Lunch ~ N ~ Learn SEMINAR

NATIONAL C-FAR

THE NATIONAL COALITION FOR FOOD & AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Program:

FARM ANIMAL RESEARCH IN CRISIS

A Neglected Research Resource for Advancing Human Health and Animal Agriculture

June 6, 2014
PROGRAM

Welcome and Introduction

GINA LUKE, AVMA
NATIONAL C-FAR REPRESENTATIVE

Distinguished Speaker

JAMES J. IRELAND
PROFESSOR, ANIMAL SCIENCE AND PHYSIOLOGY DEPARTMENTS
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Open Forum

Closing

GINA LUKE

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
Seventeen Nobel Prize winners have used farm animals such as cattle, pigs, sheep, goats, horses and chickens as research models. Learn about the importance of farm animals as the only dual-purpose research models that benefit both human medicine and agriculture, and the consequences of losing farm animals as a research resource. In many cases farm animals make the best biomedical models for diverse human diseases and disorders because of their similarity in size, physiology, immune system and genetic makeup to humans. Nevertheless, mice have become the overwhelming translatable model of choice for biomedical research on complex human disorders at NIH. Farm animals are also underutilized for basic research in animal agriculture. In 2013 only $50 million of USDA’s $155 billion budget was provided to the USDA, NIFA for farm animal research. Research using farm animals is clearly in jeopardy because of the near exclusive use of mice as translatable biomedical models and very minor federal funding for competitive grants for farm animal research.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY
James Ireland, Ph.D., is Professor in the Animal Science and Physiology Departments at Michigan State University (MSU). His research is focused on understanding the role of the extent, causes and consequences of the high variation in number of follicles and eggs in ovaries on fertility in cattle. He has published numerous articles in scientific journals on bovine reproduction. He has also served as Director for the Center for Animal Production Enhancement at MSU where he and colleagues focused on development and commercialization of vaccines to enhance reproduction, growth and health of farm animals. His vaccine research led to patents on vaccines to enhance fertility in farm animals and formation of a small biotechnology company, ReproVax, in Lansing, Michigan. Dr. Ireland is currently a member of the Reproduction and Developmental Sciences Program (http://rdsp.canr.msu.edu/) at MSU.
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