

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.

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An Otherworldly Sea



Some say the luminescent blue comes from a type of algae called sea sparkle--and it turns a bright color when it is disturbed.

Swine Day Agenda

The eighth [annual Iowa Swine Day](#)-- June 27 on the Iowa State University campus--has a program packed with highly regarded speakers, including [Dr. Frank Mitloehner](#), the 2019 BCCA honoree.

Ag Science Teaching

Courses offered through the Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education will [qualify instructors to teach the material this fall](#), with the potential of reaching 1,500 students during the school year.

Kids on the Farm



Twice a year, the workers at the Southwest Purdue Agriculture Center

May 31, 2019

Weather Woes in Grain Country

Soggy ground affects more than just planting schedules

Farmers can't get into fields, planting schedules are disrupted, and grain prices are on a roller-coaster ride. But the severe weather plaguing much of the country has many other direct and indirect effects. From health concerns to economic pressures, agriculture and food production are facing many challenges:



From floods to markets, farmers are facing many storm clouds.

- ** This report looks at "the [slowest corn planting since at least 1980](#)," and this article [reviews the weekly crop reports](#), and this [USDA](#) site provides links to crop projections.
- ** Kansas State University weather specialists [predict that heavy rainfall patterns will continue](#) into June, but a USDA meteorologist says [improving weather could follow](#).
- ** University of Arkansas officials report that many [farmers are moving equipment and livestock](#) to avoid rising rivers.
- ** This University of Missouri specialist says [livestock will be exposed to unique hazards](#) created by flood waters.
- ** Farther downstream, Mississippi and other states face "historic floods." They predict it will take [weeks or months for floodwaters to recede](#).

The extreme conditions are also tied in with trade, tariff, and economic situations. The [U.S.-China trade war](#) is a factor. Many farmers need to make decisions about the [Market Facilitation Program](#) and the [prevented plant coverage program](#).

News and Views

Twisters: [Tornado activity](#) in the United States is [on a record pace](#) for the month of May--487 confirmed and counting.

USMCA and Threatened Tariffs: While the Trump Administration has [submitted the U.S. Mexico Canada Agreement to Congress](#), the President also [announced possible tariffs on Mexico](#) designed to deal with the border situation.

Agriculture Excluded? The European Union's top trade official insists that the [agricultural sector cannot be included in negotiations](#) on a new trade agreement with the United States, as the U.S. has requested.

Debate about Mergers: A [proposed bill would temporarily halt the merger](#) of large food and agribusiness corporations.

Meat Survey: An international study suggests many people have

[open the farm to elementary school students](#), "so they can see how a farm operates."

Ag Careers

According to this employment resource, more than 250 job profiles are available to [people interested in a career in agriculture](#).

Beef and Tech Conference

During a recent tech conference in Kentucky, attendees listened to a [variety of topics impacting beef producers](#) from across the globe.

Send in Ideas



GOT AN IDEA?

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

CAST Social Media



[positive attitudes toward GM meat](#) from cattle, and they are willing to consume it.

News from the Far Side of the Barn

Cheesy and Painful (video): Male and female [competitive cheese chasers rolled into action](#) again. This link [explains the mayhem](#).



Panda in White (video): A [rare all-white panda](#) has been captured on camera in a nature reserve in southwest China.

Doin' the Duck Walk: If your commute seems long, have some sympathy for these motorists in Bangladesh held up by a seemingly [unending conga line of ducks](#).

The Annual British Cheese Rolling Chase is back and as painfully crazy as ever (see links at upper left).

Many "Happy Fridays" to You, Carol

Carol Gostele retiring from CAST

Carol Gostele has edited countless publications, blogs, newsletters, and other documents for CAST, but around the office, she is most known for her beaming smile and infectious laugh. From the beginning of her "Happy Monday" greeting to her "Happy Friday" end-of-the-week tone, she has approached work and play with a calm, dedicated, fun-loving spirit. CAST is losing its Managing Scientific Editor, and staff members are saying goodbye to a colleague who has added much to a positive, productive atmosphere in the office.



