



## NATIONAL COALITION FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Media Advisory

### ***World Food Security at Risk?***

#### *The Race Against Ug99 Stem Rust in Wheat*

**Washington, DC** – January 20, 2010 – Research efforts underway to respond to Ug99 stem rust in wheat as a critical threat to wheat and the world supply is the subject of the first 2010 National C-FAR “Lunch~N~Learn” Hill Seminar on Monday, January 25, from 12:00–12:55 p.m. in 1302 Longworth House Office Building. The featured speaker is Dr. James Peterson, Oregon State University, and Chair of the National Wheat Improvement Committee.

“The appearance of the virulent Ug99 race of stem rust in Africa is an unprecedented threat to global wheat production. At once, the disease resistance genes we relied on for decades were compromised. Tens of millions of acres of wheat production in the US and worldwide are now vulnerable to this historically devastating disease,” says Peterson. “The world wheat community has responded, searching out new genes and developing new varieties. But, it takes time. As Ug99 continues to spread and virulence increases, there is no time to waste.”

“This presentation is an excellent example of how federally funded food and agricultural research and extension can produce the scientific outcomes and outreach needed to meet 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges and opportunities, both today and in the future,” said National C-FAR President Chuck Conner.

**Dr. Peterson** is Professor of Wheat Breeding and Genetics at Oregon State University and Chair of the National Wheat Improvement Committee. Dr. Peterson works with the wheat research community, wheat growers, and milling and baking industry to address national issues and advocate for research. This includes facilitating communication and development of action plans in response to the Ug99 threat.

The seminar is open to the public and the media.

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**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. The Hill Seminar Series helps 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](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](http://www.ncfar.org); or contact Tom Van Arsdall, Executive Director, at [tom@vanarsdall.com](mailto:tom@vanarsdall.com) or (703) 509-4746.