Successful Stewardship

Collaboration and long-term commitments are keys

All sides agree: pest control is challenging, and effective stewardship in an era of constantly evolving technologies is crucial. But not all stakeholders agree on general concepts and specific practices. Through a new CAST commentary and a webinar filled with insightful comments, experts examine the many aspects of proper management and give suggestions regarding a path forward.

David Shaw (Mississippi State University) led the publication task force and the webinar presentation focused on the CAST Commentary Stewardship Challenges for New Pest Management Technologies in Agriculture. Click here to access the paper, the one-page summary, and the student study guide.

Using data, information from "listening seminars," and specific program examples, Shaw and four influential crop specialists look at the benefits and risks that come with new technologies, but they also focus on the social science aspects. They point out that diverse stakeholder groups need to listen to each other and collaborate on solutions. They also should consider: (1) diverse chemical and non-chemical solutions, (2) collective action, (3) the need for incremental progress, and (4) long-term commitments. For more about the commentary and webinar, click here.

Happy Memorial Day Weekend

The University of Georgia news site contains several noteworthy stories including the announcement that UGA Associate Professor Alexa Lamm won the Borlaug CAST Communication Award. See page two below for more.

The 2020 Agri-Pulse Ag & Food Policy Summit in Washington, D.C., has been rescheduled for September 21, 2020.

The Midwest Poultry Federation has changed its in-person convention to a complete virtual trade show and conference August 12-13.

The National Hog Farmer is expanding its Global Hog Industry Virtual Conference to cover both May 27 and May 28.

USDA Announcements: (1) A "Memorandum of Understanding" between the FDA and the USDA deals with the potential use of the Defense Production Act with regard to FDA-regulated food, (2) the USDA released details of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, providing direct payments to deliver relief to America's farmers and ranchers, and (3) the organization says there has been progress in the implementation of the agriculture-related provisions of the U.S.-China Phase One Economic and Trade Agreement.

Agricultural Tsunami: In many ways, the pandemic has caused an "Agricultural Tsunami," and this comprehensive article looks at many aspects, from livestock to grain to markets.

Vaccine Research (video): Harvard researchers revealed positive
CattleCast provides a mix of veterinarian news and information about cattle production.

Farm Journal Field Days are set for Aug. 25-27, 2020, on farms in eastern Iowa and northwest Ohio.

The World Food Prize 2020 Laureate will be announced June 11 at 10 a.m. EDT by webcast.

The SoAR Foundation’s Retaking the Field: Innovation to Profit publication explores how federally funded agricultural research strengthens farmers and ranchers’ bottom line.

North Carolina State University offers an online workshop on May 27 geared for beginning farmers.

CAST welcomes ideas for future publications and projects.

CAST Social Media

CAST Science Information Blossoms during Pandemic

Papers, webinars, website, social media, and upcoming publications

Face-to-face events have slowed during the coronavirus scourge, but online communication has been able to fill in some of the gaps. During a busy season of new publications and the annual BCCA announcement, CAST has used webinars, social media postings, and other methods to inform members, policymakers, and the public. Three recent CAST publication rollouts and the Borlaug CAST Communication Award winner were announced by webinars, and this has led to increased exposure, lively interaction, and--most importantly--more effective communication about science and agriculture.

Check the list below for upcoming events and links to recent publications, webinars, study guides, and social media postings.

Upcoming Publications (watch for access to downloads and webinars)

** Agriculture and the Microbiome; Task Force Co-Chairs Ignazio Carbone and Megan Andrews, North Carolina State University (Issue Paper, June 2020 rollout)

** Economic Impacts of COVID-19 on Food and Agricultural Markets in cooperation with the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (Commentary, June or July rollout)

** Naturally Occurring Hormones in Meat, Milk, and Eggs and Use of Supplemental Hormones in Animal Production; Task Force Chair Robert Collier, The University of Arizona (Issue Paper, July 2020 rollout)
**The Importance of Communicating Empirically Based Science for Society**, Task Force Chair Stuart Smyth, University of Saskatchewan (September 2020 rollout)

Recent Papers, Webinars, and Study guides

**The annual announcement of the Borlaug CAST Communication Award** is always a celebrated occasion, and this year’s event featured insightful comments, a science-based presentation from Frank Miltoehner, and the naming of Dr. Alexa Lamm as this year’s winner.

**The influential CAST publication** *Interpreting Pesticide Residues in Food* is now available in Mandarin.

**CAST’s recent commentary, Producing Food Products from Cultured Animal Tissues**, examines many factors about this rapidly developing issue. The webinar is available here, and this link leads to free downloads of the paper, the one-page summary Ag quickCAST, and the student study guide.

