

*The  
Connecticut  
Agricultural  
Experiment  
Station,  
New Haven*

**One Hundred  
Years of Research  
and Service at the  
Tobacco  
Station/Valley  
Laboratory**

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# One Hundred Years of Research and Service at the Tobacco Station/Valley Laboratory

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The year 2021 marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Tobacco Station/Valley Laboratory in Windsor. The creation and evolution of this unique research station is an interesting story and the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary seems a good opportunity to try to tell it.

The beginning of this story must start with the surprising importance of tobacco in Connecticut history. Tobacco was an important plant in what would become Connecticut long before the presence of European colonists and the tobacco plant is a uniquely American plant and crop. There are a number of *Nicotiana* species present in the Americas and recent studies have shown that hunter gatherers in what is now Utah used tobacco at least 12,300 years ago. Tobacco was likely first gathered for use from wild plants and later domesticated and cultivated at least 6,000 to 8,000 years ago. Two tobacco species dominated: *Nicotiana rustica* in eastern North America, and *N. tabacum* in Central and South America. The tobacco grown and smoked by indigenous peoples in Connecticut prior to European contact was *Nicotiana rustica*, quite different from the *N. tabacum* species that we grow and recognize

today. *N. rustica* is a small plant with small round leaves and a high alkaloid content that made it not only chemically potent but bitter and peppery hot. It was used both as a stimulant and for medicinal and sacred purposes. *Nicotiana tabacum* was the species that dominated areas of the Americas controlled by the Spanish. *N. tabacum* was much preferred in Europe and the ‘Spanish tobacco’ as it was initially called was tightly controlled. John Rolfe arrived in Virginia in 1610 and is credited with first growing *N. rustica* and then introducing *N. tabacum* to the colony in 1612 with seeds obtained from an unknown source. This tobacco, which became known as Orinoco tobacco, became the economic savior of the new Virginia colony and its economic success encouraged the development of additional colonies.

European colonists first settled in Connecticut in what would become Windsor in the Connecticut River Valley in 1633 to farm some of the best agricultural soils in the northeast. They grew tobacco as one of their first cultivated crops, likely attempting to replicate the economic success of tobacco cultivation in Virginia. Like the Virginia experience, they initially grew the *N. rustica* cultivated by the

local indigenous peoples, from whom they undoubtedly learned cultivation techniques as they likely had no experience with growing or curing this new, to them, plant. The *N. rustica* was quickly replaced by the much more palatable *N. tabacum*, the tobacco species that we are familiar with today, apparently with seeds that were obtained from Virginia and Barbados at some time prior to 1640.

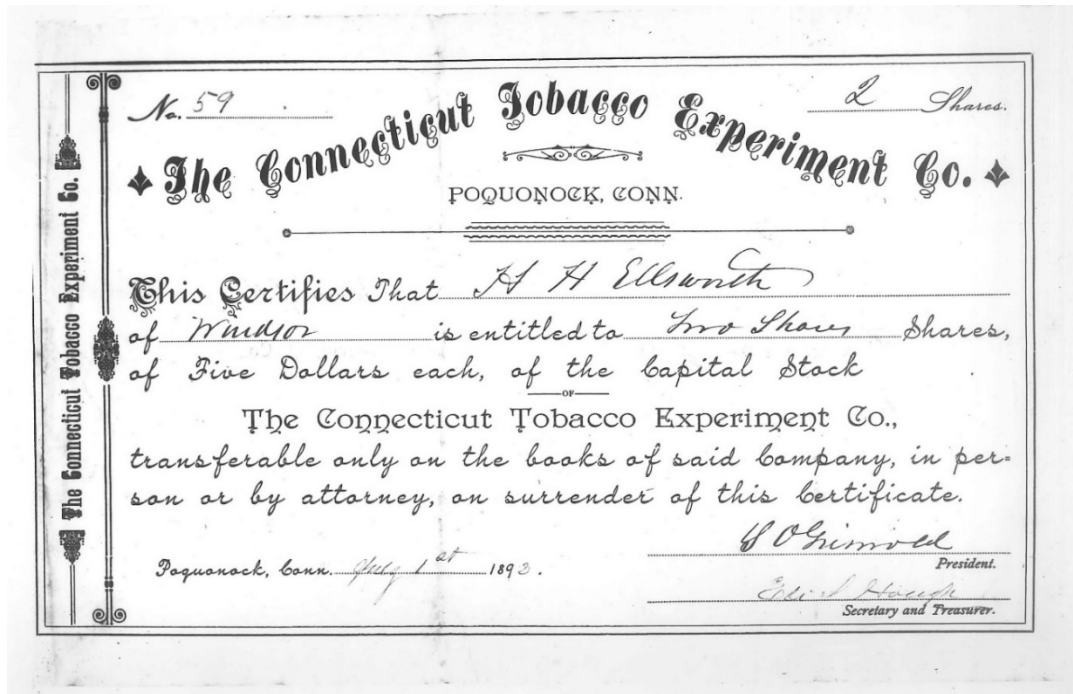
Early protectionist legislation in Connecticut enacted in 1640 suggested that tobacco was already a crop with economic importance even at that early date. Tobacco was documented as an export from Connecticut as early as 1700 and its importance grew over time in the eighteenth century as the specialization in cigars developed, distinguishing Connecticut tobacco from the Virginia tobacco type grown elsewhere. Both *N. rustica* and *N. tabacum* are natural allotetraploids that formed from the combination of two diploid species into a single plant containing two complete genomes. As such, tobacco has a wide range of variability that has resulted in the selection of many different types of plants with very different attributes. The early tobacco grown and selected over time by Connecticut farmers became a narrow-leaved type that was known as shoestring. Additional seeds from Maryland, Cuba and elsewhere were brought to Connecticut and shoestring was replaced over the 1800's with higher quality types resulting from unintended open pollinated crosses between existing Connecticut types and imported lines that eventually became different selections of 'Broadleaf' and 'Havana' tobacco land races.

Agriculture in Connecticut took a major leap forward with the establishment of The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, the first agricultural experiment station in the country, in 1875. Early work at the Experiment Station focused primarily on chemical analysis of fertilizers, benefitting all farmers. The first publications from the Station regarding tobacco were from 1891 and 1892 and reported fertilizer effects on tobacco as well as investigations on pole burn, a post-harvest loss during the curing process. Perhaps because of the distance between the Station campus in New Haven and the primary tobacco production area of the Connecticut river valley from Hartford north through Massachusetts, or perhaps because of the specialized culture and labor associated with tobacco, the Station joined with growers in a rather unique collaboration. In the winter of 1891-1892, growers held a "Farmer's Institute" with CAES representatives in Windsor under the auspices of the State Board of Agriculture. The conclusion of the meeting stated that tobacco production in the valley could be improved by

"proper fertilization and by improved methods of handling the crop after cutting and that to this end carefully made experiments on the fertilization of tobacco and the methods of curing and fermenting were urgently needed." (Report of the CAES Director, 1892).

To facilitate this experimental research, tobacco growers incorporated a joint stock company that they aptly named the Connecticut Tobacco Experiment Company "For the purpose of conducting and carrying on the business of an experiment in the culture and cure of tobacco, the same to be carried on in connection with and under the supervision of the Conn. Agricultural Experiment Station. The place where said business is to be carried on is Poquonock, in the town of Windsor."

From the proceeds of stock sales, the company purchased 1.5 acres of land and requested that the Station design a curing barn. The executive committee of growers and CAES representatives agreed on a General Plan of Experiment that was published in the Report of the Director for 1892, whereby Station scientists conducted research on Company property supported by grower resources including a grower farm manager who planted, cultivated, harvested, cured and sorted the crop in cooperation with the Station. A number of experiments were conducted on fertility and production techniques over subsequent years with great success. This was the location and collaboration, eventually including a federal scientist, Marcus Floyd, who had developed shade tobacco in Florida, that resulted in the first shade tent and the successful demonstration of shade-grown cigar wrapper tobacco in Connecticut.

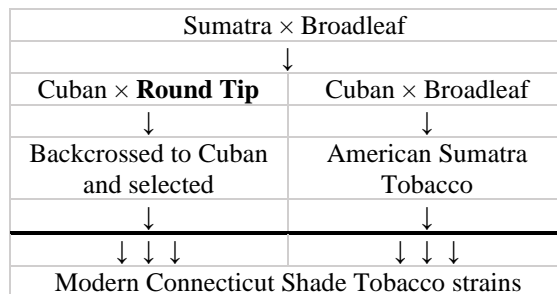


Stock certificate, The Connecticut Tobacco Experiment Company, 1898.

