

Friday Notes

Council for Agricultural Science and Technology

ICAST

The Science Source for Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Issues

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

Concise Science-based Information from Ag quickCASTS--P. 2

Animal Agriculture News

Food Science and Safety News

Plant and Environment News

International News

General Interest News

The 'Elvis of *E. coli*' Will Retire in July



Also known as the "Sinatra of Salmonella," Carl Winter is an author, professor, researcher, and performer. His specialty is food toxicology--and communication. Dr. Winter won the [2012 BCCA honor](#), and he is currently the task force chair of a forthcoming CAST publication about chemical residue. [Known for his song parodies](#) highlighting food safety, Winter will [retire in July from his position at UC-Davis](#).

Happy 4th of July



The next edition of *Friday Notes* will be on July 12. Have a safe and pleasant Independence Day week.

Student Mentors

Cornell faculty members guide graduate students in applying their research to the agricultural industries of New York--then they [mentor](#)

June 28, 2019

Fixing Food Labels *A Sisyphus-like task or a goal worth pursuing?*

For many consumers, producers, and suppliers, the food label issue continues to be a land of confusion. With the help of experts, CAST has produced issue papers, commentaries, and blogs that address the topic. And this week, CAST Social Media &



Communications Specialist Kimberly Nelson wraps up her three-part series with recommendations about how food mislabeling can be addressed. She [refers to CAST papers](#), [links to other writers](#), and [includes viewpoints from her own experience](#). Kimberly admits there is no quick fix to the situation--but we confidently label her blog clear, informational, and science-based.

News and Views

Trade Fluctuations with China: The USDA says [China made significant purchases of U.S. agricultural goods](#) during the week ending June 20th. Although trade has been disrupted by the tariff battle, some say it could improve as a result of the G20 summit.

Weather Woes Continue: U.S. [cotton acres could be the latest victim](#) of the wild weather that has already hampered corn and other crops. [Conditions in Ohio are so dire](#), agronomic and agricultural economic experts at The Ohio State University are available to discuss the impact and offer some options for farmers.



Disagreements about Climate Research: Some politicians and scientists [claim that the USDA has refused to publicize dozens of government-funded studies](#) that carry warnings about the effects of climate change.

Defending Animal Agriculture: Air quality specialist Dr. Frank Mitloehner says [politicians should worry less about animal agriculture](#) and more about the biggest emitters of greenhouse gases. Mitloehner (UC-Davis) is the [2019 BCCA winner](#).

News from the Far Side of the Barn

No Sweat: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services list some animals that use ["alternative" methods](#) to stay cool in hot weather.

[aspiring high school scientists through a scholarship program.](#)

Pig Welfare Meeting

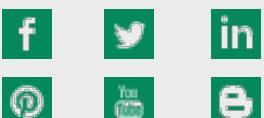
The National Pork Board announced its [second Pig Welfare Symposium](#)

Nov. 13-14 in Minneapolis.

Send in Ideas as

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

CAST Social Media



8 Arms--and 2 Tentacles--to Hold You (video): For only the second time, a [research team filmed a giant squid](#)--this one off the coast near New Orleans.



Don't Give Your Goldfish the Royal Flush:

Naturalists say it is [not cool to flush goldfish down the toilet](#)--or other related items either. Alligators in sewer systems have long been the [focus of urban legends](#).

No, this is not the way to milk a camel--this is a veterinarian in action. But some researchers say camel's milk is actually "[a superfood with healing powers](#)."

Ag quickCASTs

One-pagers packed with scientific insights

Ag quickCASTs contain excerpted material from their companion documents--full-length issue papers, commentaries, task force reports, and special publications. They are excellent resources for those wanting a fast way to grasp the key points of a publication, and they can lead to useful research options for students and others interested in ag/science topics. [Click here for the full list](#) of Ag quickCASTs.

