

# Friday Notes

Council for Agricultural Science and Technology

CAST

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**

[CAST Rollouts and Publications--P. 2](#)

[Animal Agriculture News](#)

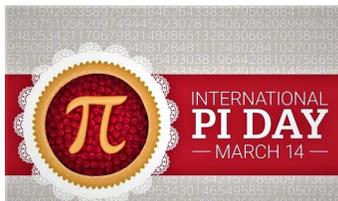
[Food Science and Safety News](#)

[Plant and Environment News](#)

[International News](#)

[General Interest News](#)

## A Day to Be Irrational



Pi Day, March 14, combines [fun](#), [education](#), and [pie](#)--and it happens to be Albert Einstein's birthday. But remember, too much  $\pi$  gives you a big circumference.

## Announcements

**Note:** Many events are adjusting to current conditions. Please check for updates about conferences and other gatherings.

The [U.S. Census Bureau](#) is distributing forms and working hard to determine congressional representation and community funding--including in rural areas.

The [Beef Quality Assurance Online Modules](#) have been updated; they are available for both first-time and renewal applicants.

The [Animal Agriculture Alliance Stakeholders Summit](#) will be held in Virginia May 7-8.

The University of Kentucky will host a "[Drone and Planter Workshop](#)" on March 26.

*March 13, 2020*

## A Time to Adjust Coronavirus Effects Bring Big Challenges

With situations changing by the minute, all facets of society are dealing with coronavirus effects. CAST focuses on science, agriculture, food production, and education--crucial sectors that are now facing immediate challenges.

The following links provide some of the latest information, but we advise that readers check updates and stay tuned to credible sources. It is certainly a time when creativity, logic, and cooperation are in high demand.

The USDA ([frequently asked questions](#)), CDC ([advice and information](#)), and other government agencies (Congress is [closing the Capitol](#) to the public) are working to inform citizens and stem the effects of the virus. News outlets are trying to keep up with the [rapidly changing situation](#).

[Drovers.com](#) is providing a list of some of the many programs and events that are being [modified or canceled](#). National Ag Day events on March 24 in Washington, D.C., have been canceled, but the [Ag Day Website](#) provides plenty of resources. The [Agri-Pulse site](#) is a good source for updated news.

Many colleges are [shifting to online-only](#) classes and canceling activities--even [March Madness](#). The 18 university members of the [CAST Education Program](#) are all responding to the crisis. For example, The Ohio State University website covers [key information for its students](#), Tuskegee University launched a "[resources microsite](#)," and the University of Nevada-Reno looked at their [state's response and preparation](#).

CAST will continue to inform the public, policymakers, and its members about important science and agriculture matters. See [Page 2 below](#) for the latest about CAST publications, events, and media outlets.

## News and Views

**School Closures and Food Programs:** School districts are searching for ways to feed [students who rely on school lunches](#).

**EPA, Renewables, and Exemptions:** The Trump Administration has been granted more time to decide whether to appeal a recent 10th Circuit Court ruling that could dramatically change the [EPA's Small Refinery Exemption program](#).



Organizers announced [modifications or cancellations for several conferences](#) involving dairy farmers, consumer activists, hemp entrepreneurs, and crop scientists.

A Tennessee high school uses agriculture classes to teach [life skills and open the doors to many careers](#).

After devastating tornadoes, volunteers help get Tennessee State University's [agriculture program on the path to recovery](#).

### Send in Ideas

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

### CAST Social Media



**Trade Issues:** A chief ag trade negotiator speaks about the coronavirus virus and the [effects on recent agreements with China](#).

**Child Health:** Penn State University experts helped produce a manual focused on safe [pest management in schools and childcare facilities](#).

## News from the Far Side of the Barn

**Farm Yard Slapstick (video):** These brief, candid scenes show [farm animals in their fun zone](#).

**Triskaidekaphobia:** The *Farmers' Almanac* outlines a few possibilities as to [why Friday the 13th is considered unlucky](#).

**Better Than a Guard Dog (video):** This [cow does everything to protect](#) her owner.



A high speed camera highlights the [beauty of hummingbird behavior and movement](#).

