



NATIONAL COALITION FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Media Advisory

TURNING TODAY'S CROPS INTO TOMORROW'S FUEL

Infrastructure Considerations for Biomass Harvest, Transportation, and Storage

Washington, D.C., for immediate release — The featured speaker at a September National C-FAR “Lunch~N~Learn” hill seminar on infrastructure considerations for biomass was Dr. Jerry Fruin, University of Minnesota.

“Research on the infrastructure needed for the harvest, transportation, and storage of cellulosic material is critical to shaping the future of biomass as a sustainable energy resource,” said Dr. Fruin.

“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 agricultural research and extension in cooperation with private sector initiatives can produce the scientific outcomes and outreach needed to meet 21st-century challenges and opportunities.”

Dr. Fruin’s presentation is posted at http://www.ncfar.org/Hill_Seminar_Series_2010.asp. The full text of CAST Commentary QTA2010-1 is available at www.cast-science.org.

Abstract: Many believe that biomass energy sources will eventually replace fossil fuels, and with issues of the environment, economy, and national security at stake, all aspects of this effort are under consideration. This paper focuses on case studies that demonstrate new developments regarding the infrastructure needed for the harvest, transportation, and storage of cellulosic material. The sustainable amount of biomass that can be removed from the field is directly related to the amount of carbon in the soil, the amount of macronutrients removed in the biomass, and the mass left in the field to protect the soil from erosion. The authors believe the sustainable collection of biomass feedstocks is an important consideration for cellulosic ethanol production.

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.

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