The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station



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PRESS RELEASE

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Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Assists the United States Food and Drug Administration on Testing Seafood from the Gulf of Mexico

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New Haven, CT - The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) participates in a federal food safety program, Food Emergency Response Network, under the guidance of the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). In a national response to check the safety of oysters, shrimp, crabs, and fin fish in the oil-spill area of the Gulf of Mexico, new alternative methods were developed to more efficiently analyze seafood samples for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, chemicals associated with petroleum. CAES chemists worked closely with scientists in the US FDA Forensic Chemistry Center in Cincinnati and with chemists in the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to develop the analytical procedures.

On Wednesday, July 28, 2010, the first shipment of seafood samples arrived at the CAES for analysis. The testing will be conducted in at least two other laboratories nationwide and is expected to continue for several months. By agreement, the results must be reported to the US FDA regulatory officials for review. "We are pleased that we can assist in this national crisis" said Dr. Louis A. Magnarelli, Director of the CAES. "We have the expertise and state-of-the-art instruments that can measure unwanted chemicals to parts per billion to ensure food and product safety." The CAES, founded in 1875, is the oldest state agricultural experiment station in the US and is a separate state agency.

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