SEMINAR SERIES DESCRIPTION

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

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NATIONAL C-FAR

THE NATIONAL COALITION FOR FOOD & AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Program:

THE ROAD TO 2012

History, Experience and Vision for Food and Agricultural Science

April 12, 2010
PROGRAM

Welcome

WILL FISHER
NATIONAL C-FAR MODERATOR

AAAS Report Ag Chapter

CARON GALA BIJL
AGRONOMY, CROP AND SOIL SCIENCE SOCIETIES

AAAS Riley Lecture

DR. RICHARD RIDGWAY
RILEY MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

Distinguished Speaker

THE HONORABLE MOLLY JAHN
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Open Forum

Closing

WILL FISHER

NATIONAL C-FAR 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. For additional information, go to www.ncfar.org; or contact Tom Van Arsdall, Executive Director at tom@vanarsdall.com.
ABSTRACT
The United States and the world face serious societal challenges in the areas of food, environment, energy, and health. Production agriculture is under pressure to produce more food on less land with fewer inputs and a smaller, more sustainable environmental footprint. This comes at a time when state and land-grant university budgets are shrinking and Federal discretionary spending is severely curtailed. In the 2008 Farm Bill, however, Congress gave the Department of Agriculture new tools to coordinate its science portfolio department-wide, including the creation of an Office of the Chief Scientist and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Secretary of Agriculture Vilsack has a strong commitment to investment in agricultural science and is working aggressively to use these tools to transform USDA into a world-class, 21st century scientific enterprise. This has generated tremendous optimism looking forward to the development of the 2012 Farm Bill, and to strengthening USDA’s rightful and historic place as premier center for scientific research.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY
Molly Jahn, Ph.D., was appointed Deputy Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics at USDA on November 9, 2009 and currently serves as Acting Under Secretary for the mission area. Jahn most recently served as Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Director of the Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station, where she also holds faculty appointments in the Departments of Genetics and Agronomy. During Jahn's tenure at UW Madison, extramural funding in the college nearly doubled, more than 50 new faculty were hired and funding for several major facilities was secured including the Wisconsin Energy Institute for sustainable and renewable energy research. Before moving to UW-Madison, Dr. Jahn established a highly recognized research career as a plant breeder and geneticist at Cornell University. Dr. Jahn's research has focused on the genetics, genomics and breeding of crop plants, releasing more than two dozen varieties currently grown commercially on six continents. She has also worked extensively in Africa, Asia and Latin America to link crop breeding objectives to improvement in human nutrition and income, and has held leadership roles in major international agricultural projects.