## CAST Issue Paper Event Updates

*D.C. live rollouts canceled; April 7 webinar scheduled*

*The veterinary profession has struggled with a central workforce related question: Why is it difficult to recruit and retain food animal veterinarians in the United States? The latest CAST Issue Paper will address the many factors that impact this critical issue.*

We invite you to attend our **free webinar on April 7, 2020, at 12 p.m. Central** when the paper's chair author, Dr. Christine Navarre, DVM, MS, DACVIM, of Louisiana State University, will discuss highlights from the publication.

Attendees are encouraged to participate in a Q&A during the virtual presentation.

**Important Note:** The upcoming Washington, D.C., events for **CAST Issue Paper 67 have been canceled**. To stay updated on upcoming CAST event details, please refer to *Friday Notes*, [CAST social media](#), or [sign up](#) for CAST announcements. In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, CAST plans to release the next three publications via webinar--stay tuned.

### *Forthcoming Publications*

As CAST Executive Vice President Kent Schescke said, "CAST papers are the culmination of work by various task forces that are comprised of scientists, engineers, legal scholars, economists, sociologists, and other subject-matter specialists who generously contribute their time, energy, and expertise to help us achieve our mission." In this blog post, [Schescke previews coming papers](#) about (1) *Producing Food from Cultured Animal Tissues*, (2) *Stewardship Challenges for New Pest management Technologies in Agriculture*, and (3) *The Microbiome's Positive Impact on Crops*.

### *Free Publications*

CAST papers are [now available for free download](#) on the newly formatted [CAST website](#).

### Free Webinar



# Friday Notes News Categories

Photos courtesy of the Agricultural Research Service (top masthead); TopLatest News (globe at right). P. 1 Pi Day graphic from eatdrinkdeals.com, virus collage from nzherald.co.nz and about.com, and hummingbird pic from hummingbird.jpg. Animal Sec. cat pic from fox26houston.com. Food Sec. Dr. Winter graphic from youtube.com. Plant Sec. lawn background from fastcompany.com. Inter. Sec. reef pic from theday.co.uk. Gen. Sec. crossing pic from mentalfloss.com. Unless otherwise noted, photos courtesy of the USDA Agricultural Research Service or CAST.



## Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

**Pork Resolutions:** Delegates adopted [several important resolutions](#) at the recent National Pork Industry Forum.

**Poultry Science Opportunities:** The American Association of Avian Pathologists provides this website to explain [scholarships and activities](#) in poultry medicine, and the Poultry Science Association posted details about a [student video competition](#) with a May 30 deadline.

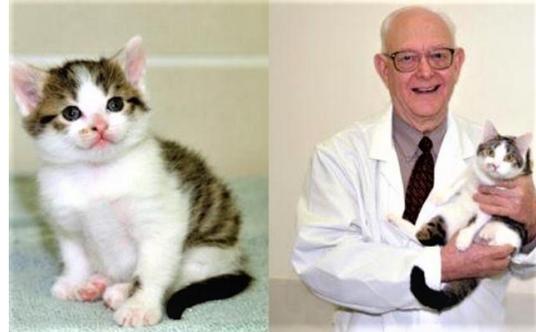
**Important Data or Privacy Breach?** This expert says the technology to [track cattle and their diseases](#) is available, but many ranchers worry about big data and issues of privacy.

**Livestock Health:** The Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research announced a \$75,000 grant to the USDA/ARS to examine how [environmental enrichment techniques can improve pig welfare](#).

**Coronavirus and Pets:** Coronavirus is spreading quickly among people, but an Iowa State University veterinarian says [there is little risk](#) of family pets and farm livestock being infected by COVID-19. However, a scientist in Canada points out that not all evidence is in, and [no conclusions can be reached yet](#).

**Big Unknowns:** A pig expert looks at the [similarities between the COVID-19 outbreak and African swine fever](#).

**Be Prepared:** The USDA announced additional measures in place to control and eradicate [African swine fever if it reaches the United States](#).



Copy Cat, [the first cloned feline](#), recently passed away. Texas A&M Professor Duane Kraemer and his wife adopted the famous cloned cat.

## Food Science and Safety News

**Fun Messages about Serious Topics (videos):** Retired UC-Davis professor Carl Winter (BCCA 2012) was way ahead of the trend with his many [food safety videos](#), including this "[hand washing parody](#)."

