“DYNAMIC DUO!”
Agroforestry, Sustainable Agriculture Through the Blending of Trees and Agriculture

Washington, D.C., for immediate release — The featured speaker at a July 19 National C-FAR “Lunch~N~Learn” hill seminar was Andy Mason, Interim Director, USDA National Agroforestry Center.

“The Nation’s expectations of its farms, forests and ranches continue to increase,” said Mason. “The USDA National Agroforestry Center conducts research on how to design and strategically install agroforestry practices—the blending of trees and agriculture for more sustainable production—at the site, landscape, and regional scales to protect natural resources and enhance productivity on farms, forests and ranches.”

“We are pleased to help facilitate the necessary discussions about how multidisciplinary research and education can help attain long-term solutions for pressing agricultural issues,” said Chuck Conner, President of the National Coalition for Food & Agricultural Research (National C-FAR). “This presentation is an excellent example of how federally funded food and agricultural research and extension in cooperation with private sector initiatives can produce the scientific outcomes and outreach needed to meet 21st century challenges and opportunities.”

More information about the USDA National Agroforestry Center is available at www.unl.edu/nac. A pdf of the presentation used at the briefing is posted at http://www.ncfar.org/Hill_Seminar_Series_2010.asp.

Abstract: The Nation’s expectations of its farms, forests and ranches continue to increase. By extension, expectations from farmers, forest owners and ranchers are also increasing. Expectations include clean water and air, safe and healthy food, vibrant local economies, abundant wildlife, beautiful places to play and work, and now clean renewable energy and moderation of climate change. Agroforestry is the blending of trees and agriculture to enhance the sustainable production of food, fiber, energy and other useful products while protecting soil and water, diversifying and expanding local economies, providing homes for wildlife, and ensuring a more pleasing and healthy place to work and live. There are six categories of agroforestry practices: alley cropping, silvopasture, windbreaks/shelterbelts, forest farming, riparian forest buffers, and special applications. The USDA National Agroforestry Center (NAC) is a long standing partnership among the FS and NRCS, with its origins in the 1990 Farm Bill. NAC develops and delivers technology and tools on a broad suite of agroforestry practices, and conducts research on how to design and strategically install these practices at the site, landscape, and regional scales to protect natural resources and enhance productivity on farms, forests and ranches. NAC’s primary audience is the natural resource professionals who work with farmers, forest owners, ranchers, and communities throughout the nation.

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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. National C-FAR’s Hill Seminar Series, now entering its fifth year, regularly presents leading-edge researchers working to provide answers to pressing issues confronting the public and Congress. The Hill Seminar Series and Success Profiles help demonstrate the value of public investment in food and agricultural research—investment that returns 45 percent per year on average. Go to http://www.ncfar.org/Hill_Seminar_Series.asp for more information about the seminar series and past topics. Interviews with National C-FAR President Chuck Conner 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.