Lunch ~ N ~ Learn SEMINAR

NATIONAL C-FAR

THE NATIONAL COALITION FOR FOOD & AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Program:

A CASE FOR SOIL HEALTH

Opportunities to Change the Face of Agriculture and How We Feed Our Nation

May 18, 2015
PROGRAM

Welcome and Introduction

BETHANY JOHNS, PH.D.

MODERATOR

Distinguished Speaker

BIANCA MOEBIUS-CLUNE, PH.D.

DIRECTOR, SOIL HEALTH DIVISION

USDA-NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Open Forum

Closing

BETHANY JOHNS

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

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. Efforts to improve soil health will thus provide significant return on the nation’s conservation investment. 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.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

Bianca Moebius-Clune, Ph.D., directs the new NRCS Soil Health Division that is being stood up to incentivize and facilitate science-based, effective, economically viable soil health management on our nation’s agricultural lands. She came to the agency from Cornell University where her applied research, extension, and teaching addressed agricultural management impacts on, and approaches to managing, soil health and nitrogen dynamics. She holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of New Hampshire, and Masters and PhD degrees from Cornell University, all in soil science.
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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