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**THE NATIONAL COALITION FOR
FOOD & AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH**

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THE NATIONAL COALITION FOR
FOOD & AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Program:

ANIMAL RIGHTS AND WRONGS

*Ethical Implications of Animal Biotechnology:
Considerations for Animal Welfare Decision Making*

Animal Agriculture's Future through Biotechnology, Part 9

June 7, 2010

PROGRAM

Welcome and Introduction

DR. LOWELL RANDEL
NATIONAL C-FAR REPRESENTATIVE

Distinguished Speaker

DR. PAUL THOMPSON
Professor
Department of Philosophy and Department of Community,
Agriculture, Recreation, and Resource Studies
Michigan State University
East Lansing

Open Forum

Closing

DR. LOWELL RANDEL

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. For additional information, go to www.ncfar.org; or contact Tom Van Arsdall, Executive Director at tom@vanarsdall.com.

ABSTRACT

CAST Issue Paper 46, *Ethical Implications of Animal Biotechnology: Considerations for Animal Welfare Decision Making. Animal Agriculture's Future through Biotechnology, Part 9.* Animal biotechnology—which includes both genetic engineering and mammalian cloning—has expanded rapidly in recent decades. These technologies already have been applied in biomedical research and now are nearing application within the food system. Public opinion studies regarding animal biotechnology reveal that people are concerned about the purpose of the applications, the methods of research, and the objects of manipulation. This new paper from CAST reviews animal biotechnology techniques, discusses related key ethical issues, evaluates religious views and traditions regarding animal biotechnology, summarizes public opinion research on the topic, and evaluates the challenges and opportunities for the ethical development of agricultural animal biotechnology. The authors of the paper state that “When science, ethics, religion, and social science are viewed concurrently in light of previous attempts to regulate animal biotechnology, it becomes apparent that society is struggling to develop public policies that appropriately reflect the diverse set of considerations that bear on applications of animal biotechnology in agriculture and the food system.”

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

Paul Thompson, Ph.D., is Professor of Philosophy, Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics and Community, Agriculture, Recreation and Resource Studies at Michigan State University, East Lansing. He formerly held positions in philosophy and in the Colleges of Agriculture at Purdue University and Texas A&M University. Dr. Thompson's research has centered on ethical and philosophical questions associated with agriculture and food, especially concerning the guidance and development of agricultural biotechnology. He has served on numerous international advisory boards, including the Science and Industry Advisory Committee to Genome Canada and the Netherlands Research Council. Dr. Thompson has authored or edited ten books and more than 150 journal articles and book chapters. His book *The Agrarian Vision: Sustainability and Environmental Ethics* is scheduled for release by the University Press of Kentucky on June 12, 2010. His current research focuses on the development of animal welfare standards in the United States.