THE AIR WE BREATHE

Air Issues Associated with Animal Agriculture: A North American Perspective

Washington, DC – For Immediate Release – Air issues associated with large livestock production facilities is the subject of National C-FAR’s “Lunch~N~Learn” Hill Seminar on Monday, September 19, at noon in 1302 Longworth House Office Building. The featured speaker is Dr. Frank Mitloehner, Associate Professor and Associate Air Quality Extension Specialist at the University of California–Davis and Director for the UC–Davis Agricultural Air Quality Center.

“Hopefully we can help ‘clear the air’ on this important issue by sharing the best available science with all stakeholders,” says Mitloehner, an author of the CAST Issue Paper.

“This presentation provides an excellent example of the value of federally funded food and agricultural research in producing the scientific outcomes and outreach needed to meet 21st century challenges and opportunities,” says Chuck Conner, President of the National Coalition for Food & Agricultural Research (National C-FAR).

Large livestock production facilities create air quality issues that can result in ominous clouds of protest or favorable breezes that bring economic gains for the community. The purpose of this CAST Issue Paper is to go beyond the generalizations and accusations often associated with the air quality topic. Experts from six universities examine a large amount of data and focus their information and conclusions around the key livestock areas: swine, poultry, dairy, and beef. Their science-based analyses look at a wide scope of issues including (1) greenhouse gas emissions, (2) the logistics of manure storage facilities, (3) the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency efforts to monitor emissions, (4) economic implications, and (5) mitigation technologies and management practices. Federal, state, and even local regulation of air emissions from animal production has been steadily increasing, creating uncertainty for producers and the industries. This paper examines how to use science-based information to help all stakeholders involved in animal production as they strive to preserve resources and maintain the quality of life.

Dr. Mitloehner’s presentation will be available at http://www.ncfar.org/Hill_Seminar_Series.asp. The seminar is open to the public and the media.

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 in its sixth 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 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.

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