



NATIONAL COALITION FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Media Advisory

PORCINE NIRVANA?

“Scientific Assessment of the Welfare of Dry Sows Kept in Individual Accommodations”

Washington, DC – May 8 – Research on animal welfare is the subject of the third 2009 National C-FAR “Lunch~N~Learn” Hill Seminar on Monday, May 11, from 12:00–12:55 p.m. in 1302 Longworth House Office Building. The featured speaker is Dr. John McGlone, Department of Animal and Food Sciences, Texas Tech University.

“Public perceptions and misconceptions of animal welfare issues have the potential to dramatically impact swine production, said McGlone. “More robust research and development will be required to develop the sound science needed for more informed policy making and public opinion.”

“We are pleased to feature how multidisciplinary research can help attain optimal health for people, animals and the environment,” said M. Stephanie Patrick, President of the National Coalition for Food & Agricultural Research (National C-FAR). “This presentation is an excellent example of how federally funded food and agriculture research and extension can produce the scientific outcomes and outreach needed to meet 21st century challenges and opportunities, both today and in the future.”

Dr. McGlone oversees the animal care program at Texas Tech University and maintains an active research program in the science of animal welfare. His research interests include behavior, neuroscience, welfare, immunology, stress physiology and behavior, and pheromones in pigs and other animals. He is a leading member of the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) Task Force that completed CAST Issue Paper 42, *Scientific Assessment of the Welfare of Dry Sows Kept in Individual Accommodations*.”

The seminar is open to the public and the media.

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 M. Stephanie Patrick 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.

CAST is an international consortium of 37 scientific and professional societies. It assembles, interprets, and communicates credible science-based information regionally, nationally, and internationally to legislators, regulators, policymakers, the media, the private sector, and the public. CAST Issue Paper 42 and other reports are available online without charge at www.cast-science.org.