

# STATION NEWS

THE CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION



## THE CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

STATION NEWS  
*PUTTING SCIENCE TO WORK FOR  
SOCIETY*

The mission of The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station is to develop, advance, and disseminate scientific knowledge, improve agricultural productivity and environmental quality, protect plants, and enhance human health and well-being through research for the benefit of Connecticut residents and the nation. Seeking solutions across a variety of disciplines for the benefit of urban, suburban, and rural communities, Station scientists remain committed to "Putting Science to Work for Society", a motto as relevant today as it was at our founding in 1875.



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## DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

### ADMINISTRATION

**DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI** spoke to members of the New Haven Farm Bureau about Station research (October 3); spoke to members of the Experiment Station Associates about Station research (October 4); and as Administrative Advisor, participated in the NE-1040 multistate meeting on plant-parasitic nematode control in Burlington, VT (October 10 and 11).

### ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY

**DR. JASON C. WHITE** participated in the monthly Laboratory Preparedness Network meeting at the Department of Public Health in Hartford (October 3), participated in a conference call with members of the FCC (FERN) regarding the comparison of DART and LC/MS as they pertain to pesticide residues in herb samples (October 12), participated in a FDA FERN Chemistry Cooperative Agreement (cCAP) Laboratory conference call (October 13), presented a plenary luncheon lecture entitled "Evaluation of seafood safety in response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill" at the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference on Soils, Sediments, Water and Energy at the University of Massachusetts Amherst (October 18) (100 attendees), co-chaired a session entitled "Plant interactions with contaminants of concern" and presented a lecture entitled "Nanomaterial contamination of agricultural crops" at the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference on Soils, Sediments, Water and Energy at the University of Massachusetts Amherst (October 20) (20 attendees), and organized an event at the Region 16 Long River Middle School with the FBI WMD Coordinator (New Haven Field Office), and the Department of Public Health Bioterrorism Coordinator, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Mobile Laboratory, and the 14th Civil Support Team Mobile Laboratory entitled "How scientists and law enforcement work together in disaster response" and presented a lecture entitled "The CT Agricultural Experiment Station Department of Analytical Chemistry-Food safety and emergency response" (October 21) (400 attendees).

**DR. BRIAN EITZER** participated in a FDA FERN Chemistry Cooperative Agreement (cCAP) Laboratory conference call (October 13), participated in a FDA FERN Chemistry Cooperative Agreement (cCAP) Exactive LC-HRMS users conference call (October 19), and presented a poster entitled "Analysis of pesticides in honey bees and related matrices" at a Yale University Peabody Museum of Natural History screening of an Audubon Connecticut sponsored film entitled "Vanishing of the Bees" on (October 26)(30 attendees).

**DR. WALTER KROL** participated in a conference call with members of the FCC (FERN) regarding the comparison of DART and LC/MS as they pertain to pesticide residues in herb samples (October 12), participated in a FDA FERN Chemistry Cooperative Agreement (cCAP) Laboratory conference call (October 13), and presented a lecture at the ACS New Haven Section Meeting entitled "The Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill: Development and Implementation of Testing Methodology for the Reopening of Waters to Fishing" at Eli's on Whitney, Hamden CT (October 20) (37 attendees).

**DR. CHRISTINA ROBB** was elected to the Executive Board of the Eastern Analytical Symposium (October 17).



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## BIOCHEMISTRY AND GENETICS

