



## NATIONAL COALITION FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Media Advisory

### Rebuilding the Food Pyramid for Nemo

*An Integrated Approach to Sustainability in Aquaculture through Alternative Diets*

Washington, DC – Mar. 10, 2006 – The global aquaculture industry has been growing at about 10 percent a year since 1990, and is probably the world's fastest growing form of food production. Renewable and sustainable feeds are the key to growing a healthy and nutritious aquaculture product yet minimizing or eliminating outputs that may harm the environment. While fish oil and meal, the mainstay for aquaculture feed, is arguably sustainable, there is a broad consensus that supply will not meet expected global demand.

Research on probiotics, gut microflora, offers the potential to improve the nutritional value and digestibility of feeds based on U.S. agricultural products (e.g. soy, barley, or wheat). Dr. Wendy Sealey, a nutrition research scientist at the University of Idaho, Hagerman Fish Culture Experiment Station, will present the results of her ongoing research at a March 13 hill seminar sponsored by National C-FAR, in Washington, D.C. The luncheon seminar is scheduled for 12:30-1:30 on Monday, March 13 in Room SC-4 in the U.S. Capitol.

Domestic aquaculture can be an effective option to reduce dependence on seafood imports (the second biggest contributor to the U.S. trade deficit), provide jobs for economically depressed coastal communities, and increase global availability of a nutritious and safe source of protein. International experts are researching various approaches to optimizing the use of renewable agricultural crops to 'feed' this global demand for alternative aquaculture feed.

"You are what you eat and the same goes for fish," said Sealey. "The diversity of aquatic species in commercial production in the US and throughout the world necessitates an integrated science-based approach to design environmentally friendly and nutritious diets that also ensure product quality for the consumer."

This hill seminar is the first in our 2006 series of briefings sponsored by National C-FAR. "We are honored to have Dr. Sealey featured in National C-FAR's 'LUNCH~N~LEARN' Hill Seminar Series," said Joe Layton, President of National C-FAR.

Media questions related to Dr. Sealey's presentation should be directed to Dr. Ronald W. Hardy, Director Hagerman Fish Culture Experiment Station, (208) 837-9096.

\*\*\*\*\*

**NATIONAL C-FAR IS** a nonprofit, nonpartisan, consensus-based and *customer-led* coalition that brings food, agriculture, nutrition, conservation and natural resource stakeholders together with the food and agriculture research and extension community, serving as a forum and a unified voice in support of sustaining and increasing public investment at the national level in food and agricultural research, extension and education. The "LUNCH~N~LEARN" Seminar Series regularly presents leading-edge researchers to address pressing issues confronting the public and Congress. Interviews with National C-FAR President Joe Layton are available by request. For additional information, go to [www.ncfar.org](http://www.ncfar.org); or contact Tom Van Arsdall, Executive Director, at [tom@vanarsdall.com](mailto:tom@vanarsdall.com).