CLIMATE CHANGE:
SO WHAT’S UP WITH DINNER?

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACT
ON OUR DIVERSE AND ABUNDANT FOOD SUPPLY

July 20, 2015
PROGRAM

Welcome and Introduction

TYRONE SPADY
MODERATOR

Distinguished Speaker
DR. MIKE HOFFMANN
DIRECTOR,
CORNELL UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
&
ASSOCIATE DEAN,
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CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Open Forum

Closing
TYRONE SPADY

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
The evidence for human-caused climate change is all around us, and many of the changes that are occurring threaten our interconnected global food system. Shifting regional and global precipitation patterns and/or rising temperatures are affecting our favorite beverages such as coffee and wine; ocean acidification and warming are implicated in changes in oyster and lobster populations; and decreases in irrigation water from retreating Chilean glaciers will in time affect our supply of fresh fruit during winter months. In the U.S., our land grant university system is responding by helping farmers adapt to the changes as well as mitigate their contributions to climate change. At Cornell’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, a great deal of research is underway including selecting for climate resilient crops, reducing heat stress to dairy cows, understanding farmers and public attitudes about climate change, optimizing fertilizer inputs, and researching renewable energy options for agriculture. In 2013, the Cornell Institute for Climate Change and Agriculture (CICCA) was created to help raise the profile of the challenges posed by climate change and develop decision tools that help farmers reduce risks from frost and estimate yields under changing climate conditions. In addition, CICCA has recently launched an innovative Climate Smart Farming program that involves Cooperative Extension educators who dedicate a portion of their time to work directly with farmers to address climate change resiliency. Climate change requires an all-hands-on-deck effort, so partnerships are critical; the USDA Northeast Regional Climate Hub is a particularly important partnership for Cornell.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY
Mike Hoffmann, Ph.D., Hoffmann is the director of the Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station and an associate dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University. As director, he is responsible for the allocation of federal capacity funds as well as the College’s multiple farms and plant growth facilities. Under his leadership the Agricultural Experiment Station has adopted a culture of sustainability focused on reducing costs and its carbon footprint. In 2013 he founded the Cornell Institute for Climate Change and Agriculture and recently co-chaired a working group charged to help Cornell achieve carbon neutrality by 2035. His previous positions include associate director of Cornell Cooperative Extension and director of the New York State Integrated Pest Management Program. He is a professor of Entomology and conducts research focused on ecologically based management of insect pests. Mike received his Bachelor’s Degree from the University Wisconsin, Masters from the University of Arizona and Ph.D. from the University of California, Davis.
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