



Friday Notes is designed to enhance communication among various agricultural sectors, educators, students, and the public who are interested in a variety of plant, animal, food, and environmental issues. *Friday Notes* advocates the pursuit of credible, unbiased, science-based information. Material contained in linked articles is from the original authors and does not necessarily reflect the views of CAST.

In This Issue..... Click to Read

[New CAST President-Elect and Summary of Activities--P. 2](#)

[Animal Agriculture News](#)

[Food Science and Safety News](#)

[Plant and Environment News](#)

[International News](#)

[General Interest News](#)

The Summer Sky



Keep looking up during the next month to catch some [great night sky viewing](#)--and expect Jupiter to be in the limelight.

Join the FDA for World Food Safety Day

The first [World Food Safety Day](#) is Friday, June 7. The United Nations has declared this day to draw global attention to the health consequences of contaminated food and water.

When in Rome



This Iowa State leadership program group have worked diligently during

June 7, 2019

Working on Communication

Helping the public understand agriculture and food production

A bit of playful misinformation can be fun. When we were young, my brothers and I did go "cuckoo for Cocoa-Puffs," and we thought Trix could only be eaten by kids. But truly misleading information can be confusing or even dangerous, and the world of agriculture deals with its effects.

CAST members work hard to communicate credible, science-based material through publications, social media, blogs, videos, and newsletters. For example, this recent blog provides "[6 Tips to Avoid Spreading Misinformation](#)."

Many organizations, societies, companies, and individuals also contribute to clear, factual news about agriculture, science, and food production. The [10 respected BCCA recipients](#) have social media outlets and publications that help enlighten the public. We also encounter many articles from those who are trying to communicate about ag and science. Here are four examples from this week.

** This University of Florida nutritionist explains [how to spot sketchy information](#)--especially on social media.

** This writer says a "language barrier" that includes technical jargon [can impede correct interpretations of scientific information](#)--and it raises anxiety about useful innovations.

** An Arizona State University study suggests that the best way to change anti-GMO attitudes is to [market the benefits of the science](#).

** This expert says that [misinformation and overregulation](#) are stopping or slowing down the development of potentially life-saving products.

Science isn't finished until it's communicated



News and Views

the past six months to research the topics of plant-based diets and *in vitro* meat with a focus on the sustainability of the global livestock sector. They are [continuing their study in Rome](#), in conjunction with the FAO from the United Nations.

Crop Protection

The University of Kentucky will host a [Pest Management Field Day](#) July 2 to help producers make weed and disease management decisions in corn and soybeans. Also, [click here](#) to access the CAST publication *Crop Protection Contributions toward Agricultural Productivity*.



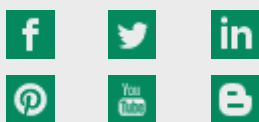
Feedlot Boot Camp

Kansas State University students now have the opportunity to develop their knowledge, skills, and [professional relationships in feedlot management](#) as part of a new program.

Send in Ideas

CAST [welcomes suggestions](#) for future publications and projects.

CAST Social Media



Dealing with Controversy: The dairy farmers at Fair Oaks Farms [released a video to counter claims](#) made by an animal-rights activist group during an "undercover investigation."

Government Programs: In this podcast, an ag expert speaks about how the increase in ["prevent plant acres" directly impacts ag retailers](#). And in this article, USDA officials discuss the Market Facilitation Program and "prevented planting insurance"--[more details are coming soon](#).

Agriculture and Technology: Three experts share their [ideas about the future of farming and tech](#).

From "American Farmer" to "FarmHer": Many shows--on TV or through streaming services--try to give us a glimpse of what farming can be like. This farm blogger [recommends her favorite ones](#).

News from the Far Side of the Barn

Bigfoot, Hair, and the FBI: The [FBI released documents](#) from the 1970s about "Bigfoot hair." No, this has nothing to do with shags, wedges, or mullets.

Naked and Not Afraid: We've promoted the naked mole rat's scientific wonders--and good looks--before. Now the critter might lead to [discoveries in pain treatment for people](#).



