



# Agricultural Report

Connecticut Department of Agriculture

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Marketing & Technology Bureau, (860) 713-2503

Jessey Ina-Lee, Editor

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

## NOTES from the DEPARTMENT . . .

### TRAPPING AND TESTING PROGRAM FOR MOSQUITO-BORNE VIRUSES TO BEGIN ON JUNE 1

By Theodore G. Andreadis, Chief Medical Entomologist  
The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) in New Haven began its 13th season of trapping and testing mosquitoes for West Nile (WN) and eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) viruses. The program, which includes daily trapping at 91 locations in 72 municipalities throughout the state, began on June 1 and will continue through the end of October. Over the years, the Experiment Station has trapped and tested over 1.7 million mosquitoes and it is anticipated that over 200,000 mosquitoes will be tested this season.

West Nile virus was first detected in Western Hemisphere in 1999 and Experiment Station scientists were among the first to isolate the virus from mosquitoes and crows during the initial outbreak. West Nile virus rapidly spread across the continent and has become the dominant mosquito-borne virus causing human disease in North America. To date, more than 30,000 people in the United States and Canada have been sickened by the virus and there have been more than 1,000 fatalities. The severity of disease is age related (median age: all cases = 53 yrs; fatalities = 76 yrs), but individuals in all age groups are susceptible. Approximately 20% of infections result in mild flu-like illness characterized by an abrupt onset of fever, headache, myalgia, nausea, fatigue, weakness, vomiting and diarrhea. Symptoms usually develop 2-14 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito, and typically last about 1 week but fatigue may persist for over a month. Approximately 1 in 150 infections lead to severe neuroinvasive disease that is more common in elderly and immunocompromized patients, and is characterized by encephalitis, meningitis, and/or poliomyelitis. There is no specific treatment for WN virus and no human vaccine is yet available. People with milder symptoms usually improve on their own and do not require medical attention. However, in more severe cases, hospitalization is needed and supportive therapy including intravenous fluids and help with breathing is commonly administered.

West Nile virus has also been responsible for extensive morbidity and mortality in horses. Illness in horses is characterized by fever, ataxia, weakness, muscle tremors, and inability to rise. Symptoms typically last 3 weeks and the mortality rate in clinically affected horses is generally 30%. Fortunately, effective horse vaccines for WN virus

are available (Innovator®, Recombitek®, PreveNile™) and 2 annual doses, 3 to 6 wks apart are recommended.

West Nile virus is firmly established in Connecticut and reemerges each summer. Sixty-nine human cases of WN virus infection have been reported in the state since 2000 with 3 fatalities (age range = 6 yrs to 89 yrs; median age all cases = 56 yrs; fatalities all > 80 yrs.). The majority of these cases have occurred in residents living in densely populated urban and suburban communities in lower Fairfield and New Haven Counties and in the greater Hartford area, which have been identified as high risk zones. Human cases have closely paralleled the spatial and temporal detection of virus in mosquitoes, a testament to the effectiveness of CAES mosquito trapping and testing program, and the greatest risk of human infection has historically been from July through September.

Scientists at the CAES have isolated WN virus from 21 different species of mosquitoes collected in the state, but *Culex* species, especially *Culex pipiens* are the most important vectors. *Culex pipiens* is a very common peridomestic species that develops in catch basins, temporary pools with high organic content, and a variety of artificial containers found around the home including bird baths, rain barrels, flower pots, and discarded tires. Using novel molecular techniques to identify host DNA in the blood meals of these mosquitoes, Experiment Station scientists have further determined that *Cx. pipiens* prefers to feed on birds, especially robins, rather than humans. This discovery demonstrated that the American Robin, our state bird, was the major avian reservoir of WN virus in this region and not the American Crow as originally suspected. This behavioral characteristic has also helped to reduce the spread of infection to humans in most years.

Outbreaks of EEE virus have occurred sporadically among horses, emus and domestic pheasants in Connecticut since 1938, but fortunately, no locally acquired human cases have ever been confirmed in the state despite the repeated occurrence of human disease and in all of our neighboring states including Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island (159 cases and 77 fatalities). Symptoms range from mild flu-like illness to inflammation of the brain, coma and death. The first symptoms generally occur within 3 to 10 days and include a sudden onset of high fever (103-106°F), stiff neck, and lack of energy. In more severe cases, seizures, coma and death

**MORE MOSQUITO-BORNE VIRUSES ON PAGE 3**

**NORTHEAST EGG PRICES U.S.D.A.**

June 8, 2009

Prices To Retailers, Sales To Volume Buyers,  
USDA Grade A and Grade A, White Eggs In  
Cartons, Warehouse, Cents Per Dozen