**An April 7 webinar hosted by CAST 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 paper, a one-page Ag quickCAST summary, and a student study guide are available here (all free).

Friday Notes News Categories


Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

**Meat Industry Now and Projected:** Red meat and poultry production have been hit hard, and disruptions will be felt for the rest of the year. But meat production is forecasted to rise significantly in 2021.

**Comments about Cattle Imports:** Cattle industry groups reacted to President Trump's comments regarding cattle imports, and beef experts had mixed responses.

**Hog Farming--Noble But Tough Profession:** This report explains that being a pig farmer was already hard, then came coronavirus. This farmer loves his work, but the challenges keep coming.


**Cattle Producers Face Challenges:** Temporary closures and reduced capacity at packing plants from COVID-19 has placed added stress on cattle producers.

**Pork Research:** Iowa State, Kansas State, and Purdue are working with the Improving Pig Survivability Project that involves pork producers and allied industry representatives in various research projects.

**Rabbits in a Deadly Disappearing Act:** A virus is killing thousands of wild rabbits in the southwest United States and Mexico. According to the USDA, it does not affect humans or other animals—it is not a coronavirus.

Food Science and Safety News
A Healthy Dose of Dairy: An international study finds that eating at least two daily servings of dairy is linked to lower risks of diabetes and high blood pressure.

Food Animals and Virus Safety: This site addresses frequently asked questions about food in the era of COVID-19. One answer is most notable: the virus cannot be transmitted by food.

Food in Communities: Many community food programs are thriving during the pandemic, with a long-term focus on building resilient supplies.

Community Agriculture (related to above): These Maine farmers are examples of higher demands for community supported agriculture.

Teach Your Children Well: Parents and caregivers can create an environment that helps children develop healthier eating behaviors, therefore reducing risks for obesity and cardiovascular disease as adults.

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**Plant Agriculture and Environmental News**

Fire Study: University of Nevada-Reno scientists are working to understand what drives increases in fire frequency, size, and severity--and how fires are changing ecosystem function in forests and rangelands.

Organic Fertilizer and Nitrogen: These researchers say organic fertilizers need to undergo mineralization to make nitrogen available to plants.

New Method to Edit Plants: A North Carolina State researcher developed a way to get CRISPR/Cas9 into plant cells without inserting foreign DNA.

Farming Seven Feet Under Water: Bowdoin College's kelp farm is a student-driven effort that is harvesting increasingly popular "sea vegetables."

Research Collaboration: According to Iowa State University experts, the success of water quality research often depends on private cooperators working with scientists to fine-tune research and host field trials.

Techniques to Save Water: This story looks at the pros and cons of various modern irrigation techniques.

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**International News**

Crowing about His Cows (video): This British farmer explains how cows and other livestock are producing high quality and sustainable food for us, while maintaining and enhancing the environment.

Fire Up the Brats: Recent tests in German pig slaughterhouses indicate that there are no current infections with COVID-19.

Online Rescue: This small-time Turkish farmer nearly went out of business because of coronavirus--then the internet came to the rescue.

Fall Armyworm Advances: A fast-moving, voracious exotic pest that has the potential to quickly decimate food crops is expected to continue to spread across Australia.

China's Economy: Iowa State University experts have created a database that shows how coronavirus has affected China's economic sectors.
A Beginner’s Guide to Composting (video): This site provides tips about composting at home—for the good of your garden and the positive aspects of cutting food waste.

The Polaris Project: This photo essay looks at the work of a Cal Poly assistant professor who is studying soils, plants, and microbial communities to determine how these components are affecting environmental change.

Farm Workers and Safety: The University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service is helping producers safely accommodate H-2A workers back to their farms.

A.I. on the Farm: This research indicates that the market growth for artificial intelligence in agriculture is growing due to many factors.

Catch the Buzz: May 20 was World Bee Day, but to many people, it is always time to honor the little pollinator.


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* 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
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* 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
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Dan Gogerty (Communications and Friday Notes Editor)  
The Council for Agricultural Science and Technology  
4420 West Lincoln Way  
Ames, Iowa 50014-3447  
Phone: 515-292-2125, ext. 222 (Dan)  
E-mail: dgogerty@cast-science.org

** With assistance from Dylana Luett (Communications Specialist), Megan Wickham (Scientific Editor), and Colleen Hamilton (Membership Specialist)

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