COMBATTING ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE
The Future Health of Humans, Animals and the Environment

Washington, DC – September 11, 2019, for Immediate Release –

The status of research on antimicrobial research will be the subject of a National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (NCFAR) seminar on Tuesday, September 17, at a noon luncheon in 1300 Longworth House Office Building and again at a 2:30 seminar in 328A Russell Senate Office Building. The presenter is Dr. Paul Plummer, DVM, Iowa State University. Plummer serves as Director of the Midwest AMR Consortium and Executive Director for the National Institute of Antimicrobial Resistance Research and Education (NIAMRRE).

“Antimicrobial resistance touches each of us in our daily lives,” says Plummer. “If we do not address the AMR issue, we risk losing many modern advances of medicine including organ transplants, chemotherapy and premature infant survival.”

“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 NCFAR.

Highlights: Bacteria are developing resistance faster than we are currently developing new antibiotics, leaving health professionals searching for alternative ways to fight off infections. Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) is shared between people, animals and the environment, and happens when bacteria develop the ability to defeat the drugs designed to kill them. In the United States, 23,000 people die every year from AMR-related illnesses. This growing public health threat has prompted action on a number of fronts to identify better alternatives to antibiotics, use of antibiotics, and prevention methods. This work is more than any one governmental agency, university, commodity group, or industry partner can undertake, and taking a One Health approach to combating this global crisis is key.

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.