**DR. DOUGLAS DINGMAN** presented an informal talk to the children of Cheryl Romeo (Matthew and Thomas), Oxford, CT regarding honey bees and beekeeping (August 10); attended a committee meeting with Ted Jones (CBA president) and Jason Morrill (Massaro Community Farm manager) to outline upcoming program on sustainable beekeeping offered at Massaro Farm (Orange, CT) (August 11); presented two demonstrations on microscopic testing for Nosema in honey bees. All day event at Massaro Farm (Woodbridge, CT) as part of sustainable beekeeping program (August 20); discussion with Scott Parvis (Oakdale, CT) regarding coliform bacteria in well water (August 23); attended the programming committee meeting of Quinnipiac Chapter of Sigma Xi (Hamden, CT) (August 25); first Solo (Flight Design N747JD) 5:30 PM Hartford, CT) (September 27); presented a talk "Honey Bee Basics" to the Cheshire Garden Club (Cheshire, CT) (October 3); attended a committee meeting (Ted Jones, CBA president; Jason Morrill, Massaro Community Farm manager) for outlining next year upcoming program on sustainable beekeeping offered at Massaro Farm (Woodbridge, CT) and to update them on the research program being initiated (October 26); and was the MC and speaker introduction for the Quinnipiac Chapter of Sigma Xi Albert Noble presentation series at Quinnipiac University (Hamden, CT) (October 27).

**DR. NEIL SCHULTES** presented a lecture to Freshman Biology Class at the University of Hartford on "Genetically Modified Plants and Bioethics" (20 students) (September 12) and presented a Lecture to the Quinnipiac Sigma Xi Chapter on "The Genetics and Molecular Biology of C4 Photosynthesis in Maize" (30 people) (October 27).

## ENTOMOLOGY

**MS. KATHERINE DUGAS** attended a meeting of the CAPS committee at the Valley Laboratory in Windsor (October 17).

**MS. ROSE HISKES** staffed a Plant Identification workshop for the Connecticut Accredited Nursery Professional (CANP) course run by the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association (CNLA) at the Valley Laboratory in Windsor (8 attendees) (October 8); gave a talk on "Forest pests" to the Insect Pests of Turf and Ornamentals class at Naugatuck Valley Community College in Waterbury (15 attendees) (October 12); gave a talk on "Forest pests" to the Connecticut Accredited Nursery Professional (CANP) course run by the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association (CNLA) at the Station in New Haven (53 attendees) (October 18); gave a talk on "Plants out of place" and "Invasive plant and insect" update to the Country Gardeners Garden Club of Glastonbury (16 attendees) (October 19); staffed a Forest Pest booth at the Urban Forestry Conference in Wallingford (October 20); and gave a brief talk on "Forest pests" to Knox Parks tree planting volunteers in Hartford (56 attendees) (October 29).

**DR. CHRIS MAIER** spoke about the status of the brown marmorated stink bug and the spotted wing drosophila, two alien insects, at a meeting of the Advisory Committee of the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey at the Valley Laboratory in Windsor (October 17); spoke about the spotted wing drosophila and its impact in Connecticut at the Annual New England, New York, and Canadian Fruit Pest Management Workshop in Burlington, VT (October 18); displayed specimens of and distributional maps for the brown marmorated stink bug and the spotted wing drosophila at a meeting of the Connecticut Entomological Society at the University of Connecticut in Storrs (October 21); and was interviewed by Robert Pollack for a brief article on the brown marmorated stink bug to appear in the Bulletin of the Station Associates (October 26).

**DR. GALE E. RIDGE** held Bed Bug Forum VI at the Experiment Station on October 6. There were two visiting speakers: Allison Taisey from Cornell and Dr. Cristina Sorrentino Schmalisch from Boston. Ms. Taisey spoke about community approaches to bed bug management citing successes with housing authority programs in Manitoba, Canada and Portland, Oregon.



