KEEPING THE GOOD FOOD, GOOD
Role of the IR-4 Project in Preventing Pest Damage and Food Waste in Specialty Crops

Washington, DC—March 6, 2018, for Immediate Release – The IR-4 Project’s research role in reducing food waste while providing specialty crops growers with needed crop protection tools will be the subject of NCFAR’s seminar on Monday, March 12, at 10 am in 328A Russell Senate Office Building and again at noon in 1302 Longworth House Office Building. The presenter is Dr. Jerry Baron, IR-4 Project Executive Director, Rutgers University.

“The IR-4 Project continues to help specialty crop growers and food processors produce high quality fruits, vegetables, nuts and other products that contribute to a healthy diet. The dedicated scientists at IR-4 are passionate about ensuring that specialty crop farmers have safe and effective pest management technology to help feed the public,” says Baron.

“This presentation provides an excellent example of the value of federally funded food and agricultural research, extension, and education in producing the scientific outcomes and outreach needed to meet 21st century challenges and opportunities,” says Andy LaVigne, President of the National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (NCFAR).

Highlights: Over the next generation global population is expect to grow rapidly and reach 10 billion people by the year 2050. This massive population growth is occurring while the land for food production is decreasing. This grand challenge will require increasing agriculture productivity while reducing food waste to ensure that there is adequate food by year 2050. The IR-4 Project continues to contribute to our national efforts by reducing food waste in the production of fruits, vegetables, nuts, herbs and other specialty crops. Specifically, the IR-4 Project assists the specialty crop industries through the regulatory approval of safe and effective reduced risk pesticides, biopesticides and other modern crop protection technology. The IR-4 Project is needed because the crop protection industry focuses their research/development efforts in major crop markets that contributes adequate return on investment; leaving specialty crops often without adequate pest management solutions.

The seminar is open to the public and the media.

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The National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (NCFAR) 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. NCFAR’s Hill Seminar Series, now in its fourteenth year, regularly presents leading-edge researchers working to provide answers to pressing issues confronting the public and Congress. The Hill Seminar Series helps demonstrate the value of public investment in food and agricultural research—investment that returns 45 percent per year on average, and $20 in economic benefit from every $1 investment in food and ag research.

Go to http://www.ncfar.org/Hill_Seminar_Series.asp for more information about the seminar series and past topics. Interviews with NCFAR President Andy LaVigne are available by request. For additional information, go to www.ncfar.org; or contact Tom Van Arsdall, Executive Director, at tom@vanarsdall.com or (703) 509-4746.