GOT TREES?

Building Climate-Ready Agriculture

Washington, DC – September 3, 2013 – For Immediate Release – Research on agroforestry as a tool in building more climate-ready farm and ranch operations will be the focus of a presentation at National C-FAR’s hill research seminar on Monday, September 9 at 10 am in 337 Russell Senate Office Building and again at noon luncheon in 1302 Longworth House Office Building. The featured speaker is Dr. Michele Schoeneberger, a US Forest Service research soil scientist with the USDA National Agroforestry Center (NAC) in Lincoln, Nebraska.

“Agroforestry research will help farmers and ranchers integrate a suite of tree-based practices to help them be more successful in meeting multiple challenges,” says Schoeneberger.

“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: We keep looking at our agricultural lands to meet ever-increasing production and conservation targets. At the same time agriculture’s capacity to deliver these services is being challenged by highly dynamic climate, changing markets, and evolving environmental conditions. With recent extreme weather events and impacts still fresh in our minds and monetary pockets, predictions that these events are only going to get worse underscores the need for developing options to build more climate-ready farm and ranch operations. One promising option in ag’s ‘climate-ready toolbox’ is AGROFORESTRY—the deliberate integration of trees into agricultural operations in support of agriculture. Agroforestry is comprised of a wide suite of tree-based practices that farmers, ranchers, Tribes, and even communities can use to help them meet these growing targets, create profitable operations and rural health and vitality, and build more resilient operations and landscapes. From windbreaks to waterbreaks; producing income while mitigating impacts from droughts to floods when needed, to silvopasture systems; diversifying production and income while providing heat- and cold-stress protection to livestock, agroforestry can be an effective tool in boosting agriculture’s adaptive capacity. Advances in research are creating the basis for tools that can help farmers, ranchers and other land managers better design and locate these practices, to visualize multiple design options on their lands and compare benefits and trade-offs, and to be able to assess agroforestry’s contributions in order to guide their future decisions and to provide them access to future payments or markets (e.g., carbon sequestration) should they develop.

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.