SAFE FOOD

“Research to Practice”

Washington, DC – April 2, For Immediate Release – Recent research and extension outreach activity in home food processing that emphasizes food safety will be discussed at National C-FAR’s hill research seminar on Monday, April 8—twice: at 10 am in 337 Russell Senate Office Building, and at the noon ‘Lunch–N–Learn’ seminar in 1300 Longworth House Office Building. The featured speaker is Elizabeth L. Andress, Ph.D., a Professor and food safety specialist at the University of Georgia.

“Consumer education for safe food handling relies on the availability and interpretation of sound, applied research results from experts in various fields,” says Andress, whose Extension programs in food safety and quality include home food preservation and processing and foodservice sanitation as well as consumer foods and food safety education.

“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 and Agricultural Research (National C-FAR).

Abstract: The country has been experiencing a surge in consumer activity and interest in household food production, whether it be growing it or supporting local farmers, preparing it, preserving it or otherwise processing it. Entrepreneurs are also seeking ways to increase income through small home-based food businesses. At the same there is proliferation of advice and personal experience shared by many through various channels including social media. This advice does always incorporate or align with sound scientific knowledge about food safety. Scientific research has long guided government advice and procedures for processing food at home although funding has not been able to keep up with consumer demand. Cooperative Extension programs nationwide have historically been a source for these recommendations but have also been facing cutbacks just as demand is increasing. This presentation will focus on recent research and outreach activity in home food processing that emphasizes food safety and improving related scientific understanding of basic principles.

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.