EXTRA LARGE	90-94
LARGE	89-93
MEDIUM	58-60

**MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION**

Middlefield, CT, June 8, 2009

Live animals brought the following average  
prices per cwt.:

	Low	High
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	22.00	26.00
61-75 lbs.	28.00	32.00
76-90 lbs.	35.00	37.00
91-105 lbs.	40.00	44.00
106 lbs. & up	48.00	51.00
Farm Calves	57.50	72.50
Started Calves	28.00	30.00
Veal Calves	67.50	92.50
Open Heifers	65.00	75.00
Beef Heifers	52.00	54.00
Feeder Steers	70.00	82.50
Beef Steers	72.00	80.00
Stock Bulls	65.00	112.50
Beef Bulls	67.50	68.50
Replacement Cows	900.00	1000.00
Sheep each	55.00	160.00
Lambs each	57.50	170.00
Goats each	50.00	70.00
Kid Goats each	25.00	65.00
Canners	Up to	46.50
Cutters	47.00	50.00
Utility Grade Cows	51.00	53.00
Rabbits each	5.00	17.00
Chickens each	4.00	17.00
Ducks each	5.00	9.50

Provided by Middlesex Livestock Auction.

**NEW HOLLAND LIVESTOCK AUCTION  
MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2009**

Bulk/	High/	Low Dressing
<b>SLAUGHTER COWS:</b>		
Breakers	75-80% lean	
45.50-53.00	48.00-53.00	40.00-44.00
Boners	80-85% lean	
43.00-47.50	48.75-50.00	40.50-42.50
Lean	85-90% lean	
38.50-43.00	43.50-48.00	32.00-37.00
<b>SLAUGHTER BULLS: Yield Grade 1</b>		
1000-2210 lbs	56.00-62.00	
<b>SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled &amp; Shorn</b>		
Choice and Prime 2-3		
40-50 lbs	135.00-152.00	
50-60 lbs	128.00-146.00	
60-70 lbs	124.00-138.00	
70-80 lbs	120.00-134.00	
80-90 lbs	118.00-130.00	
90-110 lbs	115.00-128.00	
110-130 lbs	110.00-124.00	
130-150 lbs	106.00-120.00	
<b>Slaughter Ewes: Good 2-3</b>		
120-160 lbs	30.00-46.00	
160-200 lbs	26.00-42.00	

**FRESH FRUITS & VEGETABLES**

**NEW ENGLAND GROWN**

ALFALFA SPROUTS, 5lb	11.00	11.00
APPLE CIDER, 4/1 gallon	15.00	15.00
APPLES, McIntosh 80ct fcy	18.00	19.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 10lb bag	5.00	5.00
CHIVES, 1/lb 12/bunch	6.00	6.00
CILANTRO, 1/2 crate 24s	11.00	12.00
LETTUCE, Boston 24's greenhse 12/4oz	14.00	15.00
PEAS, English bu	35.00	40.00
PEAS, Snow 10lb	15.00	15.00
PEAS, Sugar snap 10lbs	20.00	20.00
POTATOES, Russet 10/5lb	9.00	10.00
RADISHES, 24's	10.00	12.00
RHUBARB, 20lb	24.00	24.00
SQUASH, Acorn, organic 35lb	32.00	32.00
SQUASH, Delicata organic 35lb	37.50	37.50
STRAWBERRIES, 8/ 1qt med-lge	23.00	25.00
TOMATOES, Greenhouse 11lbs-on vine	12.00	12.00

**SHIPPED IN**

ARRUGULA, 3lb NJ	13.00	13.00
BEANS, green handpicked bu GA	23.00	24.00
BEETS 12CT NJ	11.00	12.00
BLUEBERRIES, 12/1pt GA	23.00	24.00
BOK CHOY 30LB NJ	21.00	22.00
CABBAGE, 1-3/4bu green NJ	14.00	14.00
CHERRIES, Rainier 16lb bagged CA	65.00	70.00
CIPOLINOS, (Onion), 10lb bag NY	18.00	18.00
COLLARD GREENS, 12-16's NJ	11.00	11.00
GRAPES, Flame 18lb CA	36.00	38.00
GREENS, Kale crate NJ	10.00	12.00
LEEKs, 1-1/4 bu NJ	14.00	14.00
LETTUCE, Green Leaf 24's NJ	13.00	13.00
LETTUCE, Romaine 24's NJ	14.00	16.00
NECTARINES, 25lb 64sz CA	24.00	24.00
ONION, Vidalia 40lbs jbo GA	19.00	20.00
SQUASH, Green 1/2 bu NJ	12.00	12.00
SQUASH, Yellow 1/2 bu sm-med NJ	14.00	14.00

