



NATIONAL COALITION FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Media Advisory

WHY A NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Fundamental Research Benefiting Food, Fiber, Fuels and the Environment

Washington, DC – April 12, 2007 – A proposed “National Institute for Food and Agriculture” (NIFA) reporting directly to the Secretary, will be explored in a presentation at the second 2007 National C-FAR Hill Seminar by Dr. William Danforth on Monday, April 16. The seminar will be held from 3:30-4:25 PM in 1300 LHOB.

“NIFA would fill an important gap by funding basic plant and animal research on a competitive basis,” said Danforth. “Authorizing and funding NIFA will lead to advancements in production agriculture that hold promising solutions to some of society’s greatest challenges specifically in the areas of renewable energy, improved human health, enhanced food safety, environmental stewardship and preservation of Earth’s resources.”

Dr. Danforth, MD, is Chancellor Emeritus of Washington University and a professor of internal medicine. Danforth was appointed to chair a USDA Research, Education and Economics Task Force, which was charged with evaluating an Institute-type approach, by Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman in 2003.

“We are honored to have Dr. Danforth featured in today’s ‘Break & a Briefing’ Hill Seminar,” said Joe Layton, President of National C-FAR. “This is an excellent example of how we can strengthen our research to produce the scientific outcomes needed to meet 21st Century challenges and opportunities.”

The seminar is open to the public and the media. The complete NIFA report is at www.ars.usda.gov/research/research.htm. NIFA legislation has been introduced in the Senate (S. 971). Questions related to the presentation should be directed to Tom Van Arsdall (tom@vanarsdall.com) or Leshler and Russell at lesherandrussell@comcast.net. Dr. Danforth is available for interviews.

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.