Thus, was born what might have been the first Tobacco Experiment Station in the United States with the collaboration of local industry and Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station resources dedicated exclusively to tobacco research. At least, if that collaboration had continued, that would have been the case. Instead, it seems that once shade tobacco was demonstrated as a solid success in Connecticut, the Tobacco Experiment Company ceased to exist. While some CAES scientists continued research projects with individual growers on cooperating farms, the official establishment of a Tobacco Station in Connecticut would have to wait another 29 years and then be demoted to the second tobacco research station to be established in the country. In 1912, the USDA and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture jointly established the Oxford Tobacco Research Station as the first experiment station to focus exclusively on tobacco in the United States, perhaps hoping to emulate the earlier success of the Connecticut collaboration between growers and state and federal scientists.

As noted, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station efforts on tobacco did not end with the dissolution of the Tobacco Experiment Company. Station scientists continued to conduct important research with the cooperation of the Windsor Tobacco Corporation or with individual interested growers. In 1914, CAES Bulletin #180 summarized Station research on tobacco from 1891 to 1914 and stated: “Wrapper tobacco leaf, the only type of

leaf raised in this state, is our largest cash crop.” That ongoing research consisted of work on plant and soil fertility, curing and fermentation as well as early descriptions of insect pests and diseases and their practical controls. CAES plant breeders E. M. East, who left to continue genetics research at Harvard, H. K. Hayes, who left to become East’s graduate student, and federal scientists E. G. Beinhart and A. D. Shamel conducted programs to improve quality and uniformity in Connecticut tobacco types. In 1914, Donald F. Jones joined the Station and continued this tobacco breeding work while famously experimenting with corn. His continuation of the tobacco breeding program resulted in the 1921 release of Connecticut Round Tip, a variety that was important not only on its own, but in the development of modern shade tobacco varieties.



In 1917, a new and major crisis occurred that threatened the entire cigar wrapper industry. Tobacco wildfire emerged as a new bacterial disease that had first appeared in tobacco in North Carolina. It was described by Wolf and Foster in 1918 and was observed to be the most destructive disease of tobacco occurring at that time. It spread as quickly as its name implied. It was first seen in Connecticut in 1919 and was found on at least 20 farms in the state in 1920, threatening the future of the crop. In a quick response to this economic threat to the most important crop in the state, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and leading tobacco growers in Connecticut and Massachusetts responded in a manner reminiscent to the successful 1892 collaboration. In May 1921, the Connecticut General Assembly appropriated \$10,000 over two years to The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station "For research and experiment on the causes and prevention of diseases and injuries to the Connecticut tobacco crop which occur in the field or in the preparation for market, and for improving the crop by selection and breeding, and by co-operative experiments with growers."

The leading growers and packers in the Valley organized and incorporated the Connecticut Valley Tobacco Improvement Association (CVTIA) as a subsidiary organization of the existing Connecticut Leaf Tobacco Association with the object of "Carrying on any kind of work calculated to improve the quality of, or protect from disease New England tobacco and to co-operate with any individuals or organizations interested in such tobacco work". Most importantly, the CVTIA would be a source of financial support for research efforts to solve this crisis. Of course, the Station was interested. Anticipating the state appropriation, three growers had purchased two adjacent parcels that totaled 13 acres of tobacco land on Cook Hill in Windsor in March of 1921. This land was transferred to the CAES Board of Control for \$1.00 plus the \$5,000 mortgage in June of 1921. The stage was set, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station now had an appropriate permanent research site and two years of state funding. The Connecticut Valley Tobacco Improvement Association hired Dr. George H. Chapman, research physiologist and botanist (plant pathologist) of the Massachusetts Agricultural Experiment Station, as Research Director. A collaborative agreement was made and reported in the Report of the Board of Control of the CAES in 1921 such that:

1) Plans for the different kinds of experimental work to be carried out at the Tobacco Station may be proposed both by the Director of the Station and the Research Director

of the said Association, and shall be adopted by mutual agreement and consent.

2) The Research Director of the Association shall have general direction of the work in the field and of the curing, fermenting and further handling of the leaf and of its sale and it is understood that all income from sales shall be devoted to the furtherance the experimental work.

3) The Plant Breeder of the Station shall have the management of work in breeding and selection.

4) Both the Research Director of the Association and the staff of the station shall be fully informed of the progress and results of the work done under the supervision of either.

5) There shall be opportunity for work by the Station botanist on diseases on land especially set apart by mutual agreement for that purpose.

6) If desired, a building or buildings for the purpose of experiments may be built on the land at the expense of either party. If it should be necessary for the Station at any time to dispose of the property, the Connecticut Valley Tobacco Improvement Association shall have opportunity to buy the property at its fair valuation as determined by competent judges selected by buyer and seller; but the purchase price shall be deducted the value of any buildings by the said Association at their value as determined at the time of sale and by the said method of valuation.

7) It is the present understanding of Station that funds appropriated by the state may be spent in any way for the furtherance of the work, either in salaries, labor; or supplies, and probably in building, though the opinion of the Attorney General on the last item is desirable.

8) It seems desirable, if not necessary, that all publications appear as co-operative between the Tobacco Improvement Association and the Station,

9) For the publication of bulletins on the progress of results of the work of the Station will provide, subject to limitations of space imposed by State authority.

10) The Station laboratories and apparatus will be used in the work to the extent consistent with the other demands on it.

11) Any further arrangements regarding the detail of the work shall be exclusively settled by the Research Director of the Connecticut Valley Tobacco Improvement Association, the Director of the Station, and Mr. J. W. Alsop, representing both

12) In order that the Director may receive publications of other Station and to Facilitate the use of the franking privilege, he is made a member of the Station staff as "In charge of the Tobacco Station."



Dr. Anderson in a Havana tobacco plot, 1924.

The act creating the Tobacco Station was approved by the Connecticut Legislature on May 5, 1921. By that time Mr. Frederick Morgan had purchased 2 lots, one 7.5 acres and the other 5.5 acres suitable for tobacco research at Cook Hill in Windsor. However, there were no seed beds, tools, fertilizers, or workers. In a flurry of activity, 3.5 acres worth of the newly released Round Tip variety developed by the Station were obtained by purchase and donation as well as six selections of experimental crosses made by Dr. Jones. A farm manager was hired, also by the CVTIA, and plants were set in the first week of June 1921. A week or two later, on June 16, the land was transferred to The CAES and the research begun in earnest.

The initial work of course focused on the control of wildfire. Wildfire was again problematic in the Valley in 1921 and the disease occurred on the Tobacco Experiment Station farm, allowing experiments to be conducted by Dr. Chapman and Dr. Clinton of The CAES. Dr. Chapman had worked at the Massachusetts Agricultural College (now University of Massachusetts) Botany Department since 1907 and had researched tobacco diseases, including wildfire, with a colleague, Dr. Paul Johnson Anderson, who had been hired in Massachusetts in 1915. Dr. Anderson had earned his Ph.D. in phytopathology in 1913 at Cornell University working with chestnut blight. He filled the

vacancy left by Chapman and also collaborated on the tobacco wildfire work.

Research on wildfire continued in 1922 as well as an expansion into shade and broadleaf tobacco breeding and investigations into plant and soil fertility. By the end of the year, it was reported that practical control of wildfire had been achieved. The first Tobacco Station bulletins published reflected that as well as the collaboration of Drs. Chapman, Clinton and Anderson. In addition to research, Dr. Chapman designed buildings for the Tobacco Experiment Station, a curing barn and a laboratory/office building with a sorting shop to evaluate cured leaf quality.



Broadleaf tobacco, west of Cook Hill Road, 1925.