Above quotations are based on Boston Terminal Prices

200-300 lbs	20.00-32.00
<b>SLAUGHTER GOATS: All goats are Selection 1, sold by the head, estimated weights.</b>	
Kids: 30-40 lbs	34.00-50.00
40-50 lbs	56.00-68.00
50-60 lbs	68.00-84.00
60-70 lbs	82.00-100.00
Nannies/Does: 80-130 lbs	66.00-78.00
130-180 lbs	78.00-94.00
Bucks/Billies: 100-150 lbs	110.00-128.00
150-250 lbs	126.00-144.00

**NEW HOLLAND, PA HOG AUCTION**

Mon June 8, 2009 - Hogs sold by actual weights, prices quoted by hundred weight.

Percent Lean	Weight	Price
49-54	220-270 lbs	33.50-36.00
	270-300 lbs	33.00-34.50
45-49	220-270 lbs	32.25-34.50
	270-300 lbs	30.50-34.50
	300-350 lbs	30.50-32.75
40-45	300-350 lbs	28.00-31.00
Sows: US 1-3	300-500 lbs	24.00-33.00
	500-700 lbs	32.50-40.50
Boars:	300-700 lbs	9.00-13.00

**METROPOLITAN AREA  
U.S.D.A.**

**NEW YORK PRICES  
WHITE EGGS  
TO RETAILERS**

For 1 dozen,  
Grade A eggs on:

June 8, 2009

EXTRA LARGE	98-102
LARGE	96-100
MEDIUM	65-69

Above quotations based on  
CARTON sales to retailers.

**EASTERN REGION  
MILK REVIEW**

MADISON, WI. June 3, 2009

- Delayed arrival of hot weather has kept milk production unusually high in many parts of the region. NORTHEAST weather has remained exceptionally moderate, with typical high temperatures in the high 50's to low 60's. This has prolonged flush milk production and kept intakes at high levels. Intakes last weekend at some balancing plants surpassed the level of the Memorial Day weekend, causing some surprise. The challenge of handling prolonged heavy milk production volume generated sentiment hoping for warm weather and good CWT Herd Reduction acceptances. MIDDLE ATLANTIC milk intakes were characterized as "plentiful" and "massive". Favorable weather for milk production continued, with an alternating pattern of warm but not hot weather and rain, keeping grass growing aggressively. Sales of 2 of the larger regional dairy herds recently occurred. However, the cows were high producers and are not going to slaughter, but to other farms. This is shifting production rather than reducing it. SOUTHEAST milk production levels through last weekend were at extremely burdensome levels. Plants were full and tankers typically waited 15 to 18 hours before they were able to unload milk. The situation was described as even worse than the Christmas holiday. Equipment failure in some plants resulting from prolonged heavy use aggravated the situation. Auxiliary capacity used only during heavy production periods, continued to be operated to help clear intakes. Partly offsetting the impact of reduced milk sales to schools are retail milk promotions now entering the third week are boosting milk sales. Some customers who had been minimizing orders last week, over the weekend placed order add-ons for deliveries beginning on and after June 1. This was motivated by the lower milk price that became effective June 1. Heat is expected to quickly reduce milk production.

## ADVERTISEMENTS

### FOR SALE

1-R. CT. Christmas Tree Growers, CT. Sheep Breeders and CT. Beekeepers Associations Special Insurance Packages available through Blumenthal/Donahue Insurance Agency--Toll Free 1-800-554-8049, 1-877-267-8323, ddonahue01@comcast.net or www.hobbyfarmusa.com.. Farm Commercial Auto Coverage now available.

2-R. Farm Insurance for all types of farming at very competitive rates. 1-800-554-8049, 1-877-267-8323, ddonahue01@comcast.net or www.hobbyfarmusa.com., Blumenthal/Donahue Insurance Agency. Farm Commercial Auto Coverage now available.

4-R. Gallagher High Tensile and portable electric fencing for farms, deer control, gardens. Sonpal's Power Fence (860) 491-2290.

6-R. Packaging for egg sales. New egg cartons, flats, egg cases, 30 doz and 15 doz. Polinsky Farm (860) 376-2227.

50-R. Registered Scottish Highland cattle, smaller size, nearly miniature in frame size. \$400 to \$1,000. 860-599-3759.