Carol began working with CAST in August 2010, and a rough estimate shows that she played a key role in 20 issue papers, 10 commentaries, 2 task force reports, 2 special reports, 9 annual reports, and many Ag quickCASTs. She also worked on impact reports, summary of activities reports, the 40th anniversary booklet, and minutes from numerous work group and board meetings. Add to this list the fact that almost anything that needed an editor's eye might turn up on her desk. Press releases, conference brochures, important email messages--and Carol proofread approximately 412 editions of *Friday Notes* and more than 440 blogs.

Although Carol will continue to do a limited amount of online freelance editing, she has plenty of hobbies and fun activities in her "retirement" plans. She will no doubt establish a frequent-flyer account between Iowa and Arizona where a new granddaughter seems to enjoy her Grandma's attention--even the guitar strumming and sing-a-longs. Not many infants can join in a rendition of "Go Cubs Go."



CAST EVP Kent Schescke said, "Carol's dedication is reflected in the quality and professionalism of the CAST publications that have been produced during her time here." All staff members agree that her professionalism was blended with a positive attitude and a wonderful sense of humor. [Click here to read the entire blog about Carol](#).

Click here to view [photos from the retirement gathering](#) held at the CAST office on Thursday, May 30.

Photos courtesy of the Agricultural Research Service (top center); TopLatest News (globe at right). P. 1 ocean pic from dailymail.co.uk, kids on farm photo from purdue.edu, tornado pic from bbc.com, and cheese hill photo from nbcnews.com. Animal Sec. cow pic from drovers.com and chicken pic from dailygreen.co. Food Sec. frozen pic from me.me and pizza pic from blogspot.jpg. Plant Sec. apple art pic from pinterest.com and map from nytimes.com. Inter. Sec. volcano pic from express.co.uk and plant pic from sciencenews.org. Gen. Sec. cow boy pic from purdue.edu. Unless otherwise noted, photos courtesy of the USDA Agricultural Research Service.



Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

Swine Show: More than 1,000 youth from 32 states will be competing for top honors--and [demonstrating their hard work and talent](#)--at The Exposition on June 4-7 in Des Moines.

Dairy and Beef: Dairy farmers are realizing that their approximately breeding-age heifers and millions of cows can [generate profit from more than just milk](#)--specialized cattle can be sent to the feedlots.

Another Country Hit with ASF: The [first case of African swine fever](#) has officially been reported in North Korea, near the country's border with China.

Antimicrobial Policies: The USDA released two [studies that examined antimicrobial use and stewardship](#) on beef feedlots and large swine operations during 2016--before the FDA implemented policy changes in 2017.

Virtual Fences: The Ohio State University and a company plan to implement research trials to determine the efficacy and economics of a special "[smart collar system for livestock](#)."

Army Veteran Producing Specialty Beef: This wagyu beef producer in Missouri is proud that his farm is 100% [veteran owned and operated](#).



A wide variety of photos was submitted for the "[momma cow](#)" contest.



A Boost for the Birds: A new study suggests adding the mineral selenium to poultry feed may [boost the birds immune responses](#) to diseases such as avian influenza.

Small-town Hopes: A pork packing plant in rural Iowa is hiring 900 workers, and the small town of Eagle Grove hopes it will [keep their community and school afloat](#).

Food Science and Safety News

You Say Potato, We Say Too Expensive (video): These specialty potatoes are [among the world's most expensive foods](#).

Chocolate Fragrance--and Odor: Scientists have sniffed out the [chemicals that give some dark chocolates their smell](#)--from a vanilla fragrance to a vinegary odor.

Questions about "Plant-based Protein": Former U.S. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman says the contention that plant-based protein is "better than actual meat" is [very much an open question](#).

Mediterranean Diet Claims: Research from the American Psychological Association claims that in many respects, [the Mediterranean Diet](#) is better for mind, body, and planetary health.

Why Eggs Are Still "Incredible": According to this site, eggs are natural, and they [provide quality proteins](#).



Best Pizza Joints? This site chose the "[best pizza in every U.S. state](#)." Let the pizza debate begin.

Pizzas Breaking Bad: This gallery of [six weird pizzas from around the world](#) includes ones made with baked beans, canned tuna, and waffles.



Candy does not count, but new research indicates that [some frozen fruits and vegetables contain as many vitamins](#)--and sometimes more--than fresh food.

