



# *The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station*

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

*Founded 1875*

*Putting Science to Work for Society  
Protecting Agriculture, Public Health, and the Environment*

## **SPRING OPEN HOUSE--2012**

### **“RESEARCH ON CONNECTICUT CROPS AND FOOD SAFETY”**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25TH, 2012**

**REGISTRATION & REFRESHMENTS: 12:30 P.M., PROGRAM: PROMPTLY AT 1:00 P.M.**

#### **WELCOME (1:00P.M.-1:30P.M.)**

**Dr. Louis A. Magnarelli, Director**

#### **SHORT TALKS (1:30P.M.-3:15P.M.)**

**1:30p.m.-2:00p.m.**

***The New Crops Program-Helping Connecticut's Vegetable Growers***

**Dr. Abigail A. Maynard**

Small farm sizes in Connecticut have resulted in marketing shifts from wholesale contracts with local supermarkets to direct retail sales. Consumers used to a wide variety of fruits and vegetables in large supermarkets are seeking a greater diversity of ethnic and specialty crops at farmers' markets and roadside stands. To help farmers make informed decisions, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station established The New Crops Program and has studied over 40 different fruits and vegetables including heirloom tomatoes, calabaza, globe artichoke, sweet potatoes, and callaloo.

**2:00p.m.-2:30p.m.**

***Spotted Wing Drosophila Biology and Control***

**Dr. Richard S. Cowles**

The spotted wing drosophila arrived in CT in 2011, and already has caused extensive damage to strawberries, blueberries, grapes, and raspberries. Manipulating the fly behavior, especially with attractants in traps and feeding stimulants combined with insecticides, are promising ways to improve our ability to prevent maggot infestations in these crops.

**2:30p.m.-2:45p.m.**

**BREAK**

**2:45p.m.-3:15p.m.**

***Food Safety Research in the Department of Analytical Chemistry-Surveillance of Fresh and Manufactured Foods for Chemical Contamination***

**Dr. Jason C. White**

The Analytical Chemistry Department's Food Safety program began in 1895, 20 years after the institution was founded. Currently, Department scientists work with the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the CT Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) on an active surveillance of the CT food supply for both incidental and intentional contamination. Recent findings from 2011 on the presence of pesticides in fresh and dried herbs will be presented. In addition, results from the FDA on the arsenic presence in apple juice will be discussed.

#### **POSTER PRESENTATIONS (3:15P.M.-4:00P.M.)**

***Boxwood Blight-A Disease New to Connecticut and the U.S.***

**Dr. Sharon M. Douglas**

In October 2011, a disease of boxwood called "boxwood blight" was identified in Connecticut. This disease is caused by the fungus *Cylindrocladium pseudonaviculatum* and has now been detected in 5 counties in the state on boxwood in residential and commercial landscape plantings, production nurseries, and garden centers. The fungus infects all aboveground portions of boxwood causing leaf spots, blights, and stem cankers. This devastating disease can spread very rapidly under warm and humid conditions and result in plant death.

***Controlling Invasive Species Reduces Lyme Disease Risk***

**Dr. Jeffrey S. Ward and Dr. Scott C. Williams**

Infestations of invasive species such as Japanese barberry have much higher densities of blacklegged ticks infected with *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the causal agent of Lyme disease in humans and pets. Controlling invasive plants reduces the number of infected ticks by two-thirds and also creates growing space for native wildflowers and tree seedlings.

***Evaluation of New Winegrape Cultivars in Connecticut***

**Dr. William R. Nail**

The northeastern U.S. is a relatively new area for growing winegrapes. Many new cultivars have been developed, and many others are untested in this area. Experimental plots

Phone: (203) 974-8500

Fax: (203) 974-8502

Toll Free: 1-(877) 855-2237

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have been established at Lockwood Farm and The Valley Laboratory to compare the viability of new and untested cultivars with more widely planted ones. This is part of “NE-1020- Multi-state Evaluation of Winegrape Cultivars and Clones”, with participants from 29 states.

#### ***FBI Weapons of Mass Destruction Coordinator***

Special Agent Michael Syrax, The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Coordinator for the New Haven Field Office, will be on hand to answer questions. The CAES Analytical Chemistry Department works with the FBI WMD Coordinator on issues related to food safety and chemical terrorism.

### **BIOGRAPHIES OF OUR PRESENTERS**

**Dr. Abigail A. Maynard** received her B.S. degree from Columbia University and her M.F.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Yale University. She worked 7 summers at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station 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.

**Dr. Richard S. Cowles** obtained his degrees in Entomology from Cornell and Michigan State Universities. He came to The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station following four years on the faculty at the University of California, Riverside. He works to find the most appropriate solutions for managing various insect and mite problems important to Connecticut citizens and farmers. He has worked on hemlock woolly adelgids, bed bugs, black vine weevils and white grubs.

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

**Dr. Sharon M. Douglas** joined The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in 1982 and is the Head of the Department of Plant Pathology and Ecology. She received an A.B. from Colgate University, a M.S. from the University of New Hampshire, and a Ph.D. in Plant Pathology from The Pennsylvania State University. During her 30-year career at the Station, Dr. Douglas has identified plant health problems for farmers, professionals,

and homeowners. Her outreach efforts include fact sheets, disease management guides, and invited presentations.

**Dr. Jeffrey S. Ward** is the Chief Scientist in the Department of Forestry and Horticulture. He received his B.S. and M.S. in silviculture from The Ohio State University and his PhD in forest ecology from Purdue University. His research has focused on forest management and ecology, and more currently, on invasive plant species control.

**Dr. Scott C. Williams** is an Assistant Scientist in the Department of Forestry and Horticulture. Dr. Williams has a BA from Connecticut College, a Master’s of Environmental Studies from the Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and a Ph. D. in Natural Resources from the University of Connecticut. He joined The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in 2000 and his research focuses on the deleterious impacts of overabundant deer on native ecosystems and human health.

**Dr. William R. Nail** is an Assistant Scientist in the Department of Forestry and Horticulture. Dr. Nail received his MS degree in Horticulture from Texas A&M and his Ph.D. from Michigan State University in 2003. He joined The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in 2004. His research emphasizes the physiology of grapevines and applying that research to practical field conditions.

**Special Agent Michael Syrax** serves as the FBI’s Weapons of Mass Destruction Coordinator (WMDC) for Connecticut. In this capacity, he conducts criminal investigations, provides instruction and training, and engages in outreach to public and private organizations.

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