



NATIONAL COALITION FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Media Advisory

SHOTS ARE FOR THE BIRDS (And Other Animals) *Highlights of Two CAST Reports Related to Animal Vaccines and Implications for Transmittal of Disease from Animals to Humans*

Washington, DC – May 1, 2008 – Decision factors related to the use of avian influenza vaccines and the risks of disease transmission from animals to humans are the interrelated topics of the third 2008 National C-FAR “Lunch~N~Learn” Hill Seminar on Monday, May 5, from 12:00 to 12:55 p.m. in Room B354 of the Rayburn House Office Building (RHOB). The featured speakers are Drs. Karen Burns Grogan (Chicken Scratch, LLC) and Robert Silva (USDA–ARS), who will be presenting results of two task force research reports prepared by the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST).

“Decision makers in governments and technical organizations face crucial issues when making decisions involving the use of avian influenza vaccinations,” said Grogan. “Current public health threats posed by the potential spread of highly infectious disease agents between animals and humans, as well as the emergence of new diseases, impact animal agriculture significantly,” Silva added.

“We are pleased to feature research on infectious animal disease vaccines and the many ways agriculture could be impacted,” said M. Stephanie Patrick, President of the National Coalition for Food & Agricultural Research (National C-FAR). “These presentations are excellent examples of how food and agriculture researchers can produce the scientific outcomes needed to meet 21st century challenges and opportunities.”

Dr. Grogan is a board-certified poultry veterinarian, with a DVM from North Carolina State University and an MS in Avian Medicine from the University of Georgia. She currently heads her own consulting business in Dacula, Georgia.

Dr. Silva is a Research Microbiologist at the Avian Disease and Oncology Laboratory, East Lansing, Michigan. The Laboratory’s mission is to provide leadership in solving problems with neoplastic and other viral diseases of poultry using basic and applied multidisciplinary team approaches that benefit the poultry industry and consumers.

The seminar is open to the public and the media. Questions related to the presentation and CAST should be directed to CAST Executive Vice President John Bonner at jbonner@cast-science.org or (515) 292-2125, ext. 25.

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 www.cast-science.org. CAST is a member of National C-FAR.

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.