MARKET FORCES OR REGULATION?

Organization of Agricultural and Natural Resource Markets

Washington, DC – May 9, For Immediate Release – The function of market forces and regulation in organizing agricultural and natural resource markets will be discussed at National C-FAR’s hill research seminar on Monday, May 13 at noon in 1300 Longworth House Office Building. The featured speaker is Professor Rachael Goodhue, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, UC-Davis.

“Federally funded research can greatly impact our agricultural and natural resource systems,” Says Goodhue. “Our research has identified ways to educate growers about the benefits of alternative pest management practices, and we have seen growers adjust the type and amount of pesticides they use to better meet their financial and natural resource management objectives.”

Abstract: Agricultural and natural resource markets extend from those for inputs such as water, pesticides and fertilizer to consumers who purchase food in stores, restaurants, and elsewhere. In cases where market prices fail to incorporate all considerations affecting society there is a role for government policy and regulation. This briefing will discuss three examples of research regarding markets where government plays an important role: how legal liability rules affect food manufacturers’ and handlers’ incentives to improve food safety; the methyl bromide ban and the search for technically and economically feasible alternatives; and the capacity of extension efforts to substitute for regulations governing farmers’ use of pesticides. All of this research was conducted under this Hatch project. Some of it received additional federal funding.

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.