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.

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Access to Free Ag/Science Information--P. 2
Animal Agriculture News
Food Science and Safety News
Plant and Environment News
International News
General Interest News

Economic Impacts of COVID-19 on Food and Agricultural Markets

The next CAST paper will be released June 29, and four authors from the task force will present information from the publication during a webinar. Watch for event registration details coming soon.

Alexa Lamm--Experience, Goals, and the BCCA

"Tailor messages to your audience. One size does not fit all, you have to know your audience and then tailor the message to them in a way they are able to process the information."

Click here for a look at Dr. Alexa Lamm's background, her research, her views about communication, and her take on becoming the 2020 BCCA winner.

Events and Happenings

A Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources (BANR) webinar will be

June 12, 2020

World Food Prize Winner Focuses on Soil Health and World Hunger

Dr. Rattan Lal of India received the 2020 World Food Prize for his soil-centric approach to increasing food production and mitigating climate change. A native of India and a citizen of the United States, he serves as a distinguished university professor of soil science and founding director of the Carbon Management & Sequestration Center at The Ohio State University. Read more here about this accomplished scientist and humanitarian.

Many World Food Prize winners continue to influence science and agriculture, and the 2018 laureate, Dr. Lawrence Haddad, used a short speech to explain "Seven Lessons for Future Researchers." Haddad was speaking to a group of Borlaug Fellows, young scientists from around the world who come to the United States to do research at universities.

News and Views

Ag Is Part of the Conversation: Racism is an uncomfortable topic in all sectors of society including agriculture. Recent incidents and long-term situations have made it a national and global focus. Many voices are now involved, and these few examples might add insights to this important topic: several farm groups commented and discussed change; UC-Davis' Dean Helene Dillard addressed staff and students; the American Farm Bureau released a statement addressing racism; a rural newspaper editorial made pointed comments; the Farmer Veteran Coalition released a statement; and a social protest in rural Iowa has been projected on the sides of silos.

USDA Updates: Recently, the USDA extended a child nutrition program to ensure the availability of free meals. The World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) report shows relatively small changes from the previous month. The USDA confirms big soybean sales to China as a buying flurry continues. And the USDA is in the process of its Agriculture Innovation Agenda, a commitment to the continued success of American farmers, ranchers, producers, and foresters.

Global Nutrition, the Pandemic, and Agriculture: This "Open Letter on the Value of Animal Agriculture" affirms how livestock is supporting global nutrition, high standards of food safety, and public health during the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants include Dr. Frank Mitloehner, Dr. Jude Capper, and many other influential agriculture experts.

Dicamba Rulings: The EPA said farmers can use existing supplies of an agricultural herbicide after a federal court blocked sales and use of...
News from the Far Side of the Barn

Masked Sheep Herder (video): Who needs a herd dog when you have a raccoon?

Wash My Smartphone? (video): This irritating raccoon shows they are perfect for this COVID-19 era. They wash hands often, wear masks, and make you want them to be socially distant.

Hayley Palensky's Busy Schedule Now Involves CAST

Hayley Palensky recently joined CAST as a summer intern, and although she will focus on financial and accounting duties, she also brings other skills. With summer classes, numerous activities, and an energetic dog named Arlo, Hayley is busy and focused on her future. "I'm hoping to go into a design-related field when I graduate," she said. She also plans to make the most of her new intern position. "CAST is helping me fine tune my financial skills for the business world." Click here to read more about Hayley.

CAST Papers, Webinars, Study Guides, and More

CAST's Website Publication Page features papers and Ag quickCASTs---and many also include study guides, videos, translated versions and/or Q&A sessions. They are all available for free.

Upcoming Publications and Webinar Events

(1) Economic Impacts of COVID-19 on Food and Agricultural Markets (June 29 release)

(2) Agriculture and the Microbiome (July release)

(3) Naturally Occurring Hormones in Meat, Milk, and Eggs and Use of Supplemental Hormones in Animal Production (July release)

(4) The Importance of Communicating Empirically Based Science for Society (September release)
Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

Cows Countering COVID? A biotech company has coaxed genetically modified cows to pump out human antibodies that subdue SARS-CoV-2, and it plans to start clinical trials of them this summer.

Meat Industry Challenges: The USDA applauded the safe reopening of critical infrastructure meatpacking facilities across the United States. However, some point out that the meat processing industry is facing issues such as a backlog of animals, feed demand, and labor.

Avoiding an Even Worse Scenario: Although pork producers have been forced to dispose of some animals, farmers have made quick adaptations to avoid worst-case scenarios.

Chicken Litter and Health: A new study shows that reused poultry litter can deter growth of pathogens like Salmonella if efficient treatment methods are used by producers.