Fastest Bite in the Animal Kingdom: Even a slow-motion camera struggles to keep up with the hairy frogfish's bite.

A Whale of a Smile (video): Here's an update about [Norway and a seemingly happy "Russian" beluga whale](#). In another video, we learn of a beluga whale--also in Norway--that [retrieved a smartphone](#) dropped by a girl into the sea.

CAST Election and Activities

David Baltensperger Selected as President-Elect

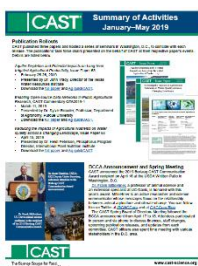
In a recent CAST election, Dr. David Baltensperger--Head of the Soil and Crop Sciences Department at Texas A&M University--was chosen as the President-Elect for 2019-2020.

Baltensperger has been a member of CAST for more than 20 years. Since 2014, he has been involved as the board representative for the Crop Science Society of America. In 2017, he joined the Board of Directors as the Society Liaison. He also served as the Task Force Board Liaison for the recently released issue paper, [Aquifer Depletion and Potential Impacts on Long-term Irrigated Agricultural Productivity](#).

At the conclusion of CAST's fall board meeting in October, Baltensperger will officially assume his responsibilities as President-Elect. In 2020-2021, he will become the 48th president of CAST, a singular honor and responsibility dating back to 1972, when Dr. Charles A. Black, Dr. Norman Borlaug, and other committed scientists spearheaded the movement to "bring science-based information to policymaking and the public."



Dr. Baltensperger said, "I am committed to a strong focus on the science behind our work and want to continue the active engagement of our work groups." [Read the entire press release here.](#)



CAST Summary of Activities

This report provides a look at "what's been happening" with CAST so far this year. Check out publications, presentations, the BCCA announcement, the spring meeting, staff changes, new members, and forthcoming publications. [Click here to access the summary.](#)



Friday Notes News Categories

Photos courtesy of the Agricultural Research Service (top masthead); TopLatest News (globe at right). P. 1 Jupiter pic from washingtonpost.com, group photo from caryndawson, communication graphic from slideshare.net, and fish pic from digg.com. Animal Sec. Mitloehner photo from ucdavis.edu and bison poster from gypsyster.com. Food Sec. pig pic from dailymail.co.uk and burger pic from comicvine.com. Plant Sec. flood pic from newsdeeply.com and corn pic from ars.com. Inter. Sec. cactus photo from bbc.com and duck pic from animalzoo.ro.jpg. Gen. Sec. dog pic from npr.org and sandstorm pic from texastech.com. Unless otherwise noted, photos courtesy of the USDA Agricultural Research Service.



Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

Editing Out Bird Flu? Scientists may be making progress in moving toward [genetically engineering chickens to be resistant](#) to bird flu. The [report is available here](#).

AFS Effects: With African swine fever affecting Asia and elsewhere, this article looks at the [implications for the U.S.](#) animal protein and feed sectors.

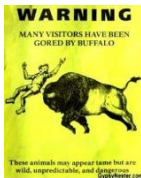
Poop to Power: This farmer hooked his dairy into a huge California renewable energy project, a network of farms that turns the [manure gas from 35,000 cows into a biofuel](#).

Know Your Chickens: According to a [recent survey by the National Chicken Council](#), three-quarters of its respondents are knowledgeable about how chickens are produced, but sustainability topics are less known.

EPA Ruling on Emissions: Agriculture groups are applauding the EPA's final rule [exempting farmers from reporting routine livestock emissions](#) to state and local emergency response authorities.



Dr. Frank Mitloehner recently highlighted some of the major [misconceptions pertaining to livestock and emission levels](#). The respected UC-Davis professor is the [2019 BCCA honoree](#).



Buffaloed (video): While on a state park trail, a Utah man was [gored and trampled by a bison](#). He survived, but some tourists don't.

Baby Bison (video): For a safer way to enjoy bison, catch this clip of the [first baby bison of the season](#) spotted in Custer State Park.

