Media Advisory

THE PUBLIC RESEARCH AGENDA FOR AGRICULTURE

USDA’s Action Plan for Research, Education and Extension

Washington, DC – For Immediate Release – The new USDA action plan for research, education and extension is the subject of National C-FAR’s “Lunch–N–Learn” Hill Seminar on Monday, May 9, at noon in 1302 Longworth House Office Building. The featured speaker is Cathie Woteki, USDA’s Chief Scientist and Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics.

“USDA’s action plan for scientific research and education will help America maintain its global agricultural leadership,” says Woteki. “After meeting with stakeholders, both in and outside government, we have developed a plan that promotes coordination and cooperation within USDA’s science and research portfolio. This plan will focus our energies toward maximizing returns on the important investments our country is making in agricultural research, education, and extension.”

“This presentation provides excellent perspectives on 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).

Working with stakeholders and the research community, Woteki has led the effort to build an action plan for scientific research and education at USDA. The plan sets the agenda for reconfiguring USDA’s research portfolio to focus on top priorities and maximize the return on the public investment in agricultural research. Among its goals, the plan sets priorities to strengthen USDA’s efforts to maintain a safe, secure and nutritious food and water supply, develop bioenergy technology, facilitate agricultural adaptation to a changing climate, and attract and educate the young people who will keep this agricultural engine running in the years ahead.

Catherine (Cathie) Woteki, PhD, is Under Secretary for United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Research, Education, and Economics (REE) mission area, as well as the Department's Chief Scientist. Her responsibilities include oversight of the four agencies that comprise REE, the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA), Economic Research Service (ERS), and National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS.). Her presentation will be available at http://www.ncfar.org/Hill_Seminar_Series.asp. The seminar is open to the public and the media.

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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 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. 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.