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Program:

THE PUBLIC RESEARCH AGENDA
FOR AGRICULTURE

“USDA’s Action Plan for
Research, Education and Extension”

June 6, 2011
PROGRAM

Welcome and Introduction

CHUCK CONNER
NATIONAL C-FAR PRESIDENT

Distinguished Speaker

THE HONORABLE CATHIE WOTEKI
UNDER SECRETARY FOR
RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND ECONOMICS
AND CHIEF SCIENTIST
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Open Forum

Closing

CHUCK CONNER

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

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.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

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.) The National Agriculture Library and National Arboretum also fall under this mission area. Before joining USDA, Dr. Woteki served as Global Director of Scientific Affairs for Mars, Incorporated. From 2002 to 2005, she was Dean of Agriculture and Professor of Human Nutrition at Iowa State University, where she was also the head of the Agriculture Experiment Station. Dr. Woteki served as the first Under Secretary for Food Safety at USDA from 1997 to 2001. Prior to going to USDA, Dr. Woteki served in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy as Deputy Associate Director for Science from 1994 to 1996. Dr. Woteki's research interests include nutrition, food safety policy, risk assessment, and health survey design and analysis. She is the author of over sixty refereed scientific articles and twelve books and technical reports. In 1999, Dr. Woteki was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, where she has chaired the Food and Nutrition Board (2003 to 2005). She received her M.S. and Ph.D. in Human Nutrition from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (1974). Dr. Woteki received her B.S. in Biology and Chemistry from Mary Washington College (1969).