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Dr. Sorrentino Schmalisch spoke about the nature of and intervention for hoarding, and how the disorder (which is a complex of disorders) impedes the management of bed bugs in residential settings. Three members from the CCABB board also spoke: Attorney Judith R. Dicine (Housing Matters, Office of the Connecticut Chief State's Attorney) spoke on landlord tenant bed bug legal matters, Mr. Tim Callahan (Director of Norwalk Health Department) spoke on health department responses to bed bug issues, and Mr. Michael Lipsett (owner of Connecticut Pest Elimination) spoke on the current management of bed bugs. The program focused on the human side of the bed bug equation (135 attendees) (October 6); with Ms. Joan Jordan (Department of Consumer Protection, retired) and Ms. Sherill Baldwin (Department of Energy and Environmental Protection), presented a two-hour evening workshop for the reuse and recycling industries in Connecticut on the management of bed bugs in their businesses. The program is the practical portion of the recently published Best Practices for Bed Bug Management of Mattresses, Bedding, and Upholstered Furniture Businesses. Representatives from rental centers, major charities, thrift stores, transfer stations, hotel liquidators, refurbishers, and recyclers attended. Attendees came from across Connecticut with visiting executives from Montana, Kentucky, Florida, and Missouri (50 attendees) (October 17); and spoke about proactive management of bed bugs in shelters and other temporary accommodations to the Mercy Housing and Shelter Corp. in Hartford (40 attendees) (October 31).



Dr. Ridge speaking at the Connecticut Reuse and Recycling Industry Workshop held in Jones Auditorium on October 17.

**DR. CLAIRE E. RUTLEDGE** presented a poster titled "Scent of a Buprestid: How the Smokey-Winged Beetle Bandit recognizes her prey" at the Emerald Ash Borer Research and Technology meeting in Wooster, OH (250 attendees) (October 12-13) and taught "Insects that attack trees" for Arboriculture 101 in Jones Auditorium (40 attendees) (October 19).

**DR. VICTORIA L. SMITH** participated in a meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Plant Board as Eastern Plant Board President, held at the Hotel Nikko in Mexico City, Mexico (9 participants) (October 16-17) and participated in the 36<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the North American Plant Protection Organization, as president of the Eastern Plant Board, held in Merida, Mexico (150 participants) (October 18-21).

**DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD III** spoke about beekeeping and answered questions at a meeting of the North Haven Planning and Zoning Commission about revision of the ordinance on the keeping of honey bees in North Haven (October 3); was interviewed about the spotted wing drosophila by Bob Miller of the Danbury News Times (October 11); participated in a meeting of the architects on the plans for the Jenkins-Waggoner Building (October 13); participated in an Emerald ash borer regulatory working group meeting at the USDA-APHIS office in Wallingford (October 19); participated in a meeting of the CAPS committee at the Valley Laboratory in Windsor (October 17); attended a meeting of the Station Board of Control at the Valley Labora-





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tory in Windsor (October 18); on behalf of the Station, accepted a leadership award from the Connecticut Urban Forest Council in recognition of plant diagnostic and other forestry work conducted by Station staff during the annual conference on urban and community forestry in Wallingford (175 attendees) (October 20); and participated in a meeting at the Connecticut Farm Bureau at the request of Agricultural Commissioner Steven Reviczky to discuss proposed and potential agricultural legislation (13 participants) (October 25).

**DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER** visited Ellen van Wees of Bauer Farm, a community farm on town-owned land in Madison, to consult about planting for pollinators, choosing cover crops, and resources for community farms in Connecticut (October 16).

## ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

**DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS** was interviewed about West Nile and eastern equine encephalitis virus activity in the State of Connecticut for the 2011 season by Amanda Cuda, Connecticut Post (October 12); presented a seminar entitled, *West Nile virus: a retrospective look at an emerging mosquito-borne disease in the western hemisphere* at the Mystic Aquarium (25 attendees) (October 26), and presented an overview of the Station's research and surveillance programs on mosquitoes and mosquito-borne diseases and discussed potential collaborative research initiatives with Dr. Albert Ko the new Division Head and Dr. Durland Fish, Epidemiology of Microbial Disease Department, Yale School of Public Health (October 28).

**MR. GREGORY BUGBEE** was interviewed on invasive aquatic plants in Lakes Candlewood, Lillinonah and Zoar by George Linkletter at the Newtown Public Television Studio (October 1).

**DR. JOSEPH PIGNATELLO** presented two invited talks, *What controls the bioavailability of contaminants in soil?* and *Preferential sites in soil organic matter probed with stable nitroxyl free radicals* at the Annual Meeting of the Soil Science Society of America, San Antonio, TX (October 16-21) and presented a talk, *Catalytic oxidation for elimination of methyl bromide fumigation emissions* at the Methyl Bromide Alternatives Outreach Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA (October 31).