Dr. Chapman resigned to take a commercial position but the shed, laboratory and office building that he designed were constructed by the CVTIA during 1923 under the direction of a collaborating Federal Tobacco Scientist, Charles Mervyn Slagg, MSc. Revised recommendations for wildfire control were published. C. M. Slagg resigned from his USDA position suddenly on March 1, 1924. He later went on to become Chief of the Tobacco Division, Ottawa, Canada, and subsequently Director of Tobacco Investigations for Australia. The CAES hired a plant physiologist, N. T. Nelson, to work on tobacco on April 15, 1924, but while the CVTIA built a greenhouse in that year, they did not hire a scientist as Director. That did not happen until the next spring, April 1, 1925. Presumably, Dr. Paul Johnson Anderson had agreed to leave Massachusetts and move to Connecticut to become Director of the Tobacco Station. Just because there was not a Director did not mean that research was not conducted. Anderson collaborated with Nelson and published Tobacco Station Bulletin #5 – fertilizer experiments with tobacco in 1924 and 1925. Unlike Chapman, Anderson was hired as a CAES employee. If this move was designed to add stability to what had become an unstable situation, it was a tremendous success. Dr. P. J. Anderson would serve as Director of the

Tobacco Experiment Station or Tobacco Substation until his retirement in 1953. He retired to Florida but returned to the Valley to be buried in Amherst, MA.

Tobacco variety improvement was expanded in 1926 as breeding work was conducted on broadleaf, Havana, and Cuban shade types in cooperation with Dr. Jones. Research projects on black root rot and brown root rot were added in response to grower concerns and it was noted “As usual, much time was spent in direct service to growers...”. Annual reports that followed consistently stated that increased amounts of time were spent in direct contact with growers. In 1927 it was noted that soil pH tests and seed germination tests were conducted for growers and that service efforts equaled the time of one person per year. Soil testing and seed germination testing are still conducted today.

While wildfire losses were declining, 1926 and 1927 marked an unusually severe outbreak of Calico – Tobacco Mosaic Virus (TMV) and the first mention of ‘white speck’ - cause unknown – that might have been the first report of weather fleck due to air pollution. Drs. Clinton and McCormick of The CAES published a bulletin on TMV. The disease was first observed in Connecticut in 1898 with serious epidemics occurring in 1906 and 1927. N. T.





Tobacco Station looking north along Cook Hill Road, August 1927.

Nelson left in 1927 and Tore Robert Swanback was hired as the agronomist.

Despite being a small Experiment Station conducting research on a single crop, over the 100-year history of the institution staff have had collaboration and impacts on science and scientific societies beyond our state, nationally and internationally. In 1926, P. J. Anderson was the first author of a publication "Check list of diseases of economic plants in the United States, USDA Bulletin 1366." This was the first publication of its kind regarding the occurrence and distribution of pathogens on economically important hosts and noted that this resource would be essential for diagnostic pathologists. This important resource evolved into the "Index of plant diseases," issued in six parts from 1950 to 1953 and the "Index of plant diseases in the United States, Agriculture Handbook No. 165," published in 1960. Dr. Anderson's affiliation was listed as both Pathologist in Charge, Connecticut Tobacco Experiment Station and temporarily Associate Pathologist, Plant-Disease Survey. Paul Anderson also served in a leadership role for the Northeast Division of the American Phytopathological Society. Other staff have also been leaders of state, regional and national organizations.

Tobacco Bulletins were discontinued in 1928 after Tobacco bulletin #10, incorporated instead into the CAES Bulletin series, evidence of the further integration of the Tobacco Experiment Station into The CAES. In a major development that likely recognized the success of The CAES in supervising research and perhaps reflected the difficulty of grower groups to financially support the Tobacco Station indefinitely, in 1929 the Connecticut Valley Tobacco Improvement Association was dissolved, ending the nearly decade-long formal collaboration with The CAES. That year also saw 80% of broadleaf and Havana crops as well as 16% of shade tobacco in the Valley lost to widespread hail that shredded the leaves.

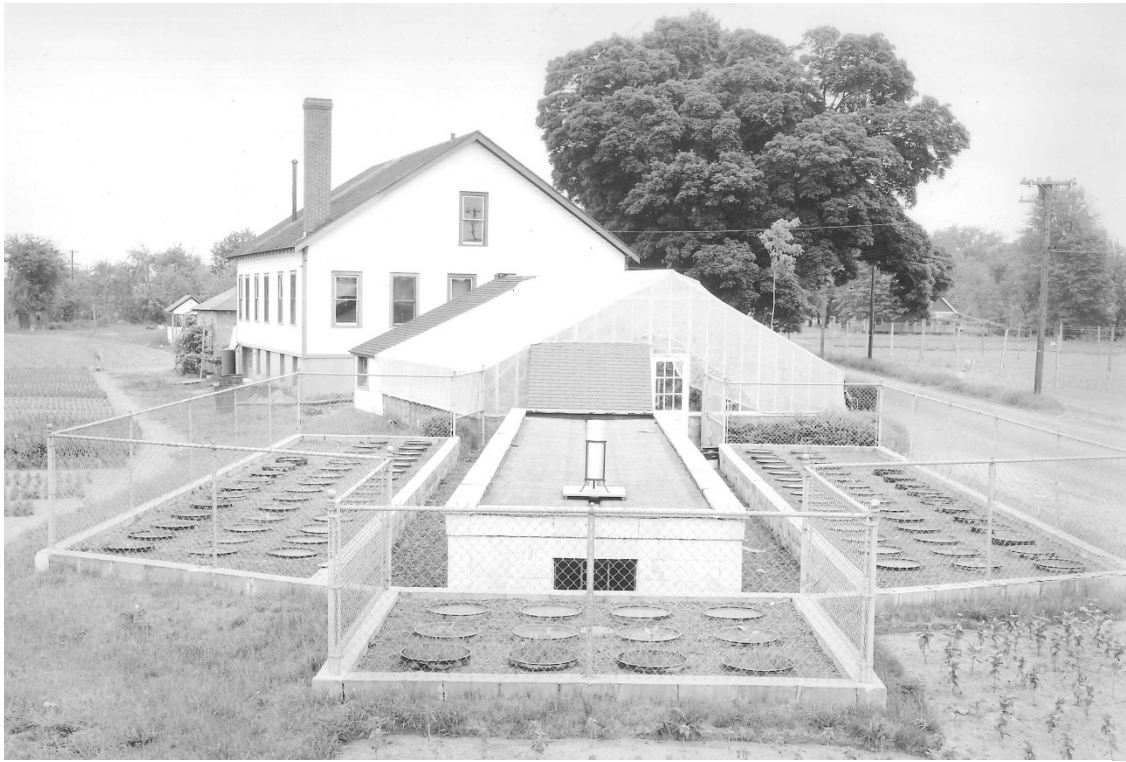
As The CAES took sole administrative responsibility for the Tobacco Station significant changes occurred. O. E. Street was hired as the plant chemist and more collaboration with other CAES departments, and the USDA was documented. Lysimeters were installed to investigate fertilizer leaching and a 2-bay wood frame garage was built adjacent to the laboratory. Starting in 1929 a tractor was used, and a tobacco crop was grown without horses for the first time on the research farm. This was intended not just for efficiency on the farm but as a demonstration for tobacco growers in the valley.



Upper T. R. Swanback, A. J. Duffy; lower P. J. Anderson, J. G. Wolf, N. T. Nelson, 1927.



The Tobacco Experiment Station, 1928



The lysimeter, 1937.



Cultivation with a tractor in 1929.



Potato harvest, 1930.

Other research projects in addition to tobacco were added. In 1930, 7 acres adjacent to the Tobacco Station (the Mellon tract) were added to establish a new vegetable field station and the Pomeroy tract directly across the street from the Station was leased to create a forest nursery. Dr. Th. Berthold, a tobacco expert from Brandenburg Germany (today he would probably be called a visiting scientist) was hired by the Plant Breeding Department to conduct breeding work with Cuban shade. Black root rot resistance was identified in Cuban shade and Havana lines.

In 1931 it was noted that 2,500 soil tests and 200 seed germination tests were performed, and bushels of seed cleaned. One ounce of seed is sufficient to plant over 20 acres. Some years earlier an electric powered seed cleaning machine had been designed and built by hand using sheet metal, copper tubing, a Mason jar, and a hurricane lamp glass chimney among other items to clean seed by removing deleterious light seed and debris. While we do not know who designed or built this machine, it is still in use today and continues to work very well. Agronomic research concluded that the growing period from mid to the end of July was critical to the growth and success of the crop.



