SOIL HEALTH

Reducing Crop Insurance Liability & Creating Jobs

Washington, DC—September 5, 2018, for Immediate Release – Research on soil health will be the subject of NCFAR’s seminar at a noon luncheon on Monday, September 10 in 2253 Rayburn House Office Building and again in 328A Russell Senate Office Building at 2:30. The presenter is Dr. David Clay, South Dakota State University.

“Improved soil health has reduced crop insurance liability, produced a 1 billion dollar impact on South Dakota farm economies during the drought of 2012, and reduced erosion state-wide,” says Clay.

“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 past 25 years, soil organic carbon levels gradually increased more than 20% in production fields across the Corn Belt. This increasing level of carbon has improved the soils’ ability to resist droughts, reducing the need for additional irrigation and making fields more reliable for farmers. These improvements are largely the result of federal support for agriculture research in the Farm Bill and from investments in annual appropriations. Dr. Clay will discuss the significant consequences of improved soil health on economic and environmental stability on farms and economic liability of crop insurance.

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.