## FORESTRY AND HORTICULTURE

**DR. JEFFREY WARD** gave invited talk "The Ups and downs of final harvest" at the Pulling-the-Trigger even-aged silvicultural workshop sponsored by University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension in Hillsborough, NH (80 attendees) (October 13); organized and moderated "Tree Preservation - What To Do To Save Large Trees" at the 23rd annual Connecticut Urban Forest Council conference in Wallingford (100 attendees) (October 20); taught "Introduction to forest ecology" for Coop High School, New Haven (20 students, 3 teachers) (October 28); and spoke on Japanese barberry at the Invasive Shrub Control Workshop in Norfolk in cooperation with University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension (21 attendees) (October 29).

**DR. MARTIN GENT** attended a testimonial dinner for Joseph Geremia, who was honored as National Young Farmer of the Year, at Fantasia restaurant in North Haven (October 15).

**DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD** hosted the PreKindergarten and 3rd grade classes from Hamden Hall Country Day School at Lockwood Farm (36 students, 14 adults) (October 11); talked about science careers to Upper School students at Hamden Hall Country Day School (8 students) (October 13); and hosted the Kindergarten class from Hamden Hall Country Day School at Lockwood Farm (14 students, 2 adults) (October 21).

**DR. WILLIAM NAIL** visited with vineyard staff and inspected the vineyards at Sharpe Hill Vineyard in Pomfret (October 19); inspected the vineyards at Stonington Vineyards in Stonington (October 20).



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**DR. SCOTT WILLIAMS** along with **MR. MICHAEL SHORT**, made a field visit to a Guilford Land Conservation Trust property with David Bell, GLCT Land Steward (October 11); gave an invited presentation to students on relationship of invasives and Lyme disease of Lyman Memorial High School in Lebanon (18 students) (October 13); as a member of the Executive Committee of the Connecticut Urban Forest Council, hosted the 23rd Annual Conference on Urban and Community Forestry in Connecticut, Wallingford (October 20); and co-hosted a Guilford Land Conservation Trust interpretive hike on the Cockaponset State Forest block of Guilford's Westwoods with DEEP forester Emery Gluck and spoke about the association of blacklegged ticks and Japanese barberry and of deer as dispersers of exotic plant seeds (22 attendees) (October 23).

**MR. JOSEPH P. BARSKY** spoke to agricultural students at Lyman Memorial High School (Lebanon) about invasive plant ecology, safe procedures when using field equipment, and demonstrated flame weeding procedures (18 students) (October 13); met with DEEP Foresters Helene Hochholzer, James Parda, Robert Rocks, and Richard Schenk to discuss a forest stand rehabilitation project (October 13); hosted The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station booth at the Brooksville Fall Festival, Hamden (1,000+ attendees) (October 15); discussed crop tree management with MDC Forester Andrew Hubbard at Barkhamsted Reservoir (October 20); gave two presentations on "Forest research protocols" to students from Co-Op High School, New Haven) at East Rock Park (20 students, 3 teachers) (October 26); and spoke on equipment safety at the Invasive Shrub Control Workshop in Norfolk in cooperation with University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension (21 attendees) (October 29).

**MR. MICHAEL R. SHORT** demonstrated safe use of invasive control equipment (DR mower, clearing saw) at Lyman Memorial High School, Lebanon (18 students) (October 13).

## PLANT PATHOLOGY AND ECOLOGY

**DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS**, with **MS. PAMELA SLETTEN**, organized the annual NE-1033 federal project meeting for chestnut research held at the Incarnation Center in Ivoryton. Dr. Anagnostakis also reported on CAES chestnut research over the past year (39 attendees) (October 27-30).

**DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS** organized and participated in the CTPA Workshop titled "Trees and the Law" held at Aqua Turf in Plantsville (129 attendees) (October 4); gave a presentation on "Poisonous plants" to members of the Branford Garden Club in Branford (74 attendees) (October 6); and gave a presentation titled "Eco-friendly management of plant diseases" to members of the Hardy Plant Society, Connecticut Chapter, in Wethersfield (24 attendees) (October 26).

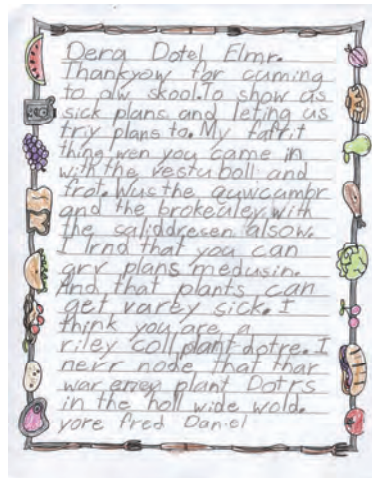
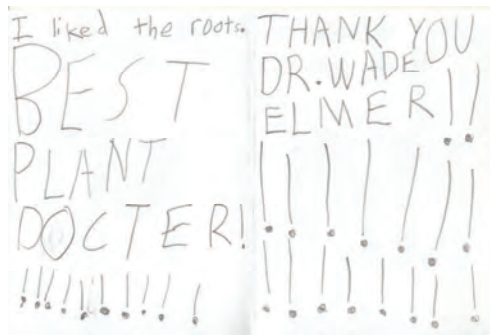
**DR. WADE H. ELMER** gave an invited seminar titled "Sudden Vegetation Dieback along Atlantic and Gulf Coast marshes: Plant pathogens and herbivores" to the Dept. of Plant Pathology at Pennsylvania State University in University Park, PA (October 10-11); participated in the Divisional Forum meeting of the American Phytopathological Society (APS) in New Brunswick, NJ (6 adult attendees) (October 12); participated in the Extension/Industry meeting of the Northeastern Divisional meeting of APS (NEDAPS) (30 adult attendees) (October 12); presented the Divisional Forum report and the site selection report at the business meeting of NEDAPS (30 adult attendees) (October 13); gave the presentation "Role of drought, flooding, and/or infection by *Fusarium palustre* on *Spartina alterniflora* and the effect on herbivory by the purple marsh crab" at the NEDAPS meeting in New Brunswick, NJ (20 adult attendees) (October 14); attended the 100-year celebration of the Department of Plant Pathology at Rutgers in New Brunswick, NJ (100 attendees) (October 14); moderated and gave a presentation titled "Root rots of ornamentals: Symptoms and diagnosis" at the Connecticut Greenhouse Grower's Association meeting "Pesticides and Roast Beef" held in Jones Auditorium (50 attendees) (October 19); spoke about "Plant parts and their diseases" to the second-grade classes at Mile Creek School in Old Lyme (90 youths and 8 adults attended) (October 21); gave an invited seminar titled "Sudden Vegetation Dieback along Atlantic and Gulf Coast marshes" at the Agricultural Research Service facility in Peoria, IL (18 attendees) (October 24); and visited with Joseph Samela, a high school student at the Sound School and discussed salt marsh decline topics for an independent intern study

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(October 31).



**DR. FRANCIS J. FERRANDINO** delivered a paper titled “An overview of the Southern New England Grape Information Network (SNEGIN) 2008-2011” at the 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Division of the American Phytopathological Society hosted by Rutgers University and held in New Brunswick, NJ (50 attendees) (October 12-14).

**MS. MARY K. INMAN** gave a talk on “Houseplants” to the Nichols Garden Club in Trumbull (27 adult attendees) (October 11).

**DR. YONGHAO LI** spoke about highlights from the PDIO in the 2011 season at the Extension/Industry meeting at the Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Division of the American Phytopathological Society in New Brunswick, NJ (30 adult attendees) (October 12).



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**DR. ROBERT E. MARRA** was an invited speaker in a symposium on the Oomycetes and gave a talk titled "*Phytophthora ramorum*: An overview of risks and research challenges for Eastern North America" at the Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Division of The American Phytopathological Society in New Brunswick, NJ (50 attendees) (October 12-14).

