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PROGRAM

Welcome and Introduction

DR. MARY AHEARN
NATIONAL C-FAR REPRESENTATIVE

Distinguished Speaker

DR. MARY BOHMAN, ADMINISTRATOR
ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Open Forum

Closing

DR. MARY AHEARN

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

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.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

Mary Bohman, Ph.D., has served as Administrator of USDA’s Economic Research Service since 2011. Prior to becoming Administrator, Mary served as Acting Administrator and had been Director of the Agency's Resource and Rural Economics Division. Mary joined ERS in 1997 and has served as Deputy Director for Research in ERS's Market and Trade Economics Division (MTED) and as Chief of MTED's Europe, Africa, and Middle East Branch. Other public-sector positions held include details to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and to USDA's Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services. From 1990 to 1997 she was on the Agricultural Sciences faculty at the University of British Columbia. Mary received her Ph.D. from the Department of Agricultural Economics, University of California, Davis and her B.S. from the School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University. Mary is a member of the Agriculture & Applied Economics Association, Association of Environmental and Resource Economists, Wye Group on Statistics on Rural Development and Agricultural Household Income, and the International Association of Agricultural Economists.