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 Publication and Webinar Focus on Cell Cultured Meat--P. 2
Animal Agriculture News
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Plant and Environment News
International News
General Interest News

April 22 marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day--with this year's theme focused on climate change.

This video explains how important it is to respond to the 2020 Census, and this site looks at proposed operational adjustments due to COVID-19.

The Animal Disease Biosecurity Coordinated Agricultural Project funded by USDA/NIFA hosts biosecurity community conversations. The spring series focuses on livestock mortality composting.

News and Views

For weeks, folks have been waking to a "groundhog day" scenario--coronavirus headlines and a feeling that something about the world has altered. But most people are writing their own scripts to rectify the situation. From health workers to food producers, people are fighting back against the virus, and gardening is one activity housebound citizens use as they try to take control and find silver linings.

A new slogan for garden enthusiasts seems to be, "When the going gets tough, the tough get growing." But the victory garden is not a new concept--world wars and economic depressions in the previous century featured home plots and community projects. Nowadays, plant nurseries, university extension offices, seed companies, and amateur gardeners share their experiences and advice online. For informational links about gardening and other "home food experiences," check out this latest CAST blog post.

USDA and Proposed Farm Support Programs: Agriculture Secretary Perdue spoke about coronavirus impacts on farmers and said the government expects to purchase excess milk and meat. The USDA plans to spend $15.5 billion in its efforts to bolster the nation's food supply chain. Also, this site explains USDA programs to help rural communities during the pandemic.

Agriculture Innovation Agenda: The USDA is currently accepting public comments and written stakeholder input on the Agriculture Innovation Agenda. The department will identify common themes to inform research and innovation efforts.

Farmers, Foodbanks, and Supply Chains: As farmers and food banks grapple with unprecedented challenges, major organizations petition the USDA to solve gaps in the supply chain. Check out this CAST blog containing various links about the ways the nation's food supply chain is being affected by the virus.

COVID-19 Testing: Many people infected with COVID-19 show little to no symptoms, so researchers at The Ohio State University are creating a blood test that could detect the true extent of the pandemic.
News from the Far Side of the Barn

On the Road Yet Again--In a Virtual Way (video): Willie Nelson’s virtual Farm Aid show raised $500,000 to support family farmers. The “homebound” concert featured the 86-year-old Nelson, his sons Lukas and Micah, John Mellencamp, Neil Young, and Dave Matthews.

Anybody Remember Flubber? (video): The Olympics are on hold, but we’re nominating this dog for the high jump.

Delivery Van Goes Rogue: The delivery guy seems cool and competent until he realizes his van has left without him.

Send in Ideas
CAST welcomes suggestions for future publications and projects.

CAST Social Media

Publications, Webinars, Study Guides, and Blogs

CAST delivers science/ag material online

After the success of the food animal veterinary paper and webinar, CAST is preparing for its next online rollout, while at the same time delivering timely information about agriculture and science. Take advantage of the many ways to obtain useful material from CAST:

Cell Cultivated Meat--Forthcoming Publication and Webinar

Cell cultivated meat is developing at a rapid pace, but there are many questions to address before it is ready for the dinner table. CAST’s new commentary, Producing Food Products from Cultured Animal Tissues, will examine many factors about this critical issue. A free download of the CAST Commentary will be available April 27 from the CAST website, and a free webinar featuring research from the commentary will occur at 11:00 a.m. Central on April 28.

Food Animal Veterinarians--Video of Webinar Available

An April 7 webinar hosted by CAST and featuring LSU’s Christine Navarre focused on highlights from the important new publication, Impact of Recruitment and Retention of Food Animal Veterinarians on the U.S. Food Supply. A YouTube video of the webinar is available here, and the issue paper, a one-page Ag quickCAST summary, and a student study guide are available here (all free).

CAST Blogs and Various Links--Information Updates

The CAST blog provides regular updates about news headlines, announcements, and pertinent educational resource materials related to agriculture, science, our members, and CAST activities.

CAST’s most recent blog posts look at (1) the challenges for the food supply chain--and the fact that FOOD IS SAFE in this coronavirus era and (2) the growing trend to plant "victory gardens."

Check these recent blog posts for further information:
Most coyotes don't have day passes on Chicago trains, but scientists say their experiences with people influence how they interact. Wildlife experts are trying to reduce human-wildlife conflict, but as this blog contends, "Where the Wild Things Are" has become a common theme.

