NATIONAL COALITION FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Media Advisory

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION!

"Putting Buffers in Their Place"

Washington, DC – July 24, 2012, For Immediate Release – New approaches that enhance strategic placement of vegetative buffers is the subject of National C-FAR's tenth Research Hill Seminar in 2012 on Monday, July 30 at a 'Lunch~N~Learn' at noon in 1300 Longworth House Office Building and again at 3 PM in 337 Russell Senate Office Building. The featured speaker is Dr. Mike Dosskey, a US Forest Service research scientist with the USDA National Agroforestry Center located on the campus of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"Realizing the potential for vegetative buffers to improve water quality requires that they be put in the right places," says Dosskey. "Planning tools are being developed that will enable conservationists to easily identify the right places and ensure their effectiveness."

"This presentation provides an excellent example of the value of federally funded food and agricultural research, extension and education in producing the scientific outcomes and outreach needed to meet 21st century challenges and opportunities," says Chuck Conner, President of the National Coalition for Food & Agricultural Research (National C-FAR).

Abstract: Vegetative buffers are strips of grass and trees designed into agriculture landscapes to improve drinking water quality and aquatic health by trapping sediment and farm chemicals from runoff before they get into streams. They are easy to install and manage, and they are a popular component of CRP and EQIP incentive programs administered by USDA. These programs have long employed a simple model of targeting downhill side(s) of agricultural fields and along stream courses. Recent studies, however, are showing that some of these locations are much better than others for getting solid conservation returns. New tools are enabling more precise discernment of pollutant sources, runoff pathways, and buffering capabilities across landscapes. These new tools capitalize on GIS and widespread availability of spatial data on land uses, stream networks, soil properties, and topography for identifying where the right combination of conditions exist to achieve disproportionately greater impact from vegetative buffers. Furthermore, the simplicity of these tools facilitates their widespread use by field professionals. By guiding conservationists toward higher-impact locations and away from less-promising ones, the use of these new tools may substantially improve the cost-effectiveness of vegetative buffers and water quality improvement programs.

Seminar presentations are available at http://www.ncfar.org/Hill_Seminar_Series.asp. 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, now in its sixth year, 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, and $20 in economic benefit from every $1 investment in food and ag research.

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.