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

Caryn Dawson's Passport Stamped with "Ag Research"—P. 2
Animal Agriculture News
Food Science and Safety News
Plant and Environment News
International News
General Interest News

Award-winning Photos

With subjects ranging from a beluga whale to a Porsche on ice to a multicolored frog, the winners of the International Photography Awards look almost surreal.

Upcoming Publications from CAST

(1) Economic Impacts of COVID-19 on Food and Agricultural Markets;
(2) Agriculture and the Microbiome;
(3) Naturally Occurring Hormones in Meat, Milk, and Eggs and Use of Supplemental Hormones in Animal Production;
(4) The Importance of Communicating Empirically Based Science for Society.

June 5, 2020

CAST President-Elect Focuses on Agriculture, Science, and Communication

Dr. Anna Dilger has a passion for communicating about the great things that are happening in agriculture, and as the recently selected CAST President-Elect, she will have plenty of opportunities to share her insights. Anna joins a line of highly qualified CAST volunteer leaders: Dr. Juan Tricarico is the current CAST President, and Dr. David Baltensperger will hold the position for a year starting fall 2020.

Dilger, a University of Illinois associate professor, has been active on the CAST Board of Representatives since 2014, representing the American Meat Science Association, and she was elected to the Board of Directors as the society liaison in 2019. Click here to read the full press release about Dilger's election.

In 2021-2022, Dilger will become the 49th president of CAST, an honor and responsibility dating back to 1972, when Dr. Charles A. Black, Dr. Norman Borlaug, and other committed scientists spearheaded the movement to "bring science-based information to policymaking and the public." As Dilger said, "I plan to continue and strengthen that collaborative environment to further elevate and publicize the work of CAST." Click here to read an insightful Q&A with Dilger.

News and Views

USDA News: The USDA announced (1) its Farmers to Families Food Box Program has distributed more than five million units, and (2) more than $545 million in payments went to producers who have applied for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program.

SECURE Ruling: The USDA's Sustainable, Ecological, Consistent, Uniform, Responsible, Efficient (Secure) press release about GE regulations resulted in praise from the National Corn Growers Association and the American Seed Trade Association. Some others raised concerns and explained why they suggest improvements to the ruling.

Legal Action: Legal action is underway against major poultry producers in the United States regarding alleged price collusion. The companies deny the charges. This follows last month's investigation of potential price fixing by U.S. meat producers.

Dicamba Ruling: A U.S. appeals court rejected permits for several

National Association of Agricultural Educators is working hard to serve educators and students during the pandemic—including the organization of the annual convention in December.
This article profiles several Tuskegee University alumni to get their perspectives on the healthcare situation, as well as how their Tuskegee training is serving them during this health crisis.

Scientists at Iowa State University received a grant to study realistic human cellular and tissue responses by transferring a human immune system into pigs.

A University of Florida grant program provides more than $1 million in funding to further research and education of emerging agricultural enterprises in Florida.

CAST welcomes ideas for future publications and projects.

CAST Social Media

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From Ames to Argentina,
Caryn Dawson Sets Her Goals High

During the past two years, Caryn Dawson has worn various hats--as an Iowa State University student, as a global researcher on study abroad missions, and as a productive intern at CAST. Starting this month, she will add another valuable experience to her list; she will join the Bayer Crop Science team in Iowa as a research seed technician. As Caryn said, "I want to make an impact at every place I work."

Caryn has certainly made an impact at CAST--and other places. This blog post from last year gives an example of her experiences. Beginning with a gathering in Rome, she joined an annual trip known as the Iowa State University Dean's Global Foods and Agriculture Leadership Program.

Recently, she was notified that she won a $4,000 scholarship from the National Gardens Club, a recognition of achievement awarded to only 43 students throughout the country. With one more year of study set at ISU, plans for international graduate work, and a passport that still has a few pages left to be stamped, Caryn has many places yet to come where she will make her type of positive impact. Click here to read the full blog post about Caryn.
Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

**Beef and the Environment (video):** This Texas cattle feeder explains [common sense sustainability practices](#) implemented in feedyards.