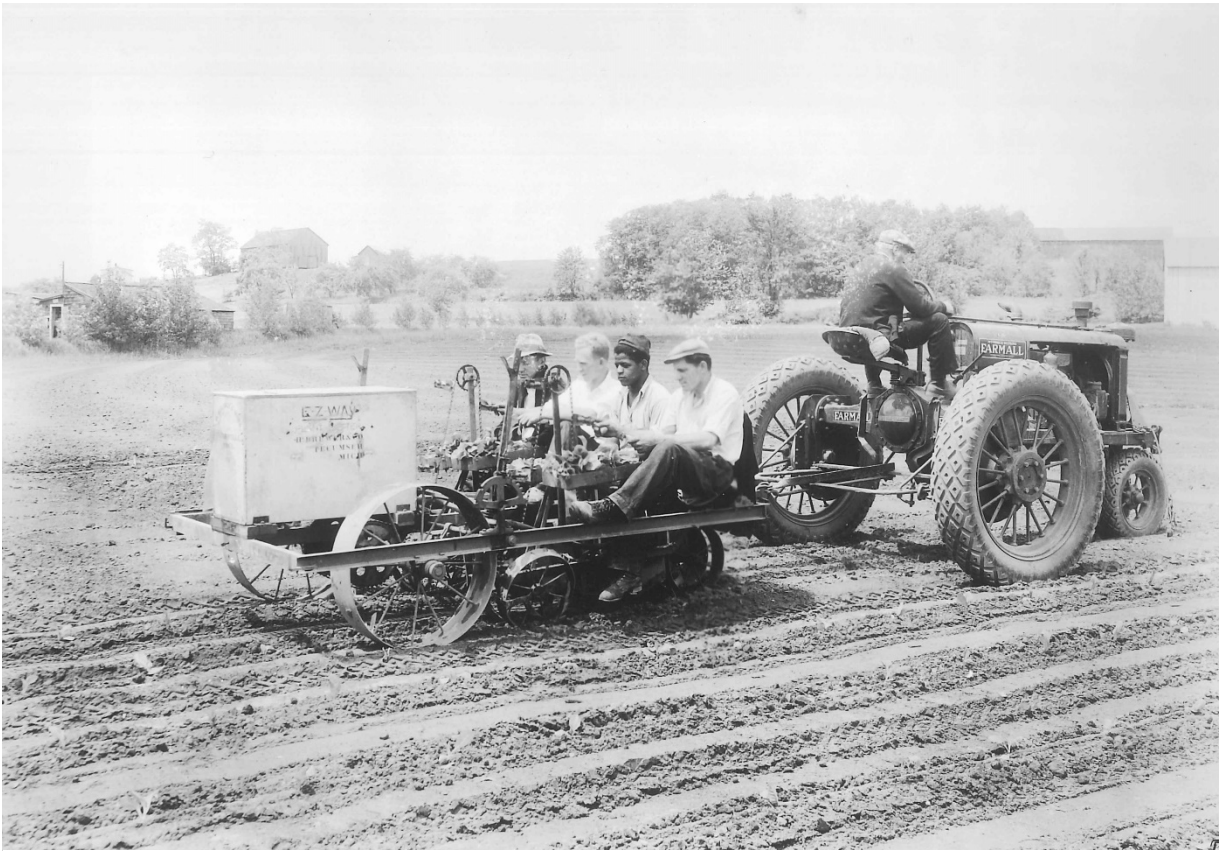
Vegetable plots, east side of Cook Hill Road, 1930.

Tobacco budworm, a perennial problem on tobacco in recent years, first appeared as a pest in the valley in 1932 and Pythium root rot was described as a major problem on seedlings in 1933. The Tobacco Substation conducted research on other crops and served growers beyond the traditional tobacco clientele although it should be recognized that many growers grew diversified crops then and still do now. Large scale potato experiments were conducted in 1933 and 1934 and it was noted that service to non-tobacco growers constituted one-third to one-half of the total service efforts.

In the mid-1930's wildfire had been nearly eliminated in the Valley, black root rot was controlled by adjusting soil acidity, plant resistance was identified in Havana type tobacco, a new shade line was being developed and irrigation improved crop consistency in very dry years. In 1935 it was reported that seed germination and viability was associated with seed age. 1936 the USDA assigned entomologist A. W. Morrill to Windsor to conduct research on wireworms. Experiments on other crops were going well and sweet potato crops were so successful that an electrically heated sweet potato storage house was added that later became the Farm Manager's workshop.



Tobacco genetics plot, 1931.



Setting tobacco on the Station farm, 1935.

The Station and Tobacco Station were also involved in other projects. The Report of the CAES Director for 1935 included a paragraph that commented on 'Supervision of relief projects' noting that the Station had been called on to supervise "Relief" projects for the control of mosquitos, gypsy moth, pine shoot moth, pine blister rust and elm disease. The projects referred to were part of the Civilian Conservation Corps, Works Progress Administration. A part of the New Deal, this was a Federal Emergency Relief Administration program that employed young men to work on environmental and civil projects. As many as 1,500 men were employed at certain seasons. One of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)'s camps (Company #1193) was based on CAES property at Camp Britton in Windsor from September 1935 to May 1937. Dr. Britton was the CAES State Entomologist in 1935 in charge of regulatory programs and the CCC programs would likely have fallen under his jurisdiction. The Director commented that this both added greatly to the work of the staff and hampered existing programs as well as depleted funds as the administrative costs (the sponsors contribution) was not reimbursed. The camp still exists and hosts programs by the Windsor Historical Society. As a side note, a few years ago I found a hand-made tool on the Windsor

farm that I did not recognize. Nobody else including tobacco growers, did either. After a little research I determined that it is a Ribes hook



Sewing shade tobacco by hand, 1937.



Mixing fertilizer in the shed, 1937.

that was used to pull out currents to prevent white pine blister rust. It was well described in a 1919 publication (Bulletin #2 Report on White pine blister rust control, American Plant Pest Committee, Boston MA).

The year 1937 marked the first blue mold epidemic observed in Connecticut, not surprisingly during an unusually wet year. This downy mildew disease would re-occur periodically over decades and periodically cause tremendous losses, especially in shade tobacco. The breeding program successfully developed a Havana type variety called Havana Seed 211, which was resistant to black root rot.

The year 1938 was the most disastrous tobacco year in generations of growers. Wet years are always difficult years to grow tobacco. Wildfire reminded everyone that pathogens may be controlled but they do not completely go away as the disease returned with excessive rains in June and July. Those rains resulted in very significant flooding of the Connecticut River and other state waterways followed by the Great New England Hurricane on September 21, 1938. Growers had worked hard to harvest what they could through a difficult wet season. The hurricane capped off the season by destroying many tobacco curing sheds and the partially cured tobacco hanging in them.

The worst year in a generation or two was followed by the best year for tobacco

growers in a decade, helping to keep growers 'afloat' after the floods. Dr. Street left the Station for a position with the USDA in Lancaster PA, and Dr. Stuart LeCompte was appointed. Experiments continued on fertilizer placement, wireworms, blue mold, and black root rot. Sweet potatoes were shown to be a consistently good vegetable crop in the Valley. A new laboratory and office building was designed and under construction to replace the old wood-frame structure built by the CVTIA. The new building was constructed by the State and by the Works Progress Administration. Construction continued through 1940 and staff moved in on February 1, 1941.

The year 1941 also brought war and a wartime economy with labor shortages. A three-car brick garage was constructed and finished in 1942. During 1941-1942 a stronger effort was made to breed improved tobacco varieties, especially for disease resistance. Breeding for TMV resistance in broadleaf and shade tobacco improvement was done in collaboration with a committee of growers with lines tested on commercial farms. The breeding program still uses volunteer growers to test small lots of promising germplasm and supply feedback on quality. In addition to ongoing projects, work was conducted to look for alternatives to rubber as a part of the war effort.



Hurricane-damaged tobacco, October 1944.

*Fusarium* wilt was described by Dr. Anderson as a new disease of tobacco in Connecticut in 1943. It was found causing tobacco wilt disease on land previously planted to sweet potatoes. It was not thought to be a significant pathogen at the time but by the late 1980's it caused a loss of 20% of the entire broadleaf crop in the state. In 1990 we demonstrated that the *Fusarium* pathogen race was the same one that infects sweet potato. Unfortunately, rotating tobacco with sweet potatoes had introduced a new pathogen that once again threatened tobacco production. The development of wilt-resistant varieties in 1991 and 1992, notably C9, again saved the future of tobacco in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

The Great Atlantic Hurricane of 1944 resulted in about 7 inches of rain in Hartford and caused about \$2 million in losses to tobacco and fruit crops.

A new cottage for the Foreman (Farm Manager) was built in 1945 using materials from the old laboratory building that had been torn down. Wildfire reappeared in seed beds after an absence of 7 years, wireworms were found to be controlled by use of a rye winter cover crop, a soil conservation technique still in use, and new shade tobacco lines CT-15 and G4 were developed and released by Dr. Anderson with increased yields and black root rot resistance.

