Lunch ~ N ~ Learn SEMINAR

THE NATIONAL COALITION FOR FOOD & AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

PREVENTING THE NEXT KUDZU

A LIFE-CYCLE APPROACH TO LOW-INFRINGEMENT POTENTIAL BIOENERGY PRODUCTION

February 22, 2016
PROGRAM

Welcome and Introduction

DR LEE VAN WYCHEN
NATIONAL C-FAR REPRESENTATIVE

KENT SCHESCKE
COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
CAST

Distinguished Speaker

DR. JACOB BARNEY
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF INVASIVE PLANT ECOTOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF PLANT PATHOLOGY, PHYSIOLOGY, AND WEED SCIENCE
VIRGINIA TECH

Open Forum

Closing

DR. LEE VAN WYCHEN

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
Bioenergy, or biomass-based energy production, is being pursued globally to decrease greenhouse gas emissions and provide a reliable energy source. Dedicated bioenergy crops are being selected, bred, and deployed to maximize biomass (or seed for biofuel production) with minimal inputs, and they are ideally to be grown on marginal lands to lessen conflicts with existing food/feed production. The biological traits to achieve these production goals are shared by many ecologically damaging invasive plants; thus many are concerned that new invasive species may be introduced as bioenergy crops. Invasive species are among the top five threats to global biodiversity, and they are extremely taxing on local to federal economies. Unfortunately, once established, invasive plant eradication is difficult and expensive except in very small areas, making prevention the best strategy to mitigate future invasions. Invasions can most effectively be prevented through a life-cycle approach that adopts appropriate scientific and policy tools at each step in the production process. Importantly, even with appropriate prevention tools and policies, unforeseen mistakes and a volatile economy will mean that appropriate policy must cover potential liabilities and plan for responding to escapes. This approach will require collaboration and strategic interactions among plant breeders, ecologists, agronomists, farmers, energy companies, land managers, and other stakeholders and, if successful, can enable broad-based support for an emerging bioenergy industry without simultaneously providing incentives for new invasions.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY
Jacob Barney, Ph.D., is an assistant professor in the Department of Plant Pathology, Physiology, and Weed Science at Virginia Tech. His research interests are focused on identifying and evaluating the factors that interact along the invasion pathway that begins as a benign introduction and results in a widespread harmful invasion. He received the Outstanding Researcher Award from the Northeastern Weed Science Society in 2015, the Early Career Outstanding Research award from the Weed Science Society of America in 2016, and two graduate student awards during his education. Barney and his collaborators have published more than fifty peer-reviewed papers in journals that include a wide variety of ecology, weed science, bioenergy, and policy/law research. He has been invited to speak internationally and has served as adviser to various industry and government agencies. Barney received his B.S. in chemistry from the University of Kentucky and his M.S. and Ph.D. in weed science and invasive plant ecology, respectively, from Cornell University.
SEMINAR SERIES DESCRIPTION

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