**Clearing the Air (related to above):** This article focuses on the insights of Frank Mitloehner, the UC-Davis expert who regularly and effectively communicates about [fossil fuels, cattle, and climate change](#).

**Hog Management in Trying Times:** Pork production is going through many challenges, and this national organization is making [recommendations for getting through the pandemic](#).

**COVID-19 and Pigs (related to above):** The Iowa Pork Producers Association produced a website with "[what you need to know about COVID-19](#)" information.

**Laws Scramble Egg Prices:** This research looks at the egg price impacts of California's [animal welfare laws](#) that require more space for hens.

**Cattle Health:** In order to maximize a herd's genetic potential, Merck Animal Health and the American Hereford Association partnered to educate members and cattle producers on [how to build an animal health program](#).

**A River Runs Through Conservation and Trout Protection:** Penn State researchers explain why conservation to protect larger streams and rivers may be necessary to [keep brook trout populations healthy](#).

Food Science and Safety News

**Keeping Them Fresh:** These easy solutions are designed to [prolong the shelf life](#) of some common fruits and vegetables.

**Produce on Plates:** The [innovative plant breeders at Cornell University](#) have created more than 290 fruit varieties and 165 vegetable varieties.

**Mythbusting about Food Safety:** This site addresses [misinformation about food safety](#) that is especially prevalent in the time of this pandemic.

**Scam Spotting (related to above):** A previous CAST blog post provides [advice about spotting scams](#) and avoiding misleading information--especially related to the coronavirus situation.

**The Roots of Food Waste:** This group tries to get to the bottom of [what causes food waste in America](#)–from socioeconomic disparities, to confusion, to common human behaviors and habits.

**Food Loss and Waste (related to above):** This [CAST Issue Paper](#) uses an objective, data-based approach to examine food waste.

Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

**Plants, Allergies, and Immunity:** Texas A&M researchers explain a plant science discovery that [may help treat allergies](#) and shed light about immune system defense against microbes.

**Reducing Runoff:** A 14-year study from the [Journal of Environmental Quality](#) highlights using buffer strips and rotational grazing to [reduce phosphorus runoff](#).
Water Quality: University of Nebraska-Lincoln research could reinforce current efforts to limit how much nitrate reaches the groundwater supply.

Hemlock in the Hay: A University of Missouri expert explains pasture weed identification and the deadly results if certain poisonous weeds mix in with hay.

Thinning Forests: Scientists at the University of Nevada-Reno are helping find the best way to thin forests by removing select trees to maximize the forest's benefits for water quantity and quality--and to minimize fire risks.

International News

The Earth Moves (video): A powerful landslide of more than 2,000 feet in width swept eight houses into the sea in northern Norway--no reports of injuries.

Euro Ag: The European Commission proposed a plan to transform the European Union's agricultural system--aiming to make it more sustainable and healthier.

Hooked On "Salmon": A Swedish start-up is developing what it claims to be the world's first plant-based shredded salmon product.

The Tap Turns On: The Indonesian government lifted restrictions, and the country is now accepting ethanol from the United States.

Growing Underground: High-tech, factory-like indoor farms have started popping up all over the world, from Japan to Scotland.

General Interest News

Peanut Butter Popularity: Peanut butter makers are churning it out as families want to stock their pantries in the pandemic era. This good news can also bring challenges for the industry.

The 17-Year Insect Invasion: In parts of the country, alien-looking husks cling to trees and insects with brilliant red eyes gather. As this North Carolina State article points out, it's the year of the cicada.

Conservation Legacy: The way that land is transferred from one generation to the next could have a profound impact on the future of conservation efforts--and of the land itself.

Sustainable Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Science: The aim of a new institute at Penn State University is to address complex, interconnected food-energy-water-land challenges.

Campus Supports Food Program: University of Georgia staff and students loaded thousands of pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables into vehicles to support farmers and consumers in an event set to help out during the COVID-19 crisis.
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.

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