

# 2021 Yankee Conference Agenda

“The Herculean Effort of Environmental Health”

## Wednesday, September 22, 2021

10:00 - 12:30 Registration Desk Open

### Plenary Session

12:30 - 1:00 Welcome:

Kevin Elak, CEHA President

Scott Cook & Dianne Harding, Yankee Conference Committee Chairs

Lori Mathieu, Public Health Branch Chief, CT. Dept. of Public Health

1:00 - 2:00 “Preventing the Pandemic: 3 Lessons Learned”

Dr. Setu Vora, Mashantucket Chief Medical Officer

2:00 - 3:00 “Charting Tomorrow’s Course”

Catherine Feeney, Chief of the Center for Food Protection, Rhode Island Dept. of Health

3:00 - 3:30 Afternoon Break / Exhibit Hall Soft Opening

3:30 - 4:30 “Environmental Health Innovations in the Prison Community”

Robert W. Powitz, PhD, MPH, RS, DLAAS, Forensic Scientist

4:30 - 5:30 Recent Legal Actions, CT. Attorney General William Tong

5:30 - 7:30 Exhibit Hall Grand Opening Reception

## **Thursday, September 23, 2021**

7:30 – 8:30 Registration Desk Open / Continental Breakfast

### **Food Track**

- 8:30 - 9:30 "Making a Difference in Reducing Foodborne Illnesses"  
Ernest Julian, Ph.D., Co-chair, Healthy People 2030 Foodborne Illness Reduction Committee
- 9:30 - 10:30 "Retail Flexible Funding Model"  
Steve Natrass, MPH, REHS, Retail Food Specialist, FDA
- 10:30 - 11:00 Morning Break/Exhibitor Browsing/Raffle
- 11:00 - 12:00 David Dyjack, NEHA Executive Director "The Promise of the Pink Moon"
- 12:00 - 1:00 Awards Luncheon
- 1:00 - 2:00 "Pest Inspections: I Found Them, Now What"  
Wendy Martel, Black Widow Pest Management, Education-Compliance Services
- 2:00 - 3:00 "Food Allergens & FDA Code: Update from the 2019 Conference for Food Protection"  
Michael Pascucilla, Director of Health, East Shore District Health Department
- 3:00 - 7:00 Mashantucket Pequot Museum Tour and Reception at the Museum

### **Water/ Sewage/Environmental Track**

- 8:30 – 9:30 "Geometry of Septic Systems"  
David Potts, Geomatrix Systems Inc.
- 9:30 – 10:30 "Ground Water & Public Health"  
Joseph Ayotte, Chief of Environmental Hydrology Section, New England Water Science Center
- 10:30 – 11:00 Morning Break/Exhibitor Browsing/Raffle
- 11:00 – 12:00 David Dyjack, NEHA executive Director "The Promise of the Pink Moon"
- 12:00 – 1:00 Awards Luncheon
- 1:00 – 2:00 "Seaweed Aquaculture: Overview of an Emerging Industry & Food Safety Implications"  
Anoushka Concepcion, CT Sea Grant/UCONN, Associate Extension Educator in Marine Biology
- 2:00 – 3:00 "COVID-19 Epidemiology Through Wastewater"  
Dr. Jordan Peccia, Professor, Yale University School of Forestry & Environmental Studies
- 3:00 – 7:00 Mashantucket Pequot Museum Tour and Reception at the Museum

### **General Topics Track**

- 8:30 – 9:30 "Bracing for the Worst: Invasion & Range Expansion of Tick Vectors of Human Diseases"  
Dr. Goudarz Molaei, Scientist & Assoc. Clinical Professor, Ct. Ag. Exp. Station/Yale School of Public Health
- 9:30 – 10:30 Steam Cleaning Sanitation  
Robert Shumay, Vice President, Carico International Inc.
- 10:30 – 11:00 Morning Break/Exhibitor Browsing/Raffle
- 11:00 – 12:00 David Dyjack, NEHA executive Director "The Promise of the Pink Moon"
- 12:00 – 1:00 Awards Luncheon
- 1:00 – 2:00 "Climate Change & Environmental Health"  
Mitch Wagener, Professor, Western Ct. State. University
- 2:00 – 3:00 "What Every Sanitarian Should Know About Fire Safety"  
Reed Gustafson,
- 3:00 – 7:00 Mashantucket Pequot Museum Tour and Reception at the Museum

## Friday, September 24, 2021

7:30 - 8:30 Registration Desk Open/ Continental Breakfast

### Food Track

8:30 - 9:30 "Conducting Shellfish-Related Traceback Investigations"  
Kristin DeRosia-Banik, Supervising Environmental Analyst, CT Dept. of Agriculture, Aquaculture

9:30 - 10:30 "Mail Order Food Safety"  
Christine Applewhite, Epidemiologist, CT. DPH Food Protection Program

10:30 - 11:00 Break/Exhibitor Browsing/Raffle

11:00 - 12:00 "Safety of Dairy Products: Where the Risks Lie"  
Dennis D'Amico, Associate Professor, UCONN, Dept. of Animal Science

12:00 - 1:00 "Jasper Hill Farm: Making Cheese on a Mission"  
Leigh Harding, Senior Account Manager

Conference adjourned

### Water/Sewage/Environmental Track

8:30 - 9:30 "Concrete Product Standards"  
Jim Pryor, President, Atlas Concrete Products

9:30 - 10:30 Desalination  
Jeff McCutcheon, Professor, UCONN, Dept of Chemical & Molecular Bioengineering


10:30 - 11:00 Break/Exhibitor Browsing/Raffle

11:00 - 12:00 "What's Hiding in Your Water & What to Do About It"  
Paul Hurlbut, President, Professional Water Systems Inc.

12:00 - 1:00 "Geothermal Heat Pump Basics"  
John Sima, Hydro Dynamic Engineering LLC

Conference adjourned

### General Topics Track

8:30 - 9:30 "Public Health Aspects of Hydrofracking, Wood Smoke and other Emissions"   
David Brown,

9:30 - 10:30 "Modified Biochars for Use in Environmental Remediation"  
Joseph Pignatello, Chief Scientist, Ct. Agricultural Experiment Station

10:30 - 11:00 Morning Break/Exhibitor Browsing/Raffle

11:00 - 12:00 Communications & Marketing for Environmental Health  
Larry Ramdin, NEHA Region 9 vice president

12:00 - 1:00 Emergency Preparedness  
Brittan Bates, Medical Countermeasures Program Director, RI Dept. of Health

Conference adjourned

**All speakers & subjects have been scheduled to appear; however, are subject to change. We thank all our speakers for agreeing to participate at this event. They will make this year's Yankee Conference an extraordinary educational opportunity. Please visit [www.cteha.org](http://www.cteha.org) for any updates.**