Lunch~N~Learn SEMINAR

NATIONAL C-FAR
NATIONAL COALITION FOR FOOD & AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH (NCFAR)

Program:

THE USDA’S PREMIERE ECONOMIC RESEARCH INSTITUTION
ERS Economists Talk Research on Trade, Food Safety and Nutrition Policy

June 25, 2018
Welcome and Introduction

CARON GALA
NCFAR REPRESENTATIVE

Distinguished Speakers

DR. MARY BOHMAN
ADMINISTRATOR
ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE, USDA

DR. STEVEN ZAHNISER
AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIST
ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE, USDA

DR. TRAVIS MINOR
ECONOMIST
ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE, USDA

DR. JOANNE GUTHRIE
SENIOR RESEARCH NUTRITIONIST
ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE, USDA

Open Forum

Closing

CARON GALA

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.
ABSTRACT
The ERS mission is to anticipate trends and emerging issues in agriculture, food, the environment, and rural development; and to conduct high-quality, objective, economic research to inform and enhance public and private decision making. ERS shapes its research program and products to serve those who routinely make or influence public policy and program decisions. Examples:

- **International agricultural trade** has grown in real terms over the past two decades in response to rising incomes, increasing populations, and improved transportation and logistics. Many food safety and nutritional issues have a connection to international trade, as is evidenced by the recent melamine crisis in China and the linkage between Mexican feedstuff imports and domestic meat consumption, producers and consumers.

- **Food safety** affects every aspect of the food supply chain, from producers, to buyers and retailers, government regulators, and finally consumers. ERS research focuses on all aspects of food safety to better understand how the risk of foodborne illness underlies the decisions made across agricultural markets and to better inform those decisions moving forward.

- **Nutrition** is a cornerstone of health; it results from both an adequate supply of healthy foods and consumers’ food choices. ERS research examines both trends in the food supply and changes in consumer behavior, to better understand how we can inform public and private efforts to promote nutrition and health.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

**Mary Bohman, Ph.D.** is ERS Administrator, and has served in various management positions within ERS for the past 2 decades. Other public-sector positions held include details to the White House OSTP and to USDA's Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Ag Services. Mary was a Peace Corps Volunteer for cooperative development in Togo, West Africa.

**Steven Zahniser, Ph.D.** is an Agricultural Economist in the Market and Trade Economics Division, focusing on agricultural trade among Canada, Mexico, and the U.S., renegotiation of NAFTA, prospects for U.S.-Colombia agricultural trade, and hired farm labor in the U.S. and Mexico.

**Travis Minor, Ph.D.** is the Cross-Commodity Analyst for Specialty Crops in the Market and Trade Economics Division. Prior to ERS, he was Associate Director for Economics with FDA. His research focuses on food safety systems, farm structure and output, consumer health outcomes, and policy analysis.

**Joanne Guthrie, Ph.D.** is a Senior Research Nutritionist in the Food Economics Division. She previously worked with FDA and at several USDA agencies. She is a former Peace Corps Volunteer.
SEMINAR SERIES DESCRIPTION

NCFAR’s Seminar Series regularly presents leading-edge researchers to address pressing issues confronting the public and Congress. NCFAR and the Seminar Series serve as a resource to policymakers and staff.

Seminar Series Contributing Sponsors

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