DID A COW JUST EAT MY DINNER?

Animal Feed vs. Human Food: Challenges and Opportunities in Sustaining Animal Agriculture Toward 2050

Washington, DC – September 16, 2013, For Immediate Release – Research on animal agriculture sustainability 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 a noon luncheon in 1300 Longworth House Office Building. The featured speaker is Dr. Jude Capper, a Livestock Sustainability Consultant and an Affiliate in the Department of Animal and Range Sciences at Montana State University as well as an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Animal Sciences at Washington State University.

“The global livestock industry faces a considerable challenge because a dichotomy exists between the increasing demand for animal-source foods conferred by population growth and consumer concerns regarding livestock production sustainability,” says Capper.

“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: Many consumers are unaware of the advantages of livestock productivity gains conferred by modern practices, by-product feeds, and technology use. The members of this Task Force note that (1) global animal agriculture provides safe, affordable, nutrient-dense foodstuffs that support human health and well-being as part of a balanced diet, in addition to manifold by-products that have significant contributions to society; (2) livestock production is an important contributor to the economic and social sustainability of developed and developing countries; (3) large areas of land are incapable of producing human food crops but can be used to support livestock production; (4) gains made by “recycling” safe by-products from human food and fiber production into livestock feed lessen competition between humans and animals for crops that can equally be used for feed or food, maximize land use efficiency, and decrease the environmental impact of food production; and (5) improved communication is required between livestock production stakeholders and the consumer to further a better understanding of the economic, environmental, nutritional, and social advantages conferred by animal agriculture on a global and regional basis.

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.

CAST is an international consortium of scientific and professional societies, companies, and nonprofit organizations. It assembles, interprets, and communicates credible science-based information regionally, nationally, and internationally to legislators, regulators, policymakers, the media, the private sector, and the public.

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.