



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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A Matter of Timing



This photographer was at the right place, right time--but the sea lion wasn't. The [whale accidentally scooped the sea lion](#) up in its search for krill.

CAST Student Member Spotlight: Q&A

Last month [we talked to Hannah](#), a recent Iowa State grad, regarding what ag issues she cares about and why she is a CAST member.

Borlaug Blog

Check out a recent Borlaug Blog from the World Food Prize--this entry is from a [George Washington Carver intern](#).

Organic Field Day

Iowa State University will host an Organic Field Day August 20 to look at research, challenges, soil-building tactics, and [best management practices for various crops](#).

Corn in the Capital

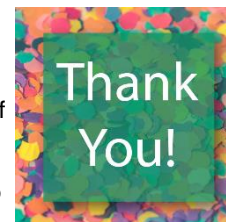
August 2, 2019

Membership Month is Over, But We're Not Done Celebrating You

Well, folks, we wrapped up another membership month, but there's something we want to say:

We are able to stay true to our mission because of members like you. Your support makes it possible to work with leading scientists and experts in food sciences and agriculture. And we are able to keep our status as a trusted source for food, agricultural, and environmental issues because of

you--thank you.



For nearly 50 years, we've found new ways to [communicate agricultural issues](#) and reach out to various audiences to [keep them in the loop](#) about ag-based news. Now, we are looking at the next wave of scientists who will work on critical issues affecting our industry and those close to it ([Read more about our latest efforts on Pg. 2](#)).

We hope you join us as we find [new, engaging ways to communicate](#) accurate, science-based information to those who need it most. Don't forget to check out our monthly membership spotlight on our blog also (see sidebar at left for the latest member Q&A).

News and Views

Trade Talks and Agriculture: The United States and China offer [contrasting views on trade war talks](#), and statements indicate that an end to the impasse is not near. In a surprise move, President Trump [announced fresh tariffs](#) on an additional \$300 billion worth of Chinese goods, starting in September.

USDA Payouts: The Agriculture Department overhauled the [Market Facilitation Program](#) to broaden the number of farmers who would receive aid. Some dispute the wide disparities in payment rates.

Sponsored by the Nebraska Corn Board, nine [young leaders visited Washington, D.C.](#), to learn about corn policy, explore American agriculture, and visit with congressional leaders.

Arborcultural Chat

In this podcast, University of Kentucky experts discuss the [importance of trees in creating a healthy urban ecosystem](#).

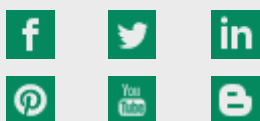
Drip Irrigation

Kansas State University will hold the [SDI Technology Field Day](#) August 7 to mark its 30 years of research about subsurface drip irrigation.

Send in Ideas

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

CAST Social Media



More about Gene Editing and Agriculture: This story contends that ["farming is headed toward a gene-editing revolution,"](#) with hopes that the public comes along too.

Hypoxia Task Force: Land-grant universities in 12 states (including the University of Arkansas and Mississippi State University) are working alongside the Hypoxia Task Force to [address excess nitrogen and phosphorus entering the Gulf of Mexico](#).

News from the Far Side of the Barn

Down-on-the-farm TikTok (video): This British farmer shares popular posts about Trigger the Pig, Cuthbert the Goose, and his charity-based efforts to [teach school children about rural life](#).

When Scar Drops By (video): *The Lion King* may be a popular film, but your kids should [not turn their backs on a real lion](#).

The Tweeting Tree: With a little help from scientists, an oak tree in the Harvard Forest is [sharing updates about its life](#). Lots of facts--not much about its personal relationships or favorite music.



Farmer uses TikTok for "15 seconds of madness" on the farm (link at left).

CAST Announces 2nd Annual Science Communication Scholarship

Last year, CAST introduced a scholarship to support the next wave of science communicators, specifically in the areas of agriculture, veterinary medicine, and food science. This year, our scholarship is getting more hands on.