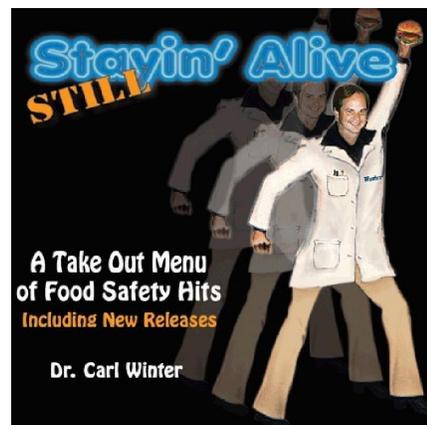
**Food and Pesticides:** Dr. Winter (above) led the task force for CAST's publication, [Interpreting Pesticide Residues in Food](#).

**School Lunch Programs (video):** As coronavirus closes schools, what happens to [students who depend on school lunches](#)?

**Spaced Out Food:** The International Space Station is serving as a test bed for [future long-duration missions](#), including a study of nutritious and safe crops for food supplies.

**Sugar on the Brain (opinion):** This is one view about the results of [giving up refined sugar](#).

**Genome Research and Food Safety:** Researchers from Cornell University joined with others to develop a method for completing [whole-genome sequencing to determine salmonella serotypes](#) in shorter periods of time.



Dr. Winter's music is "old school," but his health and safety messages are more relevant than ever--links at left.

## Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

**Mining for Mint (video):** In this series about how farm operations work, viewers see [how mint is harvested](#) and the oil is extracted.

**Herbicide Debate:** The EPA [refuted a study about glyphosate](#) and cancer risks.

**Hardier Wheat:** University of Nebraska-Lincoln researchers discovered a novel gene that [improves drought adaptation in wheat](#), and they joined with other scientists to find the best [marker system to use for wheat genomic prediction](#).

**Canola Boosters:** Kansas State University experts hope to boost canola production in the southern Great Plains as they [develop hybrid varieties](#) that are specific for the region.

**Ready, Set, Plant:** Mark Parker looks at the [top 10 signs corn planting can't be far off](#).



This editorial urges us to [convert lawns to native plantings](#) to benefit wildlife, and a vintage blog looks at lawn mowing methods--from [robots to goats to artificial turf](#).

## International News

**A Quacking, Waddling Army (video):** China will send thousands of ducks to Pakistan to help [battle a locust infestation](#) that poses a threat to regional food security.

**High-tech Cotton:** The Kenyan government selected 1,000 farmers to plant the country's first [genetically modified cotton seeds](#) in an effort to grow crops resistant to the devastating African bollworm.

**Goats and Grasslands:** Mongolia's vast [grasslands are threatened](#) by the country's estimated 27 million cashmere goats and their highly prized wool.

**Poaching Crime:** Conservationists say two extremely [rare white giraffes were killed by poachers](#) in Kenya, and it is possible that only one of this type now exists.

**Plugged into the Wind and Sun:** According to this news report, Elon Musk's "Battery Farm" in Australia has been a success, with the [solar and wind farm now saving citizens money](#).



Some predict the Great Barrier Reef is facing another [devastating mass bleaching event](#) driven by exposure to extreme heat.

## General Interest News

**A Real Hands-on Education:** More than 30 [Cal Poly students live in agriculture housing units](#)--where they can deal closely with beef, equine, and poultry production.

**Big Data, High Tech, Individualism, and "Hotrodding":** The right-to-repair movement has come to the heartland, where some farmers are demanding [access to the software that runs their equipment](#).

**Ethanol Hand Wash:** Some ethanol producers worldwide said demand is up for their products due to customers stockpiling [hand sanitizers, made from biofuel](#), as the coronavirus outbreak worsens.

**The Plastic Atlas:** This book highlights the [extent of plastic pollution worldwide](#) and covers 19 topics about how



Wildlife overpasses extend over busy highways to [provide safe passage for wildlife](#), and these animal

plastic impacts daily lives across the world.

bridges are set up for creatures ranging from bears to squirrels to red crabs.

**Sea Urchin on the Menu:** Parts of the California coast have lost 90% of the bull kelp forest due to climate change, but the solution to the crisis may involve [eating purple sea urchin](#).

## 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
- \* CropLife America
- \* Crop Science Society of America
- \* Entomological Society of America
- \* Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy
- \* 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
- \* United Soybean Board
- \* University of Nevada-Reno
- \* U.S. Poultry and Egg Association
- \* 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
- \* Penn State 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



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