



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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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DPH AND CAES: RESIDENTS SHOULD TAKE PRECAUTIONS TO PREVENT MOSQUITO BITES

New Haven, CT – The State Mosquito Management Program reminds residents to take steps to prevent mosquito bites as West Nile virus (WNV) is present in Connecticut. So far this season, the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) has identified WNV infected mosquitoes in two communities in Fairfield County, Stamford and Bridgeport.

“The number of infected mosquitoes is increasing and we urge residents to be aware and take precautions” said Dr. Theodore Andreadis, Director of the CAES. “As in years past, we expect to see further build-up and geographic expansion of West Nile virus in mosquitoes throughout the region with increased risk of human infection over the remainder of the summer and into early fall.”

“Historically, August and September are the months of greatest risk for acquiring West Nile virus infection.” said Dr. Raul Pino, Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Public Health. “As we head into late summer, I ask everyone to prevent mosquito bites by using insect repellent and covering bare skin, especially during dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.”

The CAES is also monitoring the distribution and abundance of the Asian tiger mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*) which has been shown to be a competent vector of Zika virus. This mosquito has been found in 8 towns in Connecticut: Bridgeport, Darien, Fairfield, Norwalk, Stamford, Stratford, South Windsor and West Haven, but all mosquitoes have tested negative for Zika virus.

The State of Connecticut Mosquito Management Program is a collaborative effort involving the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, the Department of Public Health, the Department of Agriculture, and the University of Connecticut Department of Pathobiology and Veterinary Science. These agencies are responsible for monitoring the potential public health threat of mosquito-borne diseases.

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The CAES maintains a network of 91 mosquito-trapping stations in 72 municipalities throughout the state. Mosquito traps are set Monday – Thursday nights at each site every ten days on a rotating basis. Mosquitoes are grouped (pooled) for testing according to species, collection site, and date. Positive findings are reported to local health departments and on the CAES website at <http://www.ct.gov/caes/mosquitotesting>.

For information on West Nile and eastern equine encephalitis viruses and how to prevent mosquito bites, visit the Connecticut Mosquito Management Program Web site at www.ct.gov/mosquito.

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