



The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE: The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station presents their Spring Open House 2012, “Research on Connecticut Crops and Food Safety”, for Interested Citizens and Media.

New Haven, Conn., April 25, 2012 – The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) invited interested citizens and the media to their annual Spring Open House event. This year’s theme: *Research on Connecticut Crops and Food Safety* was selected to highlight the many new cultivars of plants being evaluated for Connecticut commercial growers and homeowners. Field trials were described for broccoli, sweet corn, pumpkins, onions, heirloom tomatoes, peppers, Japanese plums, pak choi, edamame, sweet potatoes, various melons, and many more crops. In addition, findings were presented on a new insect pest of Connecticut: the Spotted Wing Drosophila, also known as the “vinegar fly”. This insect is widely distributed in eastern United States and has caused damage to raspberries, strawberries, blueberries, and grapes. Methods were described on how to capture and control the insects. Scientists in the Department of Analytical Chemistry test foods and other products for unwanted chemicals. Results were reported on the presence of pesticides in fresh and dried herbs and on arsenic in apple juice. Attendees saw displays on Boxwood Blight—a new disease in Connecticut and other states, controlling invasive plants to reduce the risks of tick bites and Lyme disease, field test results for new winegrape cultivars, and on the FBI Weapons of Mass Destruction Program. Experiment Station personnel answered questions on insects, identified weeds and plant diseases, and emphasized the importance of soil testing.

Dr. Louis A. Magnarelli, Director of the Experiment Station, welcomed everyone and gave a brief report on planned construction projects, new initiatives for social media, and programs on seeking patents for new discoveries.

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