



Healthy Plants • Healthy World

May 18, 2011

Hon. Dannel P. Malloy Governor
State Capitol
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

FAX: 860.524.7395

Dear Governor Malloy:

The American Phytopathological Society (APS) is contacting you in regards to the possible implementation of significant budget cuts to the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES). The APS, founded in 1908, is the premier educational, professional, and scientific society dedicated to the promotion of plant health and plant disease management for the global good. The Society represents nearly 5,000 scientists whose work advances the understanding of the science of plant diseases and its application to plant health, some of which work at the CAES. The APS has served as an unbiased resource on plant health for state and Federal agencies for many years. The progress made in plant health programs in the United States through support of research, teaching, and extension from Federal, state and private sources has facilitated the sustainability and profitability of America's plant production industries.

The APS implores your further consideration of the economic and social impact of losing the robust programs related to plant health at the CAES if state funding is not provided. The programs at the CAES support about 48,000 jobs, more than 2,000 businesses, and carry out research and other activities that impact well above \$2 billion in commerce in Connecticut. Plant health scientists play a significant role in this impact and are on the front line in protecting from the invasion of new pathogens of plants, and assuring that plants and plant products being moved in commerce are not carrying organisms that could do harm in other areas of the country or world. Additionally, plant health scientists are finding new methods of sustainable approaches to food and plant production.

Since the establishment of the CAES in 1875, scientists at the station have made significant contributions to the economy of Connecticut and the health of the citizens of Connecticut. Currently, new fruit and vegetable crops are being developed that are resistant to disease, and pest problems are being addressed and managed in the most environmentally benign manner possible through integration of pest management tactics and strategies. The result is plant production systems that contribute to jobs and a stronger Connecticut economy.

For more than a century, plant pathologists have been making and sharing significant breakthroughs for society, from pushing frontiers in the accuracy and speed of field diagnosis, to increasing our understanding of plant disease through lab research, and as a result crop yield productivity has doubled. Activities at the CAES have contributed to these advances and the APS hopes full consideration is given to the long term negative impact on Connecticut if funding is withdrawn from the CAES.

Sincerely,

John L. Sherwood
President
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