Lunch ~ N ~ Learn SEMINAR

NATIONAL C-FAR

THE NATIONAL COALITION FOR FOOD & AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Program:

CORNUCOPIA IN THE CITIES

GROWING URBAN AGRICULTURE WITH TREES

July 28, 2014
PROGRAM

Welcome and Introduction

BETHANY JOHNS, PH.D.
NATIONAL C-FAR REPRESENTATIVE

Distinguished Speaker

GARY BENTRUP, MLA
USDA NATIONAL AGROFORESTRY CENTER
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

Open Forum

Closing

BETHANY JOHNS, PH.D.

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
In the United States, over 80 percent of our population now lives in metropolitan area. As our urban population has grown, so too has the complexity of how to feed people who are far removed from the actual production of foods. Growing food in urban and peri-urban areas can be an important component in our nation’s agricultural production portfolio. Urban agriculture can provide a local source of fresh healthy food, create jobs, promote physical activity, increase community connections, create biologically diverse habitats, and raise surrounding property values. Accomplishing these interrelated goals can be enhanced by incorporating trees and shrubs into the fabric of urban and peri-urban agriculture. Woody species benefit urban agriculture by adding nutritionally-rich nuts and fruits into the mix of food products that can be grown while creating favorable microclimates for vegetable crops. Supporting ecosystem services including pollination, biological pest control, air quality, and increased resiliency to climate change are enhanced by these perennial plants. Urban trees have been shown to strengthen sense of ownership, community well-being, and aesthetics; value-added features for urban food plots. Contaminated soils in cities are often a barrier to growing food safely and fast growing species like poplar trees can aid in cleaning up the soil so sites are suitable for food production while also providing a biofeedstock for generating energy in combined heat and power systems. Advances in research are laying the groundwork for developing diverse sustainable systems for growing food in cities that will increase food security.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY
Gary Bentrup, MLA, is a US Forest Service research landscape planner with the USDA National Agroforestry Center (NAC) located on the campus of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Since 1999, Gary has been researching and developing tools for implementing working tree strategies in support of profitable, healthy and resilient agriculture. His broad interest includes translating science into actionable knowledge and decision-support tools and was recently awarded the US Forest Service Deputy Chief's Science Delivery Award. Tools developed include Buffer$, a cost-benefit analysis spreadsheet, CanVis, a software program for creating photographic visual simulations of agroforestry alternatives, and Conservation Buffer Guidelines, a design manual that has been translated in to five languages. He has a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from Kansas State University and a Master of Landscape Architecture from Utah 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.

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