Food Science and Safety News

Making the Gorgonzola Wheel (video): The Gorgonzola industry is worth more than \$800 million, and [only 29 dairies in the world are certified](#) to produce the cheese.

Super Foods and More: In this recent podcast, Jayson Lusk (Purdue and [2017 BCCA recipient](#)) talks about the [future of food and what we need to know](#) about what we eat.

Urban Food Forests: In order to combat "food deserts," Atlanta, Georgia, is [building a food forest](#) that will help place 85% of its residents within half a mile of fresh food by 2021.

Historical Perspective (related to above): Read about previous and contemporary initiatives to provide food security in urban environments from the CAST task force report [Urban and Agricultural Communities: Opportunities for Common Ground](#).

Red Meat, White Meat, and Health: A new study looked at the [effects of red meat, white meat, and nonmeat protein sources](#) on certain health conditions. Some focused on the [white-meat, red-meat debate](#).



Burger Time: While some of America's [most expensive burgers](#) look like works of art, others are in the realm of "pub food."

They Have the Meats? Arby's announced that the rumors are not true--it is [not one of the restaurant companies interested](#) in offering a "nonmeat burger."



New York City officials seized 46 ice cream trucks in "[Operation Melttdown](#)." The arrests were mainly because of long-standing traffic violations.

Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

Science and the Hygiene Hypothesis: University researchers identified an [anti-inflammatory fat in a soil-dwelling bacterium](#) that may boost the hygiene hypothesis--a theory suggesting microorganisms can benefit health.

Gettin' Dirty Is Good for You (related to above): This blog contends that [growing up on a farm](#)--and getting outside in the pollen, dirt, and germs--could actually be the best medicine for what ails us.

A Boost for Ethanol: The [EPA lifted restrictions on summer sales of E15](#), checking off a top policy priority for corn growers and the biofuel industry.

More Than a Seed: National initiatives are working to [protect and revitalize numerous varieties of seeds](#), as various Native American tribes try to provide healthy foods and keep alive cultural and spiritual connections with nature.



Floods, drought, weeds, disease, and more-- this blog looks at "[Spring Planting in a Year of Cosmic Challenges](#)." It also offers reflections about planting seasons of the past.

Carbon Farming Initiatives: The state of New York is using budget proposals and bills in an attempt to help farmers [build soil health to sequester carbon](#).



It's OK to "Trash Talk" in the Corn Industry: Have a look at some of the [corn-related jargon and vocabulary](#) out there with the tassels.

Epigenetic Memory: Plants use [memory at the molecular level](#) to respond to stress, and a University of Kentucky researcher received a USDA grant to study it.

International News

Grounds for a Good Cup (video): A Berlin-based company has been creating [coffee cups from recycled coffee grounds](#) for the past three years. (Related link in caption at right.)

Brazilian Pork on the Move: Brazil has grabbed some [pork-export momentum](#) due to African swine fever--especially in Asian markets.

Arboreal Graduation Requirement: Filipino students may face a new requirement before they can graduate--[plant 10 trees to save the planet](#).

Ruminant Farming Project: A Swiss agtech start-up is awaiting the result of scientific trials and commercial pilot projects before fully launching its [methane reduction product for ruminants](#) in select European markets.



This Mexican researcher discovered a way to turn [cactus leaves into a biodegradable material](#) with similar properties to plastic.



Duck and Uncover: Running an [open-air duck and chicken farm](#) in South Africa sounds idyllic, but producers face unique challenges.

Russian Food in China: A [Russian chain restaurant opened](#) its first Chinese branch, and it is attracting customers with its exotic blend of cuisine, music, and culture.

General Interest News

Farm Innovation (video): The state of New York and Cornell University are organizing a competition to spark development, [innovative ideas, and technologies farmers can use](#).

Plastic--Not So Fantastic? This study says it is possible that humans may be consuming anywhere from 39,000 to 52,000 microplastic particles a year--but [scientists are not sure about the effects](#).