### Friday Notes News Categories

Photos courtesy of the Agricultural Research Service (top masthead); TopLatest News (globe at right). P. 1 Earth Day graphic from taylormilky.gov, garden collage from trib.com and 1065thewolf.radio.com, tractor pic from unl.edu, and groundhog pic from dailymail.co.uk. Animal Sec. coyote pic from npr.org. Food Sec. cartoon from nytimes.com. Plant Sec. scientists photo from ncsate.edu. Inter. Sec. collage from gettyimages.jpg. Gen. Sec. hoax poster from ifla.com. Unless otherwise noted, photos courtesy of the USDA Agricultural Research Service or CAST.

### Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

**Big Changes:** A small-town butcher shop owner explains how [COVID-19 has changed his business](#)—possibly forever.

**Poultry Research (video):** During the 2020 International Production & Processing Expo, six researchers presented their findings from [recently completed research projects](#).

**Animal Research (video):** Animal research is at the front lines of the [battle with the coronavirus](#).

**USDA and Dairy:** The USDA's Risk Management Agency is taking action to [reduce the impact on milk producers](#) due to recent market disruptions.

**Hog Industry Hit:** Hog producers are asking the Department of Agriculture to provide a direct influx of cash without eligibility restrictions as the [industry expects to lose $5 billion](#) for this year due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

**Cattle Industry Losses:** A new study commissioned by the NCBA estimates [cattle industry losses as a result of the COVID-19](#) pandemic will reach $13.6 billion.

**Avian Flu—No Risk to Public:** Officials are investigating a [case of high-pathogenic bird flu](#) on a South Carolina turkey farm. The USDA said there is no current public health concern.

**Swimming Upstream:** In attempts to expand, the [aquaculture industry faces an uphill regulatory pathway](#).

### Food Science and Safety News

**On a Culinary Mission (video):** Chefs in Colorado are teaming up with nonprofit organizations and foodbanks to [feed thousands of school children](#).

**Grocery Store Heroics:** A Kansas State University food safety specialist credits [grocery stores for keeping foods safe](#) during the pandemic, and she explains how to best handle groceries.
Expiration dates are not always "throw away" dates. Food-product dating has many blurred lines, and an informative article from the University of Nevada-Reno explains some of them, while this CAST video looks at a related item: sell by, use by dates.

Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

A Break in the Chain (video): Thousands of acres of fruits and vegetables grown in Florida were plowed under or left to rot because farmers can't sell to restaurants, theme parks, or schools.

Dominoes Falling: The steep drop in gasoline demand has had a domino effect--also crushing the nation's ethanol demand and subsequently corn demand, and even affecting the carbon dioxide needed for refrigerant in packing plants.

A Focus on Wheat: The ASA, CSSA, and SSSA feature a report showing that a new variety of wheat combines enhanced nutrition with increased resilience.

Quality Seeds: The American Seed Trade Association President Andrew LaVigne says farmers, ranchers, and gardeners will have access to the quality seeds needed for a successful year.

A Boost from Salicylic Acid: An Iowa State University researcher found an inexpensive, natural way to improve plants' abilities to tolerate freezing temperatures and boost their antioxidant levels.

Azolla--the Green Manure: A Cornell University assistant professor says the Azolla fern's incredible ability to grow and thrive could help humans save themselves from climate change.

International News

Global Impact: According to this report from Europe, the coronavirus pandemic is impacting the supply chain of food around the world.

Canadian Concerns: This insightful blog looks at how the Canadian agriculture industry faces increasing concerns about the disconnect between consumers and food production.

Hot and Dry: Agricultural areas in Brazil and Argentina are being affected by a drought that is threatening to shrink harvest yields.

Pork in China: China might release emergency pork reserves after losing 100 million pigs to swine fever. The country's pork imports almost tripled in March from last year--including a large amount from the United States.
General Interest News

On the Move? (opinion, video): Unprecedented flooding last year devastated towns across the Midwest. Some residents of a riverside settlement in Nebraska want to move their town for its own survival.

Sourcing Supplies: Campus supply chains have been disrupted (e.g. PPE). These UC-Davis workers have worked on creative "strategic sourcing" solutions.

PPE from 3D: A Cornell student organized colleagues with 3D printers to make protective gear for hospital workers, and a Cal Poly engineering student is creating respiration masks, also using 3D printers.

Social Media Move: Facebook says it will move to stop the spread of dangerous and false information about the coronavirus by telling people when they’ve interacted with posts about bogus cures, hoaxes, and other false claims.

Informing about Misinformation: Check out this CAST blog, "Staying Aware of Coronavirus Hoaxes and Misinformation."

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* National Dairy Association
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* Tuskegee University
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* University of Nevada-Reno
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* Weed Science Society of America
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Note: Land O’Lakes supports the delivery of Friday Notes to NAAE

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