In 1946 and 1947 plant parasitic nematodes were found to be responsible for crop

yield loss and root disease for the first time in Connecticut. Root lesions nematodes *Pratylenchus* sp. were associated with brown root rot of tobacco. Root knot nematodes causing serious stunting of shade tobacco in Windsor were identified as root-knot *Heterodera marioni* by Dr. Steiner of the USDA and could either have been *Meloidogyne hapla* or more likely could have been tobacco cyst nematodes, undescribed at the time. Dr. B. F. Lownsbery of The CAES eventually described *Heterodera tabacum* as a new species pathogenic to shade tobacco in 1954. Dr. B. G. Peters, Head of the Nematology Department of the Rothamsted Experimental Station in England, visited Connecticut for 3 months in 1953, working with CAES nematologist Lownsbery on control of the tobacco cyst nematode, which was rapidly becoming a major pest, especially in shade tobacco.

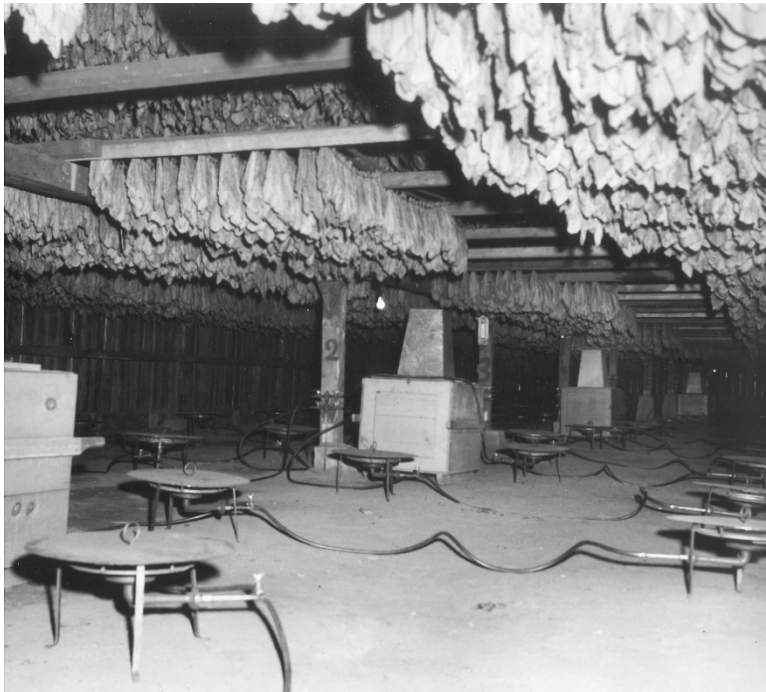
The late 1940's and early 1950s marked advances in disease control, the development of soil fumigation, primarily for nematode control, more efficient fertilizer use, and a better understanding of the curing process.

Boyd Pack resigned in 1947. He was rehired in 1949 and he received his PhD degree from the University of North Carolina on June 11, 1950. His thesis work in North Carolina was on curing flue cured tobacco. In Connecticut he adapted that research to investigate air curing cigar wrapper leaf.





The back of the Farm Managers house, 1950.



Curing shed heated by gas burners, August 1951.

CT-49 shade tobacco was released by Dr. Anderson and became the base of all current shade tobacco lines. Breeding for resistance to wildfire and TMV using *Nicotiana glutinosa* sources of resistance was initiated. T. R. Swanback retired in 1952 and went to work for a shade tobacco company. P. J. Anderson retired on March 31, 1953, and published Bulletin 564, "Growing Tobacco in Connecticut" in that year, capping his long and productive career with a summary publication still requested by growers around the world today. On the negative side, 1953 was also the start of widespread use of homogenized leaf wrappers that resulted in the decline of more expensive natural wrapper leaf sales.

Dr. Anderson was replaced as Department Head by plant pathologist Dr. Gordon S. Taylor who continued disease management research, breeding for resistance to pathogens and service to growers and the community. Dr. Taylor was a Connecticut native son born in Danbury who had served as a pilot in World War II and was decorated with the Distinguished Flying Cross with an oak leaf cluster. After the war he earned a B.S. in horticulture from the University of Connecticut in 1947 before working as a summer research assistant in the CAES Department of Plant Pathology. After earning his graduate degrees at Iowa State University, he returned to the New Haven CAES as Assistant Scientist in 1952, moving to Windsor the next year to direct the Tobacco Station. Dr. Taylor conducted research on a wide variety of tobacco diseases and continued the breeding program.

Through the late 1950s and into the 1960s Dr. Henry DeRoo, hired in 1953, conducted studies on fertility and tobacco plant growth, especially increasing our understanding of root growth. In 1957, Dr. David E. Hill joined the Department of Soils and Climatology on June 28, working on soil classification and surveys, based in Windsor, and Dr. John Ahrens was hired as a tobacco physiologist. John also conducted research on weed control in tobacco and was able to expand that to other crops, particularly nursery crops and turf and later Christmas trees. A tobacco field day held August 7, 1957, allowed tobacco growers an opportunity to see the research underway at the Tobacco Laboratory in Windsor, featuring 22 field exhibits of tobacco experiments.

The 1960s saw a new threat to the Connecticut wrapper crop, weather fleck, consisting of small white bleached spots that were often colonized by an *Alternaria* fungus that further ruined leaves. Dr. Taylor was instrumental in identifying environmental pollution, especially ozone, as the cause of fleck

and worked to prevent it by treating shade cloth with antioxidants. The eventual identification of ozone-tolerant plants and the incorporation of that multigenic tolerance into the breeding program again controlled the problem and saved the natural wrapper industry in the Valley.

Agriculture in the Connecticut River Valley was changing and becoming more diverse over time as tobacco acreage decreased. While other crops had been experimented with for years, the first publication from the Tobacco Laboratory that did not at least include tobacco was published by J. F. Ahrens in 1961, the same year that a nursery and turf field day was arranged by Drs. Taylor and Ahrens. This field day continued as an annual meeting at the Windsor Farm for decades. John Ahrens had initiated a research program on weed control in nursery and turf which was critical to the success of that expanding industry and received the Connecticut Nurserymen's Association Man of the Year Award in 1962. Robert E. B. Moore was hired in 1961. He researched insect management and was responsible for the Valley Lab Inquiry Office from the late 1980s until his retirement in 1992.

In February 1964 the Station Board of Control voted to change the name of the Tobacco Laboratory to the Valley Laboratory to reflect the changes in research and service being conducted there. Tobacco acreage was continuing to decline, and other types of agriculture were increasing in importance. However, the tobacco crop was still an economically important component of Connecticut agriculture. Research and the distribution of knowledge gained by that research was necessary to support growers. In the early years tobacco grower meetings tended to be field days. In March 1965 a Tobacco Research Meeting for growers and workers was held at the Valley Laboratory. The winter meeting format was held annually for the next 56 years in February or March until the 100th anniversary in 2021 when a field day meeting and celebration was held outside in September to showcase field plots and to allow meeting in person during the COVID pandemic.



Dr. Taylor and the new Valley Laboratory sign, 1965.

In 1969 John Ahrens was elected and served as President of the Northeast Weed Science Society. He continued to impact weed science and received the Distinguished Member Award from that Society in 1979. Also in 1969, Gordon S. Taylor received the distinguished service award presented annually by the Cigar Manufacturers Association of America and the Cigar Institute of America. He was the fourth member of the staff to receive the award: P. J. Anderson, T. R. Swanback, and H. B. Vickery were the previous recipients.

The Valley Laboratory celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on November 30, 1971, with a celebration of scientific impacts. A meeting with scientific presentations included discussions of past and present research, along with examples of current research. The day was followed by an evening banquet with 170 attendees, and guest speakers including prominent figures from the USDA.

In 1973, a disease new to Connecticut, black shank, was found for the first time. Black shank was and continues to be the most

significant disease in southern tobacco production. Dr. Taylor demonstrated that the pathogen had not been introduced from the south but instead was a new race not found elsewhere. He screened plants and identified a source of resistance in a line of shade tobacco. This disease continues to occur periodically when conditions are unusually warm and wet and breeding for resistance is ongoing in broadleaf tobacco. He also investigated and published on overwintering, control, and pathogenicity studies on the bacterial soft rot tobacco hollow stalk pathogen, *Erwinia carotovora* var. *carotovora*.