76-R. Rough Sawn lumber, fence boards, trailer planks, tomato stakes, custom and portable sawing. 203-788-2430.

78-R. Hardwood tomato stakes, tobacco lath, horse fence, beams, rough lumber. Call 860-873-9774. Staehly Products Co.

90-R. Steers ½ or whole. You pick up at slaughter house. Call 203-530-4953 for information.

92-R. Tobacco hook lath, large quantity. 860-982-7056.

94-R. Hereford cattle for sale, 1 registered yearling bull \$1,350. Two fall bull calves, 1 fall heifer. 860-693-2052.

95-R. KRONE haying Equipment, tedders, rakes, mowers, balers. Good financing available. 0% for 36 months or cash rebates Big Boys Toys LLC, 860-928-9778 www.BIGBOYSTOYSLLC.NET

98-R. John Deere side delivery rake, excellent condition. Call for information at 860-767-1257.

99-R. Battery powered price computing scales with state compliance, battery powered cash registers, livestock truck scales. Call 1-800-403-5919.

100-R. Angus, Baldie cross, Hereford calves. 860-608-7611.

101-R. Rough lumber; parts for Grimm hay tedders. Sylvan Tetrault 860-684-3458.

102-R. Hale irrigation pump with 18HP Vanguard motor, excellent condition - \$1,250. Farmall cub cultivators. New \$350. Cub #22 sickle bar \$300. Rear wheel weights \$250. 203-623-2956.

105-R. Hedge rows, drainage ditches, fence lines or any other hard to reach areas getting overgrown? We have the solution. An excavator mounted tree/brush mower capable of mowing 8"-12" diameters flush to the ground. Call for brochure or machine location to observe working or free demonstration on your site. (860) 875-0280 or visit Burkeridge.com Commercial Mowing Division.

106-R. John Deere tractor for sale, 3140, 4x4, w/cab, low hrs, \$19,500 obo. Good Condition. 203-671-1534.

107. Three Hereford heifers 16-18 months old. 1975 Allis Chalmers backhoe, good shape. 203-264-1185.

108. Hardi Comby sprayer (160 gal); 3 point hitch – excellent condition; also irrigation pipe (40ft lengths). 860-653-3837.

109-R. John Deere 3020 Diesel tractor with loader for sale. Good condition. New rear tires. \$7,000 or best offer. Call 860-546-6227.

110. One registered Dorset ram and one registered Romney ram – yearlings - \$250 each. 860-668-5029. Leave message.

111-R. 67 Massey Ferguson 2135 w/MF 100 loader, continental Z134, 540, 3ptw/draft control, new rubber. 203-457-1667.

112. Half-bushel baskets and 16 qt peach baskets \$2 each. Call 203-259-0380.

113. Approximately one acre good farm land for sale or lease, Granby, CT. Ready for planting. 860-653-3270.

114. Heavy duty trailer axles with electric brakes and tires for sale. Call 860-653-3270.

### MISCELLANEOUS

7-R. Farm/Land Specializing in land, farms, and all types of Real Estate. Established Broker with a lifetime of agricultural experience and 40 years of finance. Representing both Buyers and Sellers. Call Clint Charter of Wallace-Tustin Realty (860) 644-5667.

8-R. Horse properties, Farms and Land. Ralph's the man specializing in all types of Real Estate. With a lifetime of agricultural and business experience he is the best choice to represent both buyers and sellers and make your dreams come true. Call Ralph Winn with Century 21 Alaimo & Corrado at (860) 648-6902 or www.winwithWINN.com.

9-R. The CT Grown Price Cards and Posters are available to growers, grocery stores and roadside stands. Call Rick Macsuga at (860) 713-2544 for a supply of these materials.

93-R. For Lease: 50 man labor camp, north central Connecticut. 860-982-7056.

### WANTED

103-R. Ford tractor wanted: with bucket loader. 860-653-0491.

104-R. Ever think of leasing your land? What if you could retain full use for farming? Established waterfowling group seeks land for seasonal use. Dedicated to wildlife conservation and habitat development. Exceptional references available from other Connecticut farmers. Contact Ken (860) 912-6109 or kpermy.mjsullivan@snet.net

### MOSQUITO-BORNE VIRUSES FROM PAGE 1

may develop rapidly. The mortality rate from EEE virus is approximately one-third, making it one of the most deadly mosquito-borne diseases in the United States, and approximately one-half of those persons who survive infection will have mild to severe permanent neurologic damage. People over age 50 yrs and younger than 15 yrs are at greatest risk for developing severe disease. There is no specific treatment and no human vaccine is available for the general public. Horses are highly susceptible and experience very high mortality approaching 80% to 90%. An effective vaccine is available for horses and annual vaccination is recommended.

