SOY-FREE CHICKEN?
Role of Soybean Genetic Improvements as Part of U.S. Food Security

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The role of soybean genetic improvements in U.S. food security will be the subject of a National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (NCFAR) seminar on Friday, October 25, at a noon luncheon in 1300 Longworth House Office Building. The presenter is Dr. Katy Martin Rainey, Associate Professor of Soybean Genetics & Breeding in the Agronomy Department at Purdue University.

"It's a testimony to the importance of soybean to global food security that the crop is so prominent in the news for two distinct reasons: the trade talks, and as the basis of plant-based meats," says Rainey.

"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: The global plant-based protein market is expected to reach $14.32 billion by 2025. Soybean is the most important global source of plant-based protein. Although not typically consumed directly by humans, when processed into meal, oil, vegetable protein and other products soybean becomes extremely valuable. The Foundation for Food and Agricultural Research recently granted $1.5 million to match soybean farmers' investments to increase soybean nutritional and economic value. Much more could be done to make soybean more palatable as a human food. Soybean is also the fastest growing crop globally, but much remains to be discovered regarding its potential to expand. Genome-editing, -omic technologies, modeling and predictive analytics can accelerate variety development, data-enabled solutions, and ultimately profitability for farmers.

The seminar is open to the public and the media.

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.