The [CAST Science Communication Scholarship](#) is open to graduate-level students enrolled at the University of Arkansas--the site of this year's CAST Annual Meeting.

U of A students are [encouraged to apply](#) by showcasing their research and communication skills through a creative, original digital media piece that, if selected, will be shared via CAST's social media accounts.

Applicants will receive feedback on their entries from three judges who are experts in agricultural science communication. Selected students are invited to attend the annual meeting to network and participate in sessions with like-minded experts. They will also be presented a stipend.

The deadline is Friday, September 13, and the recipients will be announced at the beginning of October.



Last year, five UC-Davis students received the first CAST Science Communication Scholarship awards (pictured above with former CAST staff member Kylie Peterson at front). Check the list of [CAST blogs](#) from Nov. and Dec. 2018 for entries about these five young agriculturalists.

Friday Notes News Categories

Photos courtesy of the Agricultural Research Service (top masthead); TopLatest News (globe at right). P. 1 whale pic from Chase Dekker and farmer photo from buzzfeed.news. Animal Sec. poultry fair photo from globegazette.com and boar pic from georgesoutdoornews.com. Food Sec. delivery pic from fox6now.com and hot peppers pic from recipes.howstuffworks.com. Plant Sec. algae pic from abcnews.go.com and grapes pic from vineyard.jpg. Inter. Sec. tree planting photo from unilad.co.uk and sweet potato pic from cityfarmer.info. Gen. Sec. farmer collage from townnews.com and fox59.com and frog pic from cnn.com. Unless otherwise noted, photos courtesy of the USDA Agricultural Research Service or CAST.



Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

Proposition 12: A California ballot initiative has implications for livestock producers. In this editorial, the [pork industry raises objections](#). A second article says the law will affect [cattle and poultry producers also](#), and a third link attempts to cover the [pros and cons of Proposition 12](#).

Fighting Bovine TB: Bovine tuberculosis is a major concern, and researchers at The Ohio State University are working to [improve a simple, inexpensive test](#) that can efficiently detect if a person or animal is infected with TB.

Flexitarians: A report from Nielson finds nearly 98% of [meat-alternative buyers also purchase meat](#). Protein consumption seems to be going through a new phase, but it definitely includes traditional meat purchases.

Insights on Animal Ag (podcast): This interview with Dr. Alison Van Eenennaam (UC-Davis and [2014 BCCA winner](#)) focuses on science, agriculture efficiency, and the [importance of ruminant agriculture](#).

Poultry Health: The recently circulated results of Project 692--*Modified Live Vaccines of Infectious Laryngotracheitis Virus*--look at the [science of this disease and the vaccines](#).

Horses to Hollywood: For nearly 40 years, an [Illinois company has provided equine props and rentals for numerous film projects](#), from major motion pictures to documentaries and television productions.



Wild Hogs on Wanted List: The USDA is offering \$75 million in funding for the [eradication and control of feral swine](#).

Urban Boars: Wild boars are also creating havoc in European town squares and city parks. They [damage property, cause car accidents, and spread diseases](#).



County fair livestock shows are always a [learning opportunity for young people](#). This poultry judge offers advice.

Food Science and Safety News

My Order Seems a Bit Light! This study claims that 28% of delivery drivers said they had [taken food from an order](#) (related video in caption at right).

Naturally: This article from Jayson Lusk (Purdue and [2017 BCCA winner](#)) provides insights on [what the term "natural" means to consumers](#).

Food Costs and Health: This study suggests that [price differences of nutritious foods](#) help explain international differences in dietary patterns and the prevalence of various health problems.

Stopping Hunger: The Iowa Hunger Summit is an example of many state-wide programs that strive to provide tools and [information for strengthening community health](#).



Fried: We have reported about claims of health benefits from a spicy diet, so to be fair, we will include this study that says there [could be link between chili peppers and dementia](#).

Don't Be Bitter: Perceptions regarding the [taste of bitter foods change](#) as repeated consumption alters the constellation of salivary proteins.