In the mid-1970s John Ahrens participated in a National IR-4 Committee Workshop to develop priorities and research objectives in securing herbicide registrations for ornamental crops. He continued this important IR-4 research to support minor crops for the rest of his career. He was also a member of a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Committee that drafted a national pesticide Operator's manual for ornamentals and turf. Dr. DeRoo conducted measurements of NO<sub>3</sub>-N

concentrations in and the elevation of groundwater in monitoring wells at Windsor to better understand the extent and conditions under which agricultural and non-agricultural uses of fertilizer contribute to the NO<sub>3</sub>-N pollution of the groundwater in the Connecticut Valley.

In 1979 the tobacco blue mold disease returned to the Valley with a vengeance after an absence of 15 years. The pathogen had changed during that time and was more tolerant of warm conditions, resulting in severe losses in the field throughout the season. Results of a survey initiated by Dr. Taylor suggested that the epidemic started in Cuba with spores blowing to Florida then up into the mid-Atlantic states and ultimately, Connecticut. A systemic fungicide, metalaxyl, was shown to completely control the disease but Drs. Taylor and Aylor added tremendously to knowledge on the epidemiology of the disease.

Throughout the 1980s Dr. Taylor continued the breeding program and research on tobacco diseases such as black shank, Fusarium wilt and cyst nematodes and conducted experiments to demonstrate weed hosts of insect-vectored virus diseases of tobacco. Thomas Rathier was hired at the Station in New Haven in 1976 and transferred to the Valley Lab in 1979 with the retirement of Dr. DeRoo that year to investigate soil fertility and management of nutrient losses to soil and ground water in nursery and tobacco crops. Bob Moore conducted research on insect management on tobacco and other crops from the late 1970s to the late-1980s when he focused on establishing the Valley Laboratory Inquiry Office. Tom Rathier took over the responsibilities for that office when Bob Moore retired. Tom was recognized for service to several grower groups including The Connecticut Tree Protective Association, the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association and served as President of the Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers Association.

Dr. Taylor retired on March 31, 1987, after 35 years of service to growers and citizens of the state of Connecticut. His exit left a huge vacuum that took two scientists to fill, Dr. Mark McClure, who moved from New Haven to become Chief Scientist and Dr. James LaMondia, who took over as the plant pathologist at the Valley Laboratory.

Dr. Mark McClure conducted research on forest insects including the red pine scale and the hemlock woolly adelgid. As a forest entomologist he worked closely with the Connecticut Tree Protective Association and served in many roles as a leader of that organization. As a result, he has been honored by the CTPA with a scholarship in his name. He

oversaw a renovation of the laboratories in the building and the addition of a conference room that was named the Gordon S. Taylor Conference Room and dedicated in 1993. Unfortunately, Dr. Taylor had died six months previously in 1992. Dr. Carole Cheah worked with McClure as a Postdoctoral Scientist from 1994 until 2003 when she was hired as an Assistant Scientist and took over the hemlock woolly adelgid research program after Mark McClure's retirement in that year. Carole works closely with arborists and foresters as well as land trusts, conservation groups and other associations to release and monitor *Sasajiscymnus tsugae* as a tool to mitigate hemlock woolly adelgid damage in hemlock forests.

Dr. LaMondia moved to Windsor in 1987 after one year in New Haven as a plant pathologist and nematologist to carry on the work conducted by Dr. Taylor. He also took over responsibility for the conventional tobacco breeding program to continue the goal of incorporating resistance to multiple plant pathogens into adapted varieties. In 1991, C8 and C9 were released as the first inbred broadleaf wrapper varieties resistant to both Fusarium wilt and TMV, effectively controlling a disease which caused up to \$5 million in losses per year. Over time C9 became the most widely grown standard broadleaf in the Valley as well as around the world. The incorporation of resistance to other pathogens was facilitated by the use of male sterile lines and hybrid varieties, allowing resistance genes from two parents to be combined in a stable, vigorous hybrid variety. Legislation passed in 2011 allowed the Station to license hybrid tobacco varieties to seed producers and collect royalties to help support research efforts. The variety B2, released in 2011, was resistant to Fusarium wilt, TMV, tobacco cyst nematodes, black root rot and partially resistant to blue mold. This variety reduced cyst nematode populations in soil and allowed production without soil fumigation in heavily infested fields. D1 and D2 are hybrid varieties with resistance to Fusarium wilt, TMV, and black root rot that are darker in color and ripen more slowly, allowing greater flexibility in the harvest season. Research is continuing to incorporate additional resistance to black shank, target spot, brown spot, and additional sources of tobacco cyst nematode genes into new hybrid varieties. In addition, all new hybrid lines developed in Connecticut are certified as Low Converter (LC) varieties. Tobacco specific nitrosamines are secondary compounds produced from nicotine, usually during the curing process. The most important secondary compound is nor nicotine, which produces poor smoke flavor

and is a concern as a carcinogen. The breeding lines, parents and Connecticut varieties designated as LC are selected for lower nicotine and low conversion of nicotine to normicotine using a procedure developed by the University of Kentucky and testing by the University of Kentucky Tobacco Research and Development Center.

Dr. LaMondia became the Chief Scientist at the Valley Lab in 2003 until his retirement on March 31, 2022. Tobacco research was a major part of his research program, which also included ornamental crops such as boxwood, small fruit, vegetables, and hops. Like his predecessors, LaMondia conducted practical research and diagnostics for growers. He served as The CAES's ex-officio plant pathologist on the CT Tree Protection Examining Board, taught the tree disease section of CTPA's Arboriculture 101, and served on the Connecticut Agricultural Information Council. Nationally, he served the Society of Nematologists as a Senior Editor and on the Executive Board, becoming President of the Society. He also served on the Executive Board of the Northeastern Division of the American Phytopathological Society, as President and Northeastern Division Forum Representative and American Phytopathological Society Forum Chair, as well as numerous committees within those Societies. Within Connecticut, he worked with grower groups, served on the CT Vegetable and Small Fruit Growers' Conference Steering Committee, and organized the Tobacco Research Meeting for 35 years. He was appointed Adjunct Senior Research Scientist in the Dept. of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture, College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources at the University of Connecticut and taught Nematology lectures and laboratories as a component of the UConn Plant Pathology course over two decades for three professors. He is continuing the tobacco breeding program and plant disease management research as an Emeritus Scientist.

Dr. John Ahrens retired in 1992 but remained active at the Valley Lab as a very productive Emeritus Scientist, conducting weed management research and publishing until his death in 2012 after 55 years of research and service. John also had two Christmas tree farms and was a leader in the Christmas tree industry. Valley Lab staff celebrated 50 years of his service in 2007 with a party in his honor. John was so well known in the state that he once received mail that had been addressed only to "Dr. Arens (spelled incorrectly) Winsor" (also spelled incorrectly, with no other address). Dr. Todd Mervosh was hired as the Weed Scientist in 1994 and worked with John. Todd also

conducted weed management research and retired from State service in 2014. Dr. Jatinder Aulakh was hired as the Weed Scientist in 2015 and established a research program that included ornamentals, invasive weeds and weed management in Christmas trees and other crops. Jatinder investigates biological, chemical, and cultural control methods based on weed biology and ecology for the management of non-native invasive plants and weeds in ornamental nurseries and Christmas tree plantations. Other areas of weed research include pastures and hayfields, organic production systems, cover crops and crop rotations, evaluating new products for ornamental plant safety and weed control efficacy.

Dr. Richard Cowles was hired as the Research Entomologist at the Valley Lab in 1994. He established a broad-based insect management research program on ornamentals, turf, Christmas trees and a wide range of other topics. His research found practical methods to manage two-spotted spider mites, white grubs, and root weevils in nursery crops, all major mite and insect pests of Christmas trees, annual bluegrass weevils on golf courses, hemlock wooly adelgid in urban and natural forests, and spotted winged drosophila in small fruit crops. Rich actively participated in the CT Entomological Society, CT Beekeepers' Association, the CT Christmas Tree Growers' Association, and the CT Urban Forest Council. His efforts on behalf of their members led to him being presented Awards of Merit by the Connecticut Tree Protective Association, the CT Pomological Society, and the CT Christmas Tree Growers' Association.

Tim Abbey worked at the Valley Lab as an IPM specialist for nursery and ornamentals from 1998 to 2006. He was succeeded by Dr. Hugh Smith, who worked with growers in the same capacity from 2008 until 2011 when he left for a position at the University of Florida.

