia Kuzovkina of UConn to set up a cooperative experiment at the Valley Laboratory (June 2); participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Agricultural Information Council to select the winner of the Century Farm Award (June 5); examined candidates for the Connecticut arborist license and participated in the quarterly meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protection Examining Board in New Haven (June 10); provided Station brochures and information to Jennifer Phelps of the Windsor School Science program who conducted a tour of the CT Nurserymen's Garden at the Valley Laboratory (June 19); participated in a planning meeting for the CTPA Arboriculture 101 class in New Haven (June 24); attended the CTPA summer meeting in Farmington (July 17); and was interviewed by Gregory Hladky of the Boston Globe about Station research and services and the role of cigar tobacco farms in maintaining agriculture and open space in the Connecticut River Valley (July 22).

DR. TODD L. MERVOSH hosted a student from Suffield High School at the Valley Laboratory as part of a career mentor program (May 8); spoke about invasive plants at a meeting of the Naugatuck Garden Club (55 attendees) (May 15); participated in a symposium planning meeting for the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group at the Valley Laboratory (10 attendees) (May 19); spoke about poison ivy and other toxic weeds at employee safety meetings for Connecticut Light & Power Company in Torrington (35 attendees) (May 22) and Waterbury (50 attendees) (May 30); met with town officials in Watertown regarding control of Japanese knotweed along a town road (5 attendees) (June 3); coordinated the planting of a community pumpkin patch at Hilltop Farm in Suffield (~10 adults & 12 children) (June 8); spoke about weed management and presented an informational display of weeds at a twilight meeting of the Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers' Association at the Valley Laboratory (60 attendees) (July 10); spoke about weed management at a twilight meeting of the Conn. Christmas Tree Growers' Association in Glastonbury (50 attendees) (July 17); and participated in a symposium planning meeting for the Conn. Invasive Plant Working Group at the Valley Laboratory (12 attendees) (July 24).

DR. HUGH SMITH started work at the Valley Laboratory. He has initiated a research program on IPM in nursery and small fruit crops. Hugh came to us from California where he worked in IPM of vegetables.

# **Journal Articles Approved June 2008**

Marra, Robert E. and Jason A. Corwin. Isolation and characterization of codominant markers for the Perennial Canker fungal pathogen, *Neonectria ditissima*. Molecular Ecology Resources

Douglas, Sharon M. and Mary K. Inman. Seed germination and purity analysis 2008. Station Bulletin.

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$contact \ the \ Chief \ of \ Services \ at \ (203) \ 974-8442 \ (voice); \ (203) \ 974-8502 \ (FAX); \ or \ \underline{Michael.Last@po.state.ct.us} \ (E-1) \$
mail).