GOT TREES?

Building Climate-Ready Agriculture

September 9, 2013
PROGRAM

Welcome and Introduction

KARL ANDERSON
NATIONAL C-FAR REPRESENTATIVE

Distinguished Speaker

DR. MICHELE SCHOENEBERGER
NATIONAL AGROFORESTRY CENTER, LINCOLN, NE
US FOREST SERVICE, USDA

Open Forum

Closing

KARL ANDERSON

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. For additional information, go to www.ncfar.org; or contact Tom Van Arsdall, Executive Director, at tom@vanarsdall.com.
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.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY
Michele Schoenberger, Ph.D., is a US Forest Service research soil scientist with the USDA National Agroforestry Center (NAC) in Lincoln, Nebraska. Since 1992, Michele has served as NAC’s Research Program Lead; working with a national network of USDA and university research partners to develop local, regional and national working tree strategies and technologies in support of profitable, healthy and resilient agriculture. Her interests in the health and long-term productivity of working lands led her to gain academic and career experiences throughout the U.S. and in countries dealing with similar working land issues, such as New Zealand. Michele leads NAC’s efforts to improve the scientific basis for agroforestry as climate change mitigation and adaptation tool for agriculture. She has a B.S. from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, a M.S. from Oregon State University, and a Ph.D. from North Carolina State University.
SEMINAR SERIES DESCRIPTION

National C-FAR’s Seminar Series regularly presents leading-edge researchers to address pressing issues confronting the public and Congress. National C-FAR and the Seminar Series serve as a resource to policymakers and staff.

Seminar Series Contributing Sponsors

Academy for Nutrition and Dietetics
Alliance to Feed the Future
American Bakers Association
American Society for Nutrition
American Society of Animal Science (ASAS)
Bayer CropScience
Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO)
CHS Inc.
Cooperative Extension
Cotton Foundation
Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST)
Council on Food, Agricultural & Resource Economics (C-FARE)
CropLife America
Dr. William Danforth
Elanco Animal Health
Eversole Associates
Dr. David W. Hertha
Illinois Soybean Association
Indiana Soybean Alliance
Institute of Food Technologists
Michael Newman, DVM
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Farmers Union
North American Millers’ Association
Riley Memorial Foundation
Soil and Water Conservation Society
Syngenta
United Soybean Board
University of Wyoming
Weed Science Society of America

NATIONAL COALITION FOR FOOD & AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
http://www.ncfar.org

R. Thomas Van Arsdall, Executive Director
Phone: (703) 509-4746 • E-mail: tom@vanarsdall.com