

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

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Founded 1875

Putting science to work for society

March 11, 2008

Office of the Chief Financial Officer
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington DC 20555-0001

Subject: Request for Fee Exemption

Dear Chief Financial Officer,

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) is requesting fee exemption from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) under the "public good" regulatory provisions. The CAES is a small, separate state agency and we perform basic and applied research, freely publish our findings in journals, bulletins, fact sheets, and civic newsletters, many of which, are available in electronic format on our webpage. Our staff members give talks and presentations at hundreds of community, civic, and scientific meetings each year. Our website address is www.ct.gov/caes.

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station was founded in 1875 and was the first Experiment Station in America. Each state has at least one Agricultural Experiment Station. The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station is the only Experiment Station not affiliated with a university. The other Experiment Stations are connected to land grant universities. I believe we are the only Experiment Station in the country that is not covered by a Nuclear Regulatory Commission fee exemption because we are not associated with a university.

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station's mission statement 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." As the nation's first Agricultural Experiment Station and in our 133 year history, we have made major scientific contributions to society including the development of hybrid corn varieties, pioneering research that led to the discovery of Vitamin A, the original research on arthropod vectors and disease organisms such as those associated with Lyme disease and West Nile Encephalitis, biological control to treat chestnut blight, and the development of technology for removing pesticides and other chemicals from soil and water. The first isolate of West Nile Virus in North America was made in the Station's laboratories. The Station's motto is "Putting Science to work for Society."

Today, we deliver science-based solutions that make real differences in the lives of people of this state and the nation, in the key areas of environmental conservation, public health, food safety, and agricultural development and productivity. The Experiment Station is one of eight states receiving funds from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to collaborate in the Food Emergency Response Network (FERN). This national network of laboratories is established to ensure a safe and viable national food supply. We conduct surveillance for encephalitis viruses,

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including West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis, throughout the State of Connecticut, and work with the Connecticut Department of Public Health and local health departments on mosquito control and public awareness and prevention programs. The Experiment Station works with many school and university students.

In the past year, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station has responded to several public health concerns. Public service highlights include:

1. Children at 2 elementary schools in Old Saybrook became ill after drinking flavored milk. At the request of our Department of Agriculture, chemical analyses detected sanitizing fluid, which was used to flush filling lines at the dairy plant. These results were obtained within 4 hours of receiving milk samples from state inspectors. Milk products were promptly recalled and corrective action was taken in the dairy plant.
2. Our chemists assisted our Department of Consumer Protection and our Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security in analyzing toothpaste imported from China. Ethylene glycol and/or diethylene glycol, components of antifreeze, contaminated the toothpaste. This product was promptly removed from Connecticut hospitals and prisons and from comfort care kits distributed nationally.
3. At the request of the State Department of Consumer Protection, toys imported from China were tested for lead. This toxic substance was found in paint on the toys, and state and federal action resulted in the recall of thousands of toys nationally.
4. Melamine in pet foods made national news after cats and dogs died or became severely ill. Once again, the problem was traced to products from China. The US FDA requested our assistance in analyzing for melamine in pet foods, buckwheat flour and plant-derived protein products. Results led to bans on certain importers.

Station scientists also have a long-term commitment to environmental stewardship, including both scientific research and community interaction on issues as far ranging as minimizing pesticide usage, screening feeds and fertilizers for contaminants, remediating polluted soils, and controlling the spread of invasive plants.

These are only a select few examples of the services we provide for the "public good" of citizens. All of our scientific research and outreach is done to provide a safe and healthy environment for the people of Connecticut and across the nation.

I am enclosing some history and publication documentation to support our NRC fee exemption request based on our work in the "public good" category as defined in the NRC regulations. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at 203-974-8442 or by email at Michael.last@po.state.ct.us

Sincerely,



Michael P. Last
Chief of Services

Timeline of Key Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Scientists' Accomplishments

- **1875** CAES Founded; First agricultural experiment station in the United States
- **1888** First identification of potato scab pathogen
- **1901** First State Entomologist from State of Connecticut
- **1913** Discovery of Vitamin A
- **1919** Developed first hybrid corn revolutionizing agriculture worldwide
- **1934** Developed the Morgan Test to analyze soil fertility
- **1940** Discovered first organic fungicide
- **1946** Developed chemotherapy control technique to treat Dutch Elm Disease
- **1963** Developed gas chromatography technique to determine pesticide residue levels on produce
- **1972** Developed biological control technique to treat American Chestnut Blight
- **1983** First isolation of Lyme disease agents in wildlife in Connecticut
- **1984** Among the first antibody tests developed for Lyme disease
- **1989** Discovered that a fungus caused the collapse of gypsy moth populations in Connecticut
- **1992** Developed novel technology for decontaminating water and soil using chemical reagents.
- **1999** First isolation of West Nile Virus in North America
- **2000** Discovered that specific Curcubit subspecies accumulate persistent organic pollutants from soil
- **2003** Analytical Chemistry Laboratory selected as one of only 8 USDA-FDA Food Emergency Response Network state laboratories nationwide for funding to provide enhanced surveillance of the nation's food supply
- **2008** First woman in State's history becomes the State Chemist of Connecticut



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Valley Laboratory

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(860) 683-4977

Lockwood Farm

890 Evergreen Ave.
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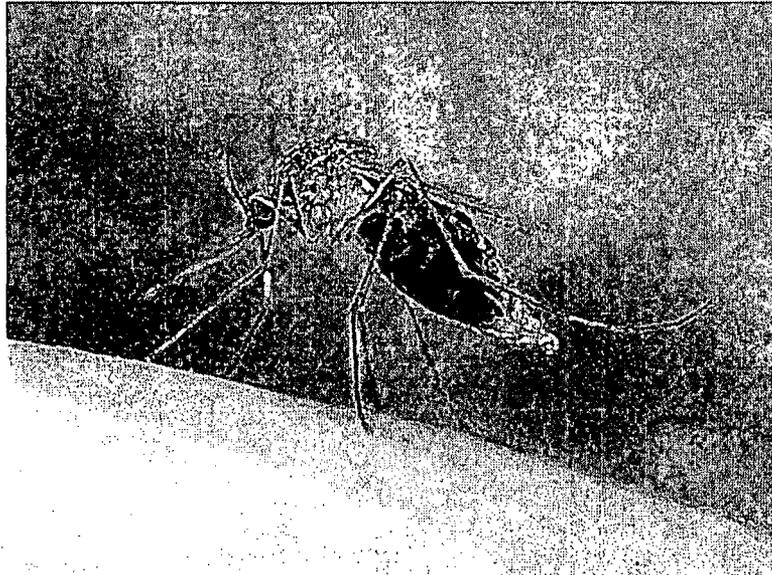
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The mission of The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station is to develop, advance, and disseminate scientific knowledge, improve agricultural productivity and environmental quality, protect plants, and enhance human health and well-being through 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.

Greetings from:
Dr. Louis A. Magnarelli,
Director

CT Keyword:



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