Eastern equine encephalitis activity is most common in and around freshwater hardwood (red maple and white cedar) swamps from late July through September. Wild birds serve as reservoir and amplification hosts for the virus and the primary vector mosquito for maintaining the bird-mosquito-bird cycle is *Culiseta melanura*. This mosquito is difficult to control because it develops in underground cavities and hollows at the base of fallen trees within the swamp. Females have a strong feeding preference for birds but recent investigations at CAES have shown that they will occasionally feed on mammals including humans, which had not been previously recognized. The focal area for EEE virus in Connecticut has historically been in the southeastern corner of the state, and the most recent outbreak in animals occurred in a colony of African penguins (*Spheniscus demersus*) housed at the Mystic Aquarium in September and October of 2003 that sicken 14 birds and resulted in one fatality.

The most effective way to prevent infection with EEE or WN virus is to limit exposure to mosquito bites by employing personal and household protection measures, including using an EPA-registered repellent according to the manufacturer's instructions, wearing protective clothing, avoiding outdoor activity when mosquitoes are active, and removing standing water that can provide mosquito breeding sites.

For more information on EEE and WN virus and what you can do to prevent getting bitten by mosquitoes, visit the Connecticut Mosquito Management Program Web site at [www.ct.gov/mosquito](http://www.ct.gov/mosquito).

Weekly test results for 2009 and annual summaries for previous years can be found on the CAES Web site at <http://www.ct.gov/caes/cwp/view.asp?a=2819&q=377446&caesNav=>

**BEE-KILLING PARASITE'S GENOME SEQUENCED**

Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists have sequenced the genome of an invasive parasite called *Nosema ceranae* that can kill honey bees and is one of the many suspects in the mysterious ailment known as colony collapse disorder (CCD).

ARS researchers Jay Evans, Yanping (Judy) Chen and R. Scott Cornman also have nearly completed sequencing the genome of *Nosema apis*, a native "cousin" of the parasite.

The scientists are using genetic tools and microscopic analysis at the ARS Bee Research Laboratory (BRL) in Beltsville, Md., to examine the two parasites suspected as a partial cause of CCD. They are working with BRL research leader Jeff Pettis, Yan Zhao of the ARS Molecular Plant Pathology Laboratory in Beltsville, and researchers from the University of Maryland, Columbia University, and 454 Life Sciences of Branford, Conn.

In 2006, CCD began devastating commercial beekeeping operations, with some beekeepers reporting losses of up to 90 percent. Researchers believe CCD may be the result of a combination of pathogens, parasites and stress factors, but the cause remains elusive. At stake are honey bees that add up to \$15 billion in value to crops in the United States.

*Nosema* is a fungus-related microbe that produces spores that bees consume when they forage. Infection spreads from the bees' digestive tract to other tissues. Within weeks, colonies are either wiped out or lose much of their strength. *N. apis* was the leading cause of microsporidia infections among domestic bee colonies until recently, when *N. ceranae* jumped from Asian honey bees to the European honey bees used commercially in the United States.

Sequencing the genomes should help scientists figure out how *N. ceranae* became dominant, trace its migration patterns, help resolve

how the microbes spread infection, and develop diagnostic tests and treatments. A report on the work was published today in the journal PLOS Pathogens.

ARS is the principal intramural scientific research agency in the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



**HONEY REPORT**

Honey-volumes of 10,000 lbs min—per lb---f.o.b

Arkansas-soybean-extra light amber	1.25 lb	1.25 lb
Florida-mixed flower-white	1.45 lb	1.45 lb
Florida-orange-white	1.40 lb	1.45 lb
Florida-palmetto-extra light amber	1.35 lb	1.35 lb
Florida-palmetto-light amber	1.13 lb	1.33 lb
Dakotas-clover-white	1.30 lb	1.50 lb
Montana-clover-white	1.35 lb	1.45 lb
Canadian-mixed flower-white	1.33 lb	1.46 lb

Honey per lb —point of entry

Argentina-mixed flowers- white	1.25 lb	1.52 lb
Brazil-mixed flowers -white	1.39 lb	1.45 lb
Brazil-mixed flowers-extra light amber	1.13 lb	1.40 lb
Brazil-mixed flowers-light amber	1.08 lb	1.20 lb

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