Lunch ~ N ~ Learn SEMINAR

THE NATIONAL COALITION FOR FOOD & AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

THE ECONOMICS OF DROUGHT REALITIES AND POLICY CHOICES

July 11, 2016
PROGRAM

Welcome and Introduction

CARON GALA
NATIONAL C-FAR REPRESENTATIVE

Opening Remarks

DR. ROBERT (ROB) JOHANNSON
CHIEF ECONOMIST, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Distinguished Speakers

DR. ARIEL DINAR
PROFESSOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS AND POLICY
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE

&

DR. STEVEN WALLANDER
ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE, USDA

Open Forum

Closing

CARON GALA

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
As much of half of the continental U.S. has faced drought conditions over the past decade and the Western U.S. has evidence of ‘mega’ drought conditions, not seen for 800 years. Researchers will convey findings on the tradeoffs of policies that emphasize the supply and demand sides of water allocation and use, as well as those that promote adaptation and consider consumer behaviors. Research-based ideas will be presented about how to manage the application of new technologies to adapt to long-term and persistent drought. The speakers will discuss research that land-grants USDA have collaborated on through various programs, forecasting, and monitoring efforts.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES
Robert Johansson, Ph.D., serves as Chief Economist at USDA. He is responsible for USDA’s agricultural forecasts and projections and for advising the Secretary on economic implications of alternative programs, regulations, and legislative proposals. He is responsible for the Office of the Chief Economist, the World Agricultural Outlook Board, the Office of Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit analysis, the Global Change Program Office, the Office of Environmental Markets, and the Office of Energy Policy and New Uses. He received a B.A. in economics from Northwestern University and then served with the U.S. Peace Corps as an extension agent in several African countries from 1990 to 1995. Johansson earned his Ph.D. in 2000 in agricultural economics at the University of Minnesota.

Ariel Dinar, Ph.D., is Professor of Environmental Economics and Policy at the School of Public Policy, University of California, Riverside. His worked during the years on various aspects of water economics at the field, farm, and regional levels. In recent years Dinar recognized the importance of strategic behavior of both individuals and agencies in managing water and the environment. As a result, his work focuses on the interaction between policy interventions and the behavior of those subject to such policies. Dinar founded and edits the Springer book series “Global issues in Water Policy” and two journals: “Strategic Behavior and the Environment” and “Water Economics and Policy.”

Steven Wallander, Ph.D., is an economist with USDA’s Economic Research Service with the Conservation and Environment Branch. His research focuses on land and water conservation policies. He studies behavioral responses to policies: the impact of contract structure and auction design on farmers’ program participation decisions, the potential for compensating behavior in response to subsidies for capital investment in conservation technology, and the role of climate and drought risk as a driver of program participation decisions. His research experience includes irrigation, climate change, USDA conservation programs, double cropping, cover crops, and biofuels. He received a Ph.D. in Environmental Economics from Yale University’s School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.
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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