**INFORMATION ABOUT SUBMITTING TICKS and OBTAINING RESULTS**

1. All ticks submitted for testing to the CT Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) must be accompanied by a “tick submission form” with the information for the health department.
2. CAES suggests the following regarding submission of ticks for testing:
	* Indicate if there is more than one tick in a container.
* The best way to hand-deliver a tick is in a small plastic zipper-locking bag or a clear plastic vial with a tight-fitting lid.
* Dry ticks are easier to process than ticks preserved in alcohol.
* For CAES safety and ease in handling, please avoid the following items for submitting ticks: plastic film canisters, especially those that are black; glass containers; ticks mounted on glass slides; ticks preserved in formalin; or ticks under cellophane tape.
* If a specimen is mailed, packaging should be crush-proof.
1. Please note the following information (from the CAES, 12/2005):

Effective January 1, 2006, the CAES will accept all ticks for identification, but will test only those *Ixodes scapularis* ticks that have ingested human blood. All ticks will be examined for degree of engorgement. Laboratory personnel will test engorged black-legged (“deer”) ticks (*Ixodes scapularis*) and upon special request, certain types of other species of ticks for the presence of spirochetes that cause Lyme disease. CAES will not test the American dog tick, larval ticks of all species or unengorged ticks.

This means that all ticks will be identified as to type, but only those that have had a blood meal (are engorged) will be tested for the presence of the spirochete (germ) that can cause Lyme Disease.

1. Tests results can take up to one month, depending on the volume of ticks being submitted for testing. Priority is given to those *Ixodes scapularis* ticks that are engorged. Test results are only sent to the health department. You must provide contact information to Quinnipiack Valley Health District in order to receive the results of the test. QVHD does not get a copy of the form that you submit. QVHD only receives a last name and tick identification number. If contact information is provided, staff will attempt to notify you by email or mail. Please do not call the CAES for test results. Phone inquiries cause delays in the analyses of submitted specimens.
2. Because testing result reporting can take time, it is recommended that you contact your physician, should you develop any symptoms of Lyme Disease (or other tick-related illness.) Symptoms can include, but are not limited to: general malaise, flu-like symptoms, low grade fever, headaches, stiff neck, joint or muscle pain or stiffness, development of a rash (not necessarily at the bite site) or any other symptom for which no other cause can be noted. Generally, cold and allergy symptoms (runny nose, itchy eyes, or cough) are NOT symptoms associated with a tick-related illness.
3. Finding a tick on your body is not a cause for panic. Not all ticks carry the spirochete (germ) that causes Lyme disease. Furthermore, a tick must be attached long enough to take a blood meal (become engorged) and exchange the spirochete. This can take 48-72 hours. For information on Lyme Disease go to [www.ct.gov/caes](http://www.ct.gov/caes) and click “Tick Management Handbook.” Those without internet access can call QVHD (203 248-4528) for a packet of information.