



THE CENTER FOR
FOOD INTEGRITYSM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: J.J. Jones

JJ.Jones@FoodIntegrity.org

(816) 556-3131

The Center for Food Integrity is Forming a Coalition for Responsible Gene Editing in Agriculture

KANSAS CITY, Mo. -- Sept. 12, 2016 – The Center for Food Integrity (CFI) announces the formation of the Coalition for Responsible Gene Editing in Agriculture, a partnership of diverse stakeholders committed to building public trust in gene editing for agriculture and food production.

“Without a doubt, gene editing is one of the transformational innovations of the decade and has tremendous potential to benefit society and agriculture,” said Terry Fleck, executive director of CFI.

Science Magazine referred to a specific gene editing technology as the 2015 Breakthrough of the Year, and the MIT Technology Review listed it as one of its “10 Innovations That Could Change the World.” The technology has the potential to improve animal health and well-being through resistance to disease, reduction of the need for painful procedures, and development of desirable traits. Gene editing can also be used to increase agriculture’s productivity and help sustainably meet the demands of a growing global population, said Fleck.

“The new coalition will consider key steps to ensure the responsible use of the technology that earns consumer trust. The goals of the coalition include developing stewardship guidelines, engaging stakeholders and involving a broad-base of those engaged in gene editing,” Fleck said. These efforts will be guided by core values that address food safety, sustainability, environmental impact, animal well-being, transparency, science, economic viability, consumer trust and respectful collaboration. “While there has been limited consumer or food system discussion to date, transparency and responsible practices will be critical to earn trust in this important technology.”

As with past coalitions, CFI will be recruiting a leadership team of diverse stakeholders to include academia, plant and animal genetic companies, agriculture and food system stakeholders and NGOs with a focus on public interest. This leadership team will develop the purpose, objective and scope of the coalition’s work. To learn more about the Coalition for Responsible Gene Editing in Agriculture and how to become involved, contact J.J. Jones, (816) 556-3131 or JJ.Jones@FoodIntegrity.org.

###

The Center for Food Integrity is a not-for-profit organization that helps today’s food system earn consumer trust. Our members and project partners, who represent the diversity of the food system, are committed to providing accurate information and working together to address important issues in food and agriculture. The Center does not lobby or advocate for individual companies or brands. For more information, visit www.foodintegrity.org.

816 880-0204

2900 NE BROOKTREE LANE STE 200
GLADSTONE, MO 64119