



NATIONAL COALITION FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Media Advisory

FOOD TRACEABILITY – FINDING OUR WAY (AND OUR FOOD) BACK TO THE FARM

“Milk Transport Security through Traceability”

Washington, DC – September 9, 2009 – Food safety, defense, traceability and bulk milk transportation is the subject of a National C-FAR “Lunch~N~Learn” Hill Seminar on Monday, September 14, from 12:00–12:55 p.m. in 1302 Longworth House Office Building. The featured speaker is Chris Thompson, Senior Agricultural Regulatory Specialist and Milk Program Coordinator, at the Division of Regulatory Services in the College of Agriculture at the University of Kentucky.

“Food safety, defense and traceability have been elevated to a high priority status in recent years. However, meeting the challenges associated with these important issues can be quite an operational hurdle in the real world,” said Thompson. “Theoretical solutions to meet these challenges often clash with the day to day realities of existing operations. Bridging the theoretical to the practical is an important step toward enhancing food safety, defense and traceability within our nation’s current food production and distribution processes,” according to Thompson. “Since the project’s inception, dairy industry stakeholders have provided our team with input regarding the milk transportation system’s design, field testing and evaluation. The result is a solution that can be deployed within a wide range of bulk food transportation systems.”

“This presentation is an excellent example of how applied agricultural research with key stakeholder involvement can produce the scientific outcomes and solutions needed to meet 21st century challenges and opportunities,” said M. Stephanie Patrick, President of the National Coalition for Food & Agricultural Research (National C-FAR).

Mr. Thompson is a Senior Agricultural Regulatory Specialist at the Division of Regulatory Services in the College of Agriculture at the University of Kentucky. Thompson regularly collaborates with federal and state agencies to enhance food safety and defense protocols within the dairy industry. Since 2006, he and his colleague, Dr. Frederick A. Payne have collaborated and led a multidisciplinary team through the development of a comprehensive milk transport security and traceability system.

The seminar is open to the public and the media.

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 M. Stephanie Patrick 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.