Recent publications that include Ag quickCASTs:

[Reducing the Impacts of Agricultural Nutrients on Water Quality across a Changing Landscape](#)

[Enabling Open-source Data Networks in Public Agricultural Research](#)

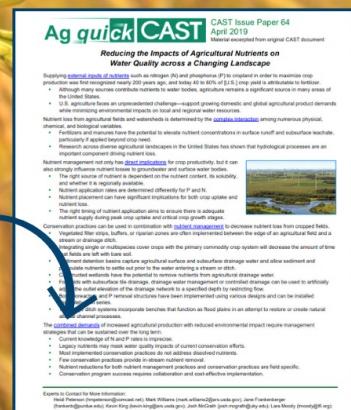
[Aquifer Depletion and Potential Impacts on Long-term Irrigated Agricultural Productivity](#)

[Food Loss and Waste](#)

Don't have time to read one of our full publications?

Each publication comes with an Ag quickCAST (i.e., a list of highlights)

If you wish to read more about one of the major highlights, click on the link and you will be taken to its location in the original paper.



Friday Notes News Categories

Photos courtesy of the Agricultural Research Service (top masthead); TopLatest News (globe at right). P. 1 Dr. Winter photo from carlw inter.jpg, barn flag pic from grit.com, food label graphic from ecori.org, and camel pic from telegraph.co.uk. Animal Sec. veterinarian photo from tuskegee.edu and butterfly pic from npr.org. Food Sec. salmon pic from nytimes.jpg and orange graphic from w instonw achter.jpg. Plant Sec. hay pic from livingthecountrylife.jpg and coffee pic from soils.org. Inter. Sec. rhino pic from dailymail.co.uk and train pic from cdn.com. Gen. Sec. student photo from k-state.edu and tractor pic from statehistoricalsociety.jpg. Unless otherwise noted, photos courtesy of the USDA Agricultural Research Service or CAST.



Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

Nurturing Chicks (video): This clip shows how farmers keep a [watchful eye on young chickens](#) when they are more susceptible to illness.

Cattle Census: The [world cattle inventory in 2018](#) is at 1.002 billion head. India has the largest amount, followed by Brazil, China, and the United States.

Hog Count: The USDA says there was a [record number of hogs and pigs](#) in the United States on June 1.

Hog Health: The Swine Health Information Center protects the [health of the U.S. swine herd](#) through coordinated global disease monitoring, targeted research investments, and analyses of swine health data.

Fighting Dairy Cow Disease: A team made up of ARS and university scientists is investigating a new "ingredient" for use in [vaccinating cattle against Johne's disease](#), a costly chronic wasting affliction.

Feral Horses and Grazing Management: A rangeland ecology professor at the University of Nevada-Reno talks about the [ecological consequences of poor grazing management](#) in desert ecosystems.



Homeward Bound: According to this study, monarch butterflies born in captivity [have trouble migrating south](#).

Golden-cheeked Warbler: A Texas A&M scientist's two-year genetic survey of a Texas songbird could determine its [status on a federal endangered species list](#).



The Critter Fixers: Two [Tuskegee University veterinary medicine alumni](#) own a Georgia veterinary practice, and they will be featured on a new *National Geographic Wild* television show this fall.

Food Science and Safety News

A Fishy Work of Art (video): Salmon is in the news, and this Alaskan fisherman demonstrates [how to expertly fillet one](#). Related links in caption at right.

Fireworks, Not Food Poisoning: The USDA provides [food safety tips](#) so everyone can enjoy this Fourth of July.

Basket-based Choice Experiment: In his new blog, Jayson Lusk looks at [research about consumer preferences](#) for food products. Dr. Lusk (Purdue University) was the [2017 BCCA winner](#).

Savoring the Cheese Expertise: Cornell's dairy business incubator program provides long-term support and [helps companies develop expertise in cheese marketing](#), dairy processing, and market building.

Eating at the World's Best: At an event considered the Oscars of the fine dining world, [a restaurant in France took the honors](#) as "world's best." This link leads to a [story about a dining experience at this top spot](#).



