Lunch ~ N ~ Learn SEMINAR

THE NATIONAL COALITION FOR FOOD & AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

IMPROVING THE U.S. ECONOMY BY ADDING FIBER

CHALLENGES OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP PRODUCTION

April 29, 2016
PROGRAM

Welcome and Introduction

Karl Anderson
National C-FAR Representative

Distinguished Speakers

Dr. Ronald F. Turco
Professor, Dept of Agronomy
Director, Global Sustainability Institute
Assistant Dean, College of Agriculture
Purdue University

&

Dr. Janna Beckerman
Professor, Dept of Botany and Plant Pathology
Purdue University

Open Forum

Closing

Karl Anderson

NATIONAL C-FAR IS a nonprofit, nonpartisan, consensus-based and
customer-led coalition that brings food, agriculture, nutrition, conser-
vation 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—Industrial hemp has been bred based upon traits such as fiber strength, yield and oil quality and is distinct from marijuana in that the THC concentration (the principal psychoactive agent) is less than 0.3% on a dry weight basis. Approximately 75% of the world’s supply of hemp for fiber originates in China, while a large portion of hemp used for seed and oil is imported from Canada. U.S. hemp imports exceeded $38.5 million in 2013. The value of all hemp-based products (food, body products, auto parts, clothing etc.,) exceeds nearly $581 million annually in the U.S. The Farm Bill of 2014 as amended in 2015 provided that research institutions and state departments of agriculture can grow industrial hemp, as part of an agricultural pilot program, if the program is allowed under state laws where the institutions are located. The past legal status of hemp and difficulties in obtaining certified seed have resulted in a knowledge gap on agricultural production practices. The changing legal environment could lead to new industries and spur economic development in rural areas, but research is needed on the farm and throughout the supply chain planning process to ensure sustainable production. We will cover our experiences with the entire process from obtaining the seed to considerations of final products and outline our perspectives on needs in terms of the future of hemp production.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Ronald F. Turco, Ph.D., is a Professor in the Department of Agronomy, Director of the Global Sustainability Institute in Discovery Park and an Assistant Dean for Agriculture and Environmental Research in the College of Agriculture at Purdue. Dr. Turco has concentrated on understanding how the behavior of environmental microorganisms is influenced by human activity. His research is centered on microbiology, with four themes: 1) how soil biological processes influence carbon, nitrogen and phosphorus reservoirs in soil, to develop a better way to estimate changes in soil health; 2) unintended consequences of using soil resources for agricultural production (e.g., biofuels, hemp etc.); 3) how manufactured nano-materials impact soil and water; and 4) the fate and impact of inorganic materials (pesticides and solvents) introduced to the environment.

Janna Beckerman, Ph.D., leads the plant pathology research and extension education effort in specialty crops disease management at Purdue. The goal of her research and extension program is to enable commercial growers of specialty crops, from apples to hemp to zinnia in Indiana to effectively and sustainably manage both chemical (fungicide) and genetic (disease resistance) resources while protecting the environment. Hemp pathology (https://purduehemp.org) is a specialty.
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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