Dr. DeWei Li joined the Valley Laboratory in 2004 as a research mycologist to investigate indoor molds, aerobiology and fungal taxonomy. He has authored or coauthored 40 new fungal taxa and six new fungal genera from Connecticut as well as around the world from natural habitats or indoors. Among these new fungi, some are plant pathogens causing newly emerging diseases. He has served as President of the Pan American Aerobiology Association, 2015-2017, associate editor of *Aerobiologia* 2015-present, and editor of "Biology of Microfungi" (book) published by Springer in 2016. DeWei became the Chief Scientist in April 2022.



John Ahrens on the occasion of his 50-year anniversary at the Station, 2007.

The research conducted by all these scientists was and is far too wide ranging to be adequately described in just a few paragraphs. It can best be understood by examining the publications resulting from the work. The publications can be accessed in Appendix 1. Most of the research conducted at the Valley Lab is the type of grower-oriented problem-solving approach envisioned by the collaborators who organized and set up this institution, whether the research involved tobacco or other crops or forests in Connecticut. The cumulative contributions to growers and agriculture in the Valley are extensive, as are the contributions to science. In the first 50 years the scientific staff published 191 articles, all related to tobacco. In the second half of the century of work, there were well over 1,000 publications, with only 120 related to tobacco. The research has tended to mirror the agriculture in the Valley and the concerns of growers. In addition, the interdisciplinary structure of the Valley Laboratory has led to myriad collaborations between scientists at the Valley Lab and with other departments at The CAES or other institutions across the country in grant proposals, research projects and publications.

One hundred years after founding the Tobacco Experiment Station, tobacco is still an important crop in the Valley, currently ranked second in economic value for Connecticut. New emerging diseases and changing weather conditions still threaten production. Notable problems with tobacco included the re-emergence of blue mold in 1996 through 2017, this time with complete pathogen resistance to the fungicide previously used to control the disease. A series of problems associated with the changing and warming climate have occurred over the last 10 to 12 years. In 2009, Potato Virus Y was moved from infected potato crops to tobacco by aphid vectors, resulting in over \$10,000,000 in losses in a single year and continuing to some degree each year since. The virus became prevalent in potato seed tubers as virus-vector aphids became more problematic in seed tuber production areas due to warmer temperatures. The likelihood of volunteer tubers surviving winters as a source of the virus also increased with warmer winters. New pathogens continue to be introduced. Target spot, a serious leaf spot disease prevalent in southern tobacco production areas occurred in Massachusetts and Connecticut in 2010 and 2011, respectively.

Warmer and wetter fall conditions have resulted in extended periods of high humidity that were favorable for storage molds ruining cured crops in the sheds and in post-harvest storage in 2013, 2018 and 2021.

Scientific support of the tobacco crop as well as other important components of Connecticut agriculture such as nursery and ornamentals, Christmas trees, small fruit, and vegetables is still necessary to help maintain the economic viability of agriculture in the Connecticut Valley and indirectly, farms and open space. The scientific research and service to growers and citizens provided at the Valley Laboratory has been and will continue to be the product of collaborative work conducted not just by scientists but by dedicated staff consisting of technicians, farm managers, secretaries, and maintenance staff. The staff is listed in Appendix 2. The Valley Laboratory's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Agenda is in Appendix 3.

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**APPENDIX 1:  
TOBACCO STATION/VALLEY LABORATORY PUBLICATIONS LIST**

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Chapman, G. H. and P. J. Anderson. 1923. Wildfire of Tobacco in 1922. CAES Tobacco Report 2.

Chapman, G. H. 1923. Experiments in the Curing and Fermentation of Connecticut Shade Tobacco. CAES Tobacco Report 3.

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Nelson, N. T. and P. J. Anderson. 1925. Fertilizer Experiments with Tobacco. CAES Tobacco Report 5.

Anderson, P. J. 1926. Report of the Tobacco Substation at Windsor, 1925. CAES Tobacco Report 6.

Anderson, P. J., R. J. Haskell, W. C. Muenscher, C. J. Weld, J. L. Wood and G. H. Martin. 1926. Check list of diseases of economic plants in the United States. USDA Bulletin 1366.

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Hicock, H. W. and P. J. Anderson. 1927. Prolonging the Life of Tobacco Shade Tent Poles. CAES Tobacco Report 9.

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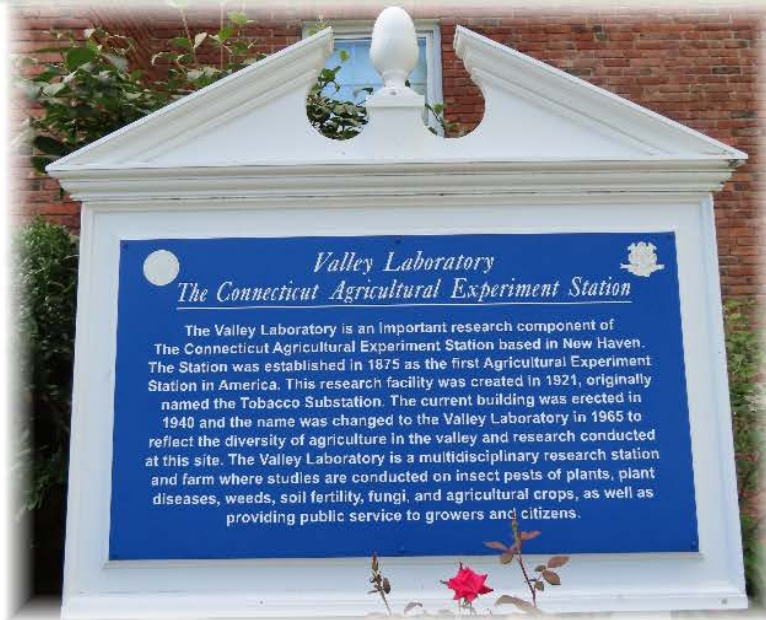
**APPENDIX 2:  
STAFF LISTING FOR THE TOBACCO STATION/VALLEY LABORATORY**

<b>Staff</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Hired</b>	<b>Resigned/Retired</b>
George H. Chapman	Chief Scientist (CVTIA)	1921	1923
Charles M. Slagg	Agronomy (USDA)	1923	1924
<b>CAES Staff</b>			
N. T. Nelson	Scientist, Plant Physiology	1924	1927
Paul J. Anderson,	Chief Scientist, Pathology	1925	1953
O. E. Street	Scientist, Chemistry	1929	1939
Tore R. Swanback,	Scientist, Agronomy	1927	1952
Dorothy Lenard Smith,	Secretary	1928	1957
C. Swanson,	Farm Superintendent	1933	1957
Stuart LeCompte Jr.	Scientist,	1939	1944
J. Yavener,	Farmer	1930	1953
A. Boyd Pack,	Agr. Res. Asst., Scientist	1947	1956
Louis A. Feil,	Handyman,	1948	1948
Hugh Derby,	Building Custodian	1948	1959
Morrill R. Goldsmith,	Agr. Res. Aid	1949	1977
Elmer L. Petersen,	Agr. Res. Aid	1950	1953
Gordon S. Taylor,	Chief Scientist, Pathology	1952	1987
Hendrik C. DeRoo,	Scientist, Physiologist	1953	1979
C. J. Tustin	Farmer, Agr. Res. Aid	1953	1977
Denise Van Hemert,	Agr. Res. Aid,	1954	1954
David E. Hill,	Scientist, Soils	1957	1965
John F. Ahrens,	Physiology, Weed Science	1957	1992
Robert W. P. Roos,	Agr. Res. Aid,	1957	1958
Dorothy L. Daley,	Agr. Res. Aid,	1958	1959
Maurice H. Wheeler,	Farmer,	1958	1964
Anna H. Wrobel,	Agr. Res. Aid, Secretary	1959	1970
Marcus H. Hills,	Janitor,	1960	1960
William Barnett,	Janitor,	1960	1969
Robert E. Moore	Entomologist	1961	1992
Larry B. Mallard,	Farmhand,	1964	1966
Edward A. Syphers,	Farmhand,	1968	1969
William Flaherty,	Maintenance	1969	1982
Lila M. DeRobertis,	Agr. Res. Aid, Secretary	1971	1987
Bruce J. Olsen,	Farmhand,	1972	1972
Richard Horvath	Farm Manager	1973	2006
Mark S. McClure	Chief Scientist, Entomology	1975	2003
Thomas M. Rathier	Scientist, Soils	1976	2009
John Winiarski	Technician	1977	2009

