TRENDS IN FARMS, FOOD AND MARKETS
USDA’S ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE RESEARCH FINDINGS

Washington, DC—March 17, 2015, For Immediate Release – Analysis of economic trends in the U.S. food and agricultural sector will be the focus of a National C-FAR research and Extension seminar, presented at a noon luncheon, on Monday, March 23 in 1300 Longworth House Office Building. The presenter is Dr. Mary Bohman, Administrator of the Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

“These presentations provide excellent examples 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).

Highlights: ERS Administrator Bohman will give an overview of the drivers changing the U.S. food and agriculture system based on the Agency's statistics and research. Administrator Bohman will also review how to connect with ERS to access the wealth of research and data that the USDA REE agency provides. Consumer demand for convenience and healthy food continues to influence the profile of the U.S. food system. As incomes increase worldwide, agricultural economists continue to observe a growing global market demand for food variety. China has become the largest market for U.S. agricultural exports, and sales to developing countries now account for two-thirds of U.S. agricultural exports. These drivers are changing the structure of U.S. agriculture. While American agriculture continues to be dominated by family businesses, farm size is increasing on average along with the diversity of farm types.

The seminar is open to the public and the media.

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The National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (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 tenth 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.