A CASE FOR SOIL HEALTH
OPPORTUNITIES TO CHANGE THE FACE OF AGRICULTURE AND HOW WE FEED OUR NATION

Washington, DC—May 17, 2015, for Immediate Release – Research on innovative approaches to advancing soil health will be the focus of a National C-FAR research and Extension seminar, presented at two different venues, on Monday, May 18, at noon in 1300 Longworth House Office Building. The presenter is Bianca Moebius-Clune, Ph.D., who directs the new Soil Health Division for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Washington, DC.

“Research, technical assistance and training for our producers, and incentives to help them adopt new practices to improve soil health, will provide significant return on the nation’s conservation investment,” says Dr. Moebius-Clune.

“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: Improving soil health on our nation’s agricultural lands allows farmers and ranchers to simultaneously improve water quality, increase soil water availability, enhance resilience to extreme weather, enhance nutrient cycling, increase carbon sequestration, provide wildlife habitat (including pollinators), enhance rural economic opportunity, and meet the food production needs of a rapidly growing population on a shrinking available land base. The new NRCS Soil Health Division was initiated to leverage resources, skills, technology, and partnerships nationally to facilitate increased implementation of science-based, effective, economically viable soil health management systems on the nation’s diverse agricultural lands. The division’s goals include designing soil health technical training and education for stakeholders, standardizing and increasing the use of publicly available soil health testing, and guiding soil health management planning to facilitate implementation and long-term adoption on our nation’s agricultural lands.

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.