## VALLEY LABORATORY

**DR. JOHN AHRENS** attended an IR-4 Ornamentals workshop in Sacramento, CA to help set priorities for IR-4 supported research projects to support needed pesticide registrations for ornamental crops (October 5-8).

**DR. CAROLE CHEAH** was interviewed by Bob Pollack on artificial diet project for Hemlock woolly adelgid predators for the Station Associates Bulletin (October 28).

**DR. RICHARD COWLES** was awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Schmidt foundation to investigate the relationship between neonicotinoid insecticides and spider mite outbreaks, and a \$10,000 Urgent IPM Project to design custom bait insecticides for managing spotted wing drosophila in small fruits.

**DR. JAMES A. LAMONDIA** discussed Valley Laboratory research and services and Vo-Ag education with Harold Mackin, Associate Consultant, Agricultural Science & Technology Education, State Department of Education (October 5); and participated in the steering committee meeting for the CT Vegetable and Small Fruit Growers Conference in Vernon (October 5); spoke about research results at the annual meeting of the Northeast Regional Multistate Nematology Technical Committee (NE-1040) held in Burlington VT (October 9-11) (15 persons); and attended the Northeast Division Meeting of the American Phytopathological Society to present a research paper entitled 'Potyvirus infection of potato may threaten other solanaceous crops' in New Brunswick NJ (October 12-14) (65 persons); conducted a tour of the renovated tobacco shed and new barn for the CAES Board of Control at the Valley Laboratory (October 18); and assisted Joan Allen of the University of Connecticut by providing nematodes for a class at UConn (October 19).





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## GRANT AWARDS OCTOBER 2011

**DR. CHRIS MAIER** received a two-year grant from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to survey for horse and other flies of environmental concern.

## JOURNAL ARTICLES APPROVED OCTOBER 2011

**Bharadwaj, Anuja, Kirby C. Stafford, III**, and R. W. Behle. Efficacy and environmental persistence of Nootkatone for the control of the blacklegged tick, *Ixodes scapularis*, in the residential landscape. *Journal of Medical Entomology*

**Eitzer, Brian D.** The analysis of pesticides in honey bees and honey bee related matrices at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. *CT Weekly Agricultural Report*

**Li, De-Wei.** Christmas trees and airborne fungi in residences. *PAAA Annual Meeting*

Gent, Janneane F., Julie Kezik, Melissa E. Hill, Eling Tsai, **De-Wei Li**, Brian P. Leaderer. Association of atopic status and exposure to household fungi and dust allergens to childhood asthma severity – Abstract. *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*

**Li, De-Wei** and Chin Yang. What does the development of fungal systematics mean to DNA-based methods for indoor mold investigations. 6<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Conference on Bioaerosols, Fungi, Bacteria, Mycotoxins in Indoor and Outdoor Environments and Human Health

Kumar, K., K. Mosa, S. Chikkara, **Craig Musante, Jason C. White**, O. Parkash. “Two plasma membrane intrinsic proteins are involved in boron transport and tolerance. *Plant, Cell, and Environment*

Isleyen, M., P. Sevion, and **Jason C. White**. “Accumulation of weathered DDTs in grafted watermelon.” *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*

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Main Laboratories  
123 Huntington Street  
New Haven, CT 06511-2016  
Phone: 203-974-8500

Valley Laboratory  
153 Cook Hill Road  
Windsor, CT 06095-0248  
Phone: 860-683-4977

Lockwood Farm  
890 Evergreen Avenue  
Hamden, CT 06518-2361  
Phone: 203-974-8618

Griswold Research Center  
190 Sheldon Road  
Griswold, CT 06351-3627  
Phone: 860-376-0365

*Putting Science to work  
for Society.*



Entrance to The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven on Huntington Street



Main Laboratories, New Haven



Lockwood Farm, Hamden



Griswold Research Center, Griswold



Valley Laboratory, Windsor

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