



NATIONAL COALITION FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Media Advisory

“ANIMAL RIGHTS AND WRONGS”

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

Washington, D.C. — The seventh National C-FAR “Lunch~N~Learn” Hill Seminar of 2010 will be **Monday, June 7**, from 12:00–12:55 p.m. in 1302 Longworth House Office Building. The featured speaker is Dr. Paul Thompson, Department of Philosophy and Department of Community, Agriculture, Recreation, and Resource Studies, Michigan State University, East Lansing, who will discuss animal biotechnology techniques and related ethical, religious, and public perception issues.

“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,” according to Thompson and his coauthors in the new CAST Issue Paper, which is Part 9 in the series *Animal Agriculture’s Future through Biotechnology*.

“We are pleased to help facilitate the necessary discussions about how multidisciplinary research and education can help attain long-term solutions for pressing agricultural issues,” said Chuck Conner, President of the National Coalition for Food & Agricultural Research (National C-FAR). “This presentation is an excellent example of how federally funded food and agriculture research and extension can produce the scientific outcomes and outreach needed to meet 21st century challenges and opportunities.”

Speaker: Dr. Paul Thompson, Ph.D., W. K. Kellogg Chair in Agricultural, Food and Community Ethics, Department of Philosophy, Michigan State University, East Lansing. Dr. Thompson chaired the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) Task Force for CAST Issue Paper 46, *Ethical Implications of Animal Biotechnology: Considerations for Animal Welfare Decision Making; Animal Agriculture’s Future through Biotechnology, Part 9*.

The seminar is open to the public and the media.

Abstract: 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. 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. This new paper 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.

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. National C-FAR's Hill Seminar Series, now entering its fifth year, regularly presents leading-edge researchers working to provide answers to pressing issues confronting the public and Congress. The Hill Seminar Series and Success Profiles help demonstrate the value of public investment in food and agricultural research—investment that returns 45 percent per year on average. Go to http://www.ncfar.org/Hill_Seminar_Series.asp for more information about the seminar series and past topics. Interviews with National C-FAR President Chuck Conner are available by request. For additional information, go to www.ncfar.org; or contact Tom Van Arsdall, Executive Director, at tom@vanarsdall.com or (703) 509-4746.

CAST is an international consortium of scientific and professional societies. It assembles, interprets, and communicates credible science-based information regionally, nationally, and internationally to legislators, regulators, policymakers, the media, the private sector, and the public. All CAST Commentaries and Issue Papers are available online without charge at www.cast-science.org.