



NATIONAL COALITION FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Media Advisory

WILD PIGS AND SPINACH

Current Food Safety Microbiological Concerns of Fresh Produce and Microbiological Issues Associated with Imported Foods

Washington, DC – September 6, 2007 –An overview of leading-edge research addressing current food safety microbiological concerns associated with fresh produce and microbiological issues associated with imported foods will be presented at the seventh 2007 National C-FAR Hill Seminar by Dr. Michael Doyle. The seminar is set for Monday, September 10, from 12:30-1:25 in 1302 LHOB.

“Vegetables and fruits have become leading vehicles of illnesses associated with foodborne outbreaks,” said Doyle, Director of the Center for Food Safety at the University of Georgia in Griffin. “Research is needed to develop effective food safety interventions to minimize such contamination throughout the production, processing and distribution of fresh and fresh-cut produce.”

Developing countries are major food exporters and will likely become predominant sources of the U.S. food fruits, vegetables and nuts. Food in many developing countries is not produced under acceptable sanitary practices, and FDA inspects less than 1% of more than 9 million imported food entries annually. Unless food production, harvesting, and processing practices are upgraded in food exporting countries that have major holes in their food safety nets, there are likely to be major increases in the occurrence and size of foodborne outbreaks in the U.S. in the future.

“We are honored to feature Dr. Doyle as our presenter at this seminar,” said Joe Layton, President of National C-FAR. “This is an excellent example of how food and agriculture researchers can produce the scientific outcomes needed to meet 21st century challenges and opportunities.”

Dr. Doyle is Regents Professor of Food Microbiology and Director of the Center for Food Safety at the University of Georgia in Griffin, GA. His current research projects focus on defining the association of foodborne pathogens with fruits and vegetables and animals used in food production, and developing practical interventions to reduce pathogen contamination throughout the food chain.

The seminar is open to the public and the media. Questions related to the presentation should be directed to National C-FAR Executive Director Tom Van Arsdall [tom@vanarsdall.com or (540) 785-0949] or Sarah Davis, Institute of Food Technologists [sfdavis@ift.org or (202) 466-5980].

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.