



NATIONAL COALITION FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Media Advisory

NEW ISSUES “CROPPING UP” IN BIOFUEL/BIOMASS PRODUCTION *CAST Commentaries on Invasive Species & Producing Cellulosic Biomass*

Washington, DC – November 6, 2007 – Highlights of two commentaries focused on cellulosic biofuels being released by the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) will be presented at the tenth and final 2007 National C-FAR Hill Seminar on Friday, November 9, from 12:00-12:55 in 1302 LHOB. Dr. Joseph DiTomaso, University of California-Davis, is discussing “*Biofuel Feedstocks: The Risk of Future Invasions*” (CAST Commentary QTA 2007-1), and Dr. Steven L. Fales, Iowa State University, is presenting “*Convergence of Agriculture and Energy: II. Producing Cellulosic Biomass for Biofuels*” (CAST Commentary QTA 2007-2).

“Several biofuel feedstock species being considered for U.S. commercial production are invasive pests in other regions where they have been introduced,” said Dr. DiTomaso. “Processes are available to minimize the potential risk of dedicated lignocellulose biofuel species becoming weedy or invasive.”

“Future biofuel production systems are expected to depend more intensively on plant biomass than on grain as a feedstock,” said Dr. Fales. “Significant changes in policy and national investments are needed to address challenges limiting the production and use of cellulosic biomass as a fuel feedstock.”

“We are honored to partner with CAST in today’s ‘Lunch~N~Learn’ Hill Seminar,” said Joe Layton, President of National C-FAR. “These Commentaries are excellent examples of how food and agriculture researchers can produce the scientific outcomes needed to meet 21st century challenges and opportunities.”

Dr. DiTomaso is Assistant Extension Non-Crop Weed Ecologist in the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of California, Davis. The primary focus of his research is understanding various biological and ecological aspects of non-crop weeds and developing effective control strategies. Dr. Fales is Associate Director of the Office of Biorenewables Programs at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. He facilitates research, teaching, and extension activities related to the ISU Bioeconomy Initiative.

The seminar is open to the public and the media. Questions related to the presentation and CAST Commentaries should be directed to CAST Executive Vice President John Bonner at jbonner@cast-science.org or (515) 292-2125.

CAST IS a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organization composed of 38 scientific societies and many individual, student, company, nonprofit, and associate society members. For more information about CAST and access to CAST publications, go to <http://www.cast-science.org>.

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 regularly presents leading-edge researchers working to provide answers to 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; or contact Tom Van Arsdall, Executive Director, at tom@vanarsdall.com.