ASF Preparation: The USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has updated its African swine fever strategic plan.

Chirp, Chirp, Aaahh, Chirp: A simple, low-cost method of "listening to chicks" may allow welfare issues to be picked up at the earliest possible opportunity, according to this research.

Scientific Study of Beef Quality: This study looks at post-handling factors that optimize the quality of beef.

Wild and Farmed Both: This ag specialist promotes "Blue Growth" and says if we want to eat sustainably, aquaculture has to be part of the conversation.

Food Science and Safety News

Sticker Shock in the Aisles? (video): This report claims that the pandemic is generating a sharp rise in grocery prices. And some think a problem existed for some time even before coronavirus.

"FATitudes" Report: According to this Cargill study, most consumers (68%) across the world report closely monitoring the type and amount of fat and oil in their packaged food.


Farmers to Family Food Box Program: The USDA has distributed more than five million food boxes in support of American farmers and families affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, but some are questioning certain aspects of the donation program.

Add a Little Spice to Your Life: Penn State researchers found that adding six grams of spices to a meal high in fat and carbohydrates resulted in lower inflammation markers hours later.
Resisting Resistance: University of Nebraska researchers will join other scientists to identify how antimicrobial resistance develops and is spread in beef cattle, and they hope to develop mitigation strategies.

Helping Hands: The fresh produce industry continues to provide families with meals, and employees are going above and beyond during the pandemic.

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### Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

**Genetic Editing Breakthrough:** These UC-Davis and University of Minnesota researchers announced the first steps towards eliminating a transgenic approach to gene editing.

**Measuring Stress for Corn, Soybeans, and Other Crops:** North Carolina State researchers are launching an inexpensive camera system that can monitor crop stress remotely.

**Corn Crunch:** An analysis from the National Corn Growers Association predicts a significant revenue loss for corn growers from the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Helping Rice Production:** Mississippi State University scientists have been investigating the practice of intermittent flooding of rice for the last ten years with significant results.

**Powered by Poop:** Farmers can reap many benefits from manure when it is well-managed and properly applied—and some advocate for more innovation, research, development, and investment.

**Spectroscopy and Water Sorption:** This study reports on the use of an alternative approach for specific surface area (SSA) estimation for samples of various soil types and mineralogies.

**Fungicide Initiative:** Syngenta and Novozymes announced they are entering the commercialization phase of a microbial foliar fungicide with broad spectrum potential.

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### International News

**Rich Harvests:** These three African women farmers challenge the status quo, and they have dramatically improved the well-being of their families and their communities.

**EU Ag:** Agriculture ministers held an exchange of views on the Farm to Fork and the Biodiversity strategies that were recently adopted by the European Commission.

**Cattle Influence Overestimated?** Scientists in England say their research shows the climate impact of grass-fed cattle herds may have been overestimated.

**Organic Agreement:** U.S. certified organic food will now be automatically recognized as organic in Taiwan and vice versa as the result of a new equivalence deal.

**Research Worries:** As African nations begin easing the pandemic lockdown, many scientists are worried about the impact on their research projects.

**Importance of Smallholder Farms:** Smallholder farms are common around the world, and women in developing countries are key players on such enterprises.

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### General Interest News

Life Isn't "Fair," But Students Adjust (video): Several ag organizations are helping students find platforms to sell their products.
Kansas State faculty and students are reopening the Hal Ross Flour Mill on campus. They will donate the flour to the community.

Still Hoping for Showtime (related to above): Wisconsin youth who planned to exhibit livestock at the State Fair will have another venue this year, and similar plans are forming as Iowa plans to cancel its State Fair.

What’s Buggin’ Ya? (video and photos): This site features five experts—entomologists and passionate wildlife fanatics with many years of experience in their fields—to learn about the bugs they cherish the most.

Milking the Milkweed: University of Nevada-Reno experts are involved with a study of contaminated milkweed, the key food source for monarch caterpillars.

The Great Vaccine Race: The urgent need for a COVID-19 vaccine has changed the usual timelines, and makers are hedging bets on which one will emerge as safe and effective.

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* 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
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Note: Land O’Lakes supports the delivery of Friday Notes to NAAE

Dan Gogerty (Communications and Friday Notes Editor)
Dylana Luett (Communications and Social Media Specialist)
The Council for Agricultural Science and Technology
4420 West Lincoln Way
Ames, Iowa 50014-3447
Phone: 515-292-2125
E-mail: dgogerty@cast-science.org; dluett@cast-science.org

** With assistance from Megan Wickham (Scientific Editor) and Colleen Hamilton (Membership Specialist)

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