A "Special" Delivery? This video reports about a survey that says [some delivery food has been sampled](#) (related link at upper left).

Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

Golden Nematode Quarantine Facility: For the last seven decades, Cornell University has been leading [the fight against nematodes](#)--invasive, microscopic worms that can destroy a season's worth of crops. Now it will open a new facility.

Upholding Organic Standards: The USDA has [tightened its oversight of organic farms in Eastern Europe](#) after reports that the region was exporting improperly labeled grains.

Renewable Fuels and Exemptions (podcast): A coalition has taken the next step to force the EPA to account for biofuel volumes lost to [small refinery exemptions](#).

Soybean Research: North Carolina State University scientists are working with other researchers to [help soybeans cope](#) with weather-related stresses. Also, a University of Kentucky [edge-of-field monitoring project](#) is getting attention from soybean officials.

Nanocellulose: Researchers at Tuskegee University are [working with new bio-based natural materials](#) that could eliminate the harmful buildup of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.



Tailgate in the Vineyard: The [University of Nebraska Viticulture Program](#) continues to be instructive and educational for the state's grape and wine industry--and the vineyard tailgates add to the effects.

Gene-editing Regulations: The USDA says gene-edited tomatoes that are resistant to common viruses can be introduced into the United States [without coming under federal regulations](#).



In Florida, the Army Corps of Engineers is using an old tactic to [combat a present-day toxic algae problem](#)--float them up and skim them off.

International News

Talking Turkey (video): The [White Holland turkey](#) originated in England and became the primary meat producer until the 1950s, but the breed is disappearing in the United States.

Food from "Thin Air"? A company from Finland plans to [market a new protein powder](#) made out of carbon dioxide, water, and electricity.

Pig Production Innovation: Entrepreneurs and researchers in Brazil looked at innovative alternatives in efficiency, sustainability, and [profitability in the pig farming industry](#).

Aquaculture Education in Nigeria: Getting [teenagers interested in aquaculture](#) seems like a daunting task, but initiatives in Nigeria have proven it is well worth the effort.

EU Grain Regulations: The [European Commission approved Agrisure Duracade](#)--covering corn grain and derived products for EU food and feed use.



Sweet Benefits: Farmers in Mozambique are using [drought-resistant strains of sweet potatoes](#) to withstand droughts and increase vitamin A nutrition for consumers.

Heat Wave Disaster: Thousands of chickens on a poultry farm [died during a recent brutal heatwave](#) that struck the United Kingdom.



Ethiopians are [planting millions of trees](#) in a country-wide effort to restore the nation's landscape. Experts say their [environment is quickly being eroded](#) by deforestation and climate change.

General Interest News

Farmers Helping Farmers (video): When a farmer in Washington was struck with cancer, [sixty farmers spent](#) six hours completing a wheat-harvest job that would usually take three weeks (related link in caption at right).

Altruism in the 4-H Barn: A 4-H member [donated the proceeds from the sale](#) of his 246-pound pig at the county livestock auction to help a family in need.

Agrivoltaics--Crops and Solar Panels: This professor shows that combining solar panel (photovoltaic) infrastructure and agriculture can [create a mutually beneficial relationship](#).

Throwing Shade at Pigs and Cattle: A federal grant helps a Nebraska farmer devise a [shading system for cattle that incorporates solar panels](#).



As the link at upper left demonstrates, farmers are still helping neighbors in need. This blog looks at "[Tragedy and Healing](#)" incidents from recent years.



Pick Your Poison (video): Some rare, [deadly poisons come from unexpected sources](#)--from a cute frog to a shady tree to a type of bean.

Bridging the Gaps: Texas A&M officials are [trying to bridge rural/urban divides](#) and give citizens opportunities to appreciate the role food plays in their daily lives regarding health, security, and well-being.

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.

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- * American Farm Bureau Federation
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- * American Seed Trade Association
- * American Society for Nutrition Nutritional Sciences Council
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- * 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.

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