AquaBounty salmon, the first genetically modified animal approved for human consumption, will [soon appear in restaurants and university cafeterias](#). An archived CAST Commentary [looked at the basics of this issue--The Science and Regulation of Food from Genetically Engineered Animals](#).



Orange Spinach--and Kale? (video): According to this clip, [orange juice helps with iron absorption](#) when it is paired with kale or spinach.

Oranges "Appealing" for Your Heart: A USDA grant is helping scientists study how [orange peels might improve heart health](#).

Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

Soil Health on Capital Hill: The House Agriculture Conservation and Forestry Subcommittee focused on the financial and environmental benefits of [maintaining and improving soil health](#) on the nation's farms and ranches.

Best Management Approaches: University of Florida scientists will [compare insect management tools](#) such as insect-proof netting, reflective mulch, and kaolin clay.

Biochar and Fertilizer: Iowa State University researchers may have discovered a more [environmentally friendly fertilizer](#) that could avoid the problems other fertilizers have with washing nutrients into waterways.

Another Look at a Weeding Machine: This weeding robot follows GPS coordinates of beds and furrows, and it [uses cameras to follow the crop lines](#).



Coffee's Biennial Effect: Coffee plants have [up-and-down yield patterns](#)--years with high yields followed by years with low yields.

Hemp News: Florida might join other states in the move toward hemp, as its

agriculture commissioner [encouraged support of a new state hemp industry](#). Also, the Food and Drug Administration [extended the public comment period on CBD oil](#). The public now has until July 16 to share input as the FDA considers how to regulate the fast-growing industry.



The Smell of Fresh-cut Hay: The USDA set new rules for baling cover crops, futuristic machines bring in today's alfalfa, and kids of yesteryear surfed on wooden racks while stacking heavy bales.

International News

Research and Nutrition: Jan Low was the [2016 World Food Prize co-laureate](#), and this new interview focuses on her research regarding [Kenya, nutrition, and a special type of sweet potato](#).

Farm-My-Food Event: Hundreds of students in England attended an on-farm event which sought to [increase their interest and engagement in farming](#).

Fuel and Plastic out of Bacteria: Tiny but mighty, cyanobacteria in the ocean create diesel-like hydrocarbons in huge amounts. Researchers hope this could [lead to the production of bacteria-borne biodegradable plastics and biofuels](#).



Slug Power: A single, small [slug has been blamed for a massive power failure](#) that brought part of Japan's high-speed rail network to a standstill.



Although not as dramatic as the [helicopter move a few years ago](#) in South Africa, a recent video shows how five zoo-born [eastern black rhinos have been transported from Europe to Africa](#).

Solanum PlastiSexum: Researchers in Australia have been working with a [new sex-changing tomato](#).

General Interest News

The Answer Is Blowin' in the Offshore Wind: Cal Poly professors and undergraduate researchers have been working to determine whether or not we can [harness the energy of California's abundant offshore wind](#).

National Bio and Agro-Defense: The USDA and the Department of Homeland Security [finalized arrangements](#) for the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility in Manhattan, Kansas.

Water Challenges in California: This article claims that one million Californians have [unhealthy water pouring from their taps](#), and the governor has called for a "political will" to deal with the issue.



Kansas State senior Nathan Ryan is one of eight undergraduate [students studying](#)



Used Tractor Woes: Mark Parker lists the [top 10 indications you bought a bad used tractor](#)--a compass duct taped to the cab as your GPS is one warning.

[plant health](#) under an internship funded by the National Institute for Food and Agriculture.

Annual Tractor Ride (video): Iowa's Governor Reynolds and Ag Secretary Perdue joined the [23rd annual WHO Tractor Ride across Iowa](#)--with 450 tractors moving through the countryside.

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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- * 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
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- * National Pork Board
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- * North Central Weed Science Society
- * Northeastern Weed Science Society
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