Xavier Asbridge	Plant Inspector	1981	2001
Michael Scarchuk	Technician	1981	1988
Victor Ortiz	Maintainer	1982	1986
Neville Taitt	Maintainer	1986	1998
James A. LaMondia	Chief Scientist, Pathology	1986	2022
Stanley Rutkowski	Technician	1987	1989
Paula Mattson	Secretary	1988	1994
Jane Canepa-Morrison	Technician	1989	2021
Beth Beebe	Technician	1993	2000
Richard S. Cowles	Scientist, Entomology	1994	present
Carole A. Cheah	Scientist, Entomology	1994	present
Todd Mervosh	Scientist, Weed Science	1994	2014
Mary Klepacki Frost	Technician	1995	2004
Douglas Gaskill	Technician	1996	1998
Robert Ballinger	Technician	1997	1998
Timothy Abbey	IPM specialist	1998	2006
Rose Hiskes	Technician	1998	present
David Laiuppa	Technician	1999	2001
Steven Lamoureux	Technician	1999	2002
Jeffrey Fengler	Plant Inspector	2002	present
DeWei Li	Scientist, Mycology	2004	present
James Preste	Farm Manager	2005	present
Michelle Salvias	Technician	2007	present
Diane Riddle	Technician	2009	present
Hugh A. Smith	Scientist, Entomology	2008	2011
Nathaniel Child	Technician	2012	2017
Jatinder S. Aulakh	Scientist, Weed Science	2015	present
Isaac Bildad	Maintainer	2015	2021
Katja Maurer	Postdoctoral Scientist	2015	2017
Elisha Allan-Perkins	Postdoctoral Scientist	2018	2019
Srikanth Kodati	Postdoctoral Scientist	2020	2022
Ethan Paine	Technician	2021	present

APPENDIX 3  
 VALLEY LABORATORY 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

# Valley Laboratory 100th Anniversary Celebration 1921 - 2021







The Tobacco Experiment Station



August 5 1925



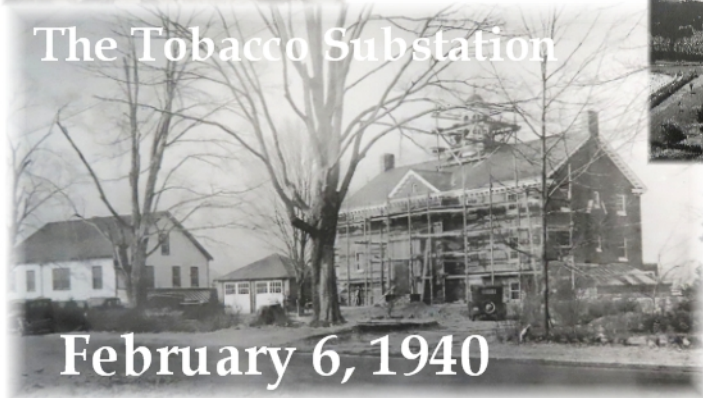
1925



August 1927



1929



The Tobacco Substation

February 6, 1940



1936



July 13, 1951



August 20, 1940



1965  
Valley Laboratory



August 21, 1950

VALLEY LABORATORY, 153 COOK HILL ROAD

P.O. BOX 248, WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT 06095-0248

*Putting Science to Work for Society Founded 1875*

*Protecting Agriculture, Public Health, and the Environment*



## Valley Lab 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

**Friday, September 10, 2021**

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Valley Laboratory on Cook Hill Road in Windsor was founded as the Tobacco Experiment Station in 1921 and will be celebrating its 100-year anniversary this year. We will hold a celebration on September 10 that will include the following grower meetings consisting of plot tours and talks in a tent, food, dignitaries, and friends. In between we will have food provided, information on the history of the Tobacco Station/Valley Laboratory, and symbolically break ground on our upcoming renovation. We will have pesticide credits available for growers. Come and participate in what should be a fun and productive day and a once-in-a-century event!

### **Tobacco Growers Meeting (Tent)**

9:00 a.m. Welcome and Introductions	Dr. James LaMondia
9:15 a.m. Worker Protection Standard Overview	Christina Berger, DEEP
9:45 a.m. Tobacco Insurance Program Changes	Colleen Kisselburgh
10:00 a.m. No-Till/Reduced-Till Tobacco	Dr. James LaMondia
10:15 a.m. Weather, water, early flowering and disease, the story of 2021	Dr. James LaMondia
10:30 a.m. Breeding for Disease Resistance in Connecticut Broadleaf	Dr. James LaMondia
11:00 a.m. Farm Services Administration Update	Martha Dorsey, FSA
11:15 a.m. CT and MA Pesticide Re-certification Credits: 2 CEU credits for PA Conn-Mass Tobacco Growers Association	
11:30 a.m. Field plot Tour	Dr. James LaMondia and James Preste

### **Christmas Tree Field Day (Field Plots)**

9:00 a.m. New herbicides for weed control in Christmas trees	Dr. Jatinder Aulakh
9:30 a.m. Advances in understanding Phytophthora root rot	Dr. Richard Cowles
10:15 a.m. Mulching for weed control and mushroom production	Dr. DeWei Li
10:30 a.m. Insecticide selectivity for control of armored scales	Dr. Richard Cowles
11:00 a.m. Pesticide Re-certification Credits: 2 CEU for PA's, 3D (Arborists)	

**Mid-day: Food and music provided by Lancaster Leaf, ITG**

12:00 p.m.-12:30 p.m. Presentations; 12:30 p.m. -1:30 p.m. Lunch, p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Director Dr. Jason White

Short History of the Tobacco Station/Valley Laboratory

Dr. James LaMondia

The CAES Board of Control

Joan Nichols, BOC, Farm Bureau

Lancaster Leaf and Imperial Tobacco

Ben Refuge, ITG

Dignitaries and guests

12:30 p.m. Announcement about the addition/renovation of the laboratory

Dr. Jason White

**Nursery and Landscape Pest Management (Tent)**

1:30 p.m. Effect of temperature and rainfall on Boxwood blight

Dr. Srikanth Kodati

2:00 p.m. Boxwood blight management

Dr. James LaMondia

2:30 p.m. Box tree moth management

Dr. Richard Cowles

3:00 p.m. Nursery weed management

Dr. Jatinder Aulakh

3:30 p.m. Pesticide Re-certification Credits: 2 CEU for PA's, 3A (Ornamental &amp; Turf)

**Forest Management Tour (Field Tour)**

1:30 p.m. Biological control of hemlock woolly adelgid

Dr. Carole Cheah

2:00 p.m. Forest Management, the good, the bad, and the ugly

Dr. Jeffrey Ward

3:00 p.m. Beech leaf disease

Dr. James LaMondia

3:30 p.m. Pesticide Re-certification Credits: 2 CEU for 2 (Forest Pest) and 3D (Arborists)

**Hops (Hopyard Tour)**

3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Valley Lab Hopyard tour: IPM Drs. James LaMondia &amp; Srikanth Kodati

4:30 p.m. Pesticide Re-certification Credits: 1 CEU for PA's

4:30 p.m. Back East Brewer



Valley Laboratory 1921 - 2021

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Equal employment opportunity means employment of people without consideration of age, ancestry, color, criminal record (in state employment and licensing), gender identity or expression, genetic information, intellectual disability, learning disability, marital status, mental disability (past or present), national origin, physical disability (including blindness), race, religious creed, retaliation for previously opposed discrimination or coercion, sex (pregnancy or sexual harassment), sexual orientation, veteran status, and workplace hazards to reproductive systems unless the provisions of sec. 46a-80(b) or 46a-81(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes are controlling or there are bona fide occupational qualifications excluding persons in one of the above protected classes. To file a complaint of discrimination, contact Dr. Jason White, Director, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, 123 Huntington Street, New Haven, CT 06511, (203) 974-8440 (voice), or [Jason.White@ct.gov](mailto:Jason.White@ct.gov) (e-mail). CAES is an affirmative action/equal opportunity provider and employer. Persons with disabilities who require alternate means of communication of program information should contact the Chief of Services, Michael Last at (203) 974-8442 (voice), (203) 974-8502 (FAX), or [Michael.Last@ct.gov](mailto:Michael.Last@ct.gov) (e-mail).

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