Just Like Humans: Just as humans' genes evolved to meet our geographical cultural desires (e.g., milk-drinking cultures vs. non), a new review notes animals experience similar "[gene-culture coevolution](#)" processes.

Will They Eat It for Us, Too? Walmart is opening a [new home-delivery service](#), and the orders will be directly placed in the consumer's refrigerator. The workers will wear body cameras clipped to their chests



Cue the Sandstorm Techno Song (videos): As these videos show, a [wall of dirt hit Lubbock, Texas](#), with impressive force.



These conservationists are taking an unconventional approach to finding and protecting threatened turtles--[using hunting dogs to help](#).

CAST Information

Check out CAST's page at the [YouTube site](#) to view highly regarded ag-science videos about probiotics, food safety, and water issues--or the latest video dealing with proposed mandatory labeling of GMO food items.



CAST provides Friday Notes as a benefit to its members. Please do not forward, edit, copy, or distribute the Notes in any form to nonmembers without the express permission of the CAST Executive Vice President Kent Schescke (kschescke@cast-science.org). Instead, please encourage your colleagues to join CAST and thereby become eligible for all membership benefits. Contact Melissa Sly at 515-292-2125, ext. 232 or msly@cast-science.org, or [CLICK HERE](#) for CAST membership information.

Societies, Companies, and Nonprofit Organizations Serving on the CAST Board of Representatives

- * Agricultural & Applied Economics Association
- * American Association of Avian Pathologists
- * American Association of Bovine Practitioners
- * American Bar Association, Section of Environment, Energy, & Resources-Agricultural Management
- * American Dairy Science Association
- * American Farm Bureau Federation
- * American Meat Science Association
- * American Meteorological Society, Committee on Agricultural and Forest Meteorology
- * American Seed Trade Association
- * American Society for Nutrition Nutritional Sciences Council
- * American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers
- * American Society of Agronomy



- * American Society of Animal Science
- * American Society of Plant Biologists
- * American Veterinary Medical Association
- * Aquatic Plant Management Society
- * BASF Corporation
- * Cal Poly State University
- * Corteva Agriscience, Agriculture Division of DowDuPont
- * CropLife America
- * Crop Science Society of America
- * Entomological Society of America
- * Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy
- * Land O'Lakes
- * Bayer

- * National Cattlemen's Beef Association, a Contractor to the Beef Checkoff
- * National Corn Growers Association/Iowa Corn Promotion Board
- * National Milk Producers Federation
- * National Pork Board
- * North Carolina Biotechnology Center
- * North Central Weed Science Society
- * Northeastern Weed Science Society
- * Poultry Science Association
- * Rural Sociological Society
- * Society for In Vitro Biology
- * Soil Science Society of America
- * Syngenta Crop Protection
- * The Fertilizer Institute
- * Tuskegee University
- * Tyson Foods
- * United Soybean Board
- * University of Nevada-Reno
- * Weed Science Society of America
- * Western Society of Weed Science

CAST, through its network of experts, assembles, interprets, and communicates credible, balanced, science-based information to policymakers, the media, the private sector, and the public.

Members of CAST's Education Program

- * Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo
- * Cornell University
- * Iowa State University
- * Kansas State University
- * Mississippi State University
- * North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University
- * North Carolina State University
- * Purdue University
- * Texas A&M University College of Ag & Life Sciences
- * The Ohio State University
- * Tuskegee University
- * University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture
- * University of California-Davis
- * University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences
- * University of Kentucky
- * University of Missouri-Columbia
- * University of Nebraska Agricultural Research Division
- * University of Nevada-Reno College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources



Dan Gogerty (Managing Communications Editor)
Kimberly Nelson (Communications and Social Media Specialist)
The Council for Agricultural Science and Technology
4420 West Lincoln Way
Ames, Iowa 50014-3447
Phone: 515-292-2125, ext. 222 (Dan) and 230 (Kimberly)
E-mail: dgogerty@cast-science.org and knelson@cast-science.org



**** With assistance from Megan Wickham (Managing Scientific Editor)**