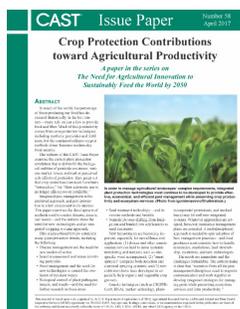
Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

Berry-picking Robot (video): The world's first raspberry-picking robot seems slow and deliberate now, but designers [expect it to harvest thousands of berries a day](#).

Hemp Bill Passes: Along with the states listed in last week's newsletter, [Florida passed a bill](#) to create an agricultural hemp program.

Flies in the Orchard (related link in caption at right): This Cornell University doctoral student is producing research that helps apple growers better understand the [role flies can play in the overall health of their orchard ecosystem](#).

Pesticide Use in the U.S.: According to this report, glyphosate is the [most-used pesticide on U.S. crops](#), and atrazine comes in second.



Neonic Bill: The U.S. House approved a bill that would [limit the use of a class of pesticides called neonicotinoids](#). The bill exempts pet products and seeds treated with neonicotinoids that are commonly used by farmers growing corn and soy.

Pesticide Use (related to above links): Check out these three CAST publications: (1) [Crop Protection Contributions toward Agricultural Productivity](#) (2) [The Contributions of Pesticides to Pest Management in Meeting the Global Need for Food Production by 2050](#), and (3) [Why Does Bee Health Matter? The Science Surrounding Honey Bee Health Concerns and What We Can Do About It](#).



Apple art is intriguing, as is [the history of the fruit](#)--with roots reaching back to the Silk Road and beyond.

International News

Ag Opportunities Down Under (video): Agriculture offers a range of career opportunities in Australia, and this video explores many of these opportunities and [describes how vital agriculture is for everyone](#).

Appealing to Millennial Farmers: Agricultural officers on motorbike have been deployed [in Africa to educate farmers about best practices](#), and they hope to "make farming sexy."

Swine Update: [Vietnam culled a further 500,000 pigs](#) to tackle an outbreak of African swine fever, taking the total killed so far to 1.7 million. Pork accounts for 75% of total meat consumption in the Asian country.

Expanding Markets: Japan lifted age restrictions on beef exported by the United States and Canada, and the USDA estimates this could [increase U.S. beef and beef product imports to Japan](#) by up to \$200 million annually.

The Farming Life: When hunter-gatherers in the Philippines [adopt farming practices](#), work hours are extended and the shift affects women more than men.



Bali Eruption in the Night Sky (video): This photographer documents the amazing [eruption of Mount Agung](#) in Bali, Indonesia.

Weird Livestock and Isolated Sea Mammals: Auckland Island animals have lived in [relative isolation for almost 200 years](#), so they might be especially interesting to study regarding evolution and adaptive behaviors.



The Acid Test: Some herbaceous shrubs living on rocky mountains in Brazil use [roots equipped with fine hairs and acids](#) to extract key nutrients.

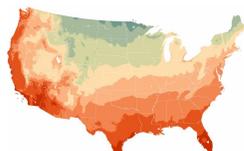
General Interest News

Savings, Soil, and the Realities of Farming (video): These farmers are using [economic and environmental ideas](#) that work for them.

Mosquitoes, Spiders, and Malaria: A fungus--genetically enhanced to produce spider toxin--can reportedly [kill huge numbers of the mosquitoes](#) that spread malaria.

Views of Precision Farming: This report provides a 360-degree [overview of the global precision farming situation](#)--with special emphasis on drivers, restraints, opportunities, and markets.

Women in Agriculture (opinion): According to this article, [women own half the farmland in the United States](#) and nearly 60% of farms have at least one woman at the helm--but a gender wage gap exists. This editorial looks at several factors.



Growing Bananas and Coffee in Duluth?! Data released by NOAA show that [warming trends are shifting north](#)--gardeners might be able to plant more varieties of produce than a decade ago.



This animal sciences and agribusiness major at Purdue [found his passion while working on the wide open spaces of cattle ranches in the West.](#)

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.



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- * National Milk Producers Federation
- * National Pork Board
- * North Carolina Biotechnology Center



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