**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's New COVID-19 Commentary--P. 2
- Animal Agriculture News
- Food Science and Safety News
- Plant and Environment News
- International News
- General Interest News

The next edition of **Friday Notes** will be published on July 10. Have a wonderful July 4th week.

### Events and Announcements

**COVID-19 and Agriculture:** The CAST paper release and webinar presentation will be Monday, June 29. See page 2 below for more.

The Soil and Water Conservation Society congratulated the winners of the 2020 SWCS awards that recognize conservation excellence.

**News and Views**

**USDA Items:** The USDA supports the critical role pollinators play in agriculture, as the country celebrates National Pollinator Week (see Animal Section below for more). The USDA’s Farmers to Families Food Box Program has distributed more than 20 million food boxes, and the department released details about the accomplishments of the American Broadband Initiative.

**Addressing Issues:** Land O'Lakes CEO Beth Ford speaks about racism and more; Henry Louis Gates, Jr. looks at the “40 Acres and a Mule” issue; World Food Prize President Barbara Stinson writes about right actions and key messages; this podcast looks at the lack of diversity in the “food world”; a University of Florida doctoral student presented online information about systemic racism; and a North Carolina A&T State University group (along with input from Tuskegee University and the University of Arkansas) is supporting young people from minority groups to pursue studies and careers in food and agriculture.

**Water Quality:** A new analysis of drinking water systems shows communities in five Midwest states have legal but potentially worrying levels of nitrates.

### News from the Far Side of the Barn

**Food in Transition**

Changes and challenges in the pandemic era

A clear message from the USDA and FDA—and a general consensus from scientists and food experts—continues to ring out: "There is no evidence that people can contract COVID-19 from food."

But rituals have changed. Family gatherings and food establishments are on hold or modified, and as the United States nears its premier outdoor food holiday, many Fourth of July festivities will be altered. This article provides useful suggestions for modified gatherings, and these general food safety suggestions still ring true. For those focused on taste and food creation, this site features holiday concoctions ranging from meat to veggies to cakes. Check the photo caption in the Food Section below for more about recent food trends.

**June 26, 2020**

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**News from the Far Side of the Barn**
The Rodale Institute will hold its yearly organic education event virtually July 13-17—with presentations and a Q&A.

Professionals from the University of Georgia and North Carolina State University were honored by the Poultry Science Association.

CAST welcomes ideas for future publications and projects.

CAST Social Media

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**Le Coq Gaulois**: Maurice the French rooster (right)—famous for going to court in a legal dispute over noise pollution—has passed on to the cockerel afterlife.

**An Unbearable Amount of Fun (video)**: A momma bear and four cubs show how a backyard playground should be used.

**Kansas Rap and Wrap (video)**: The Peterson Brothers hit a Facebook milestone and somehow turn a hay-baling experience into another jingle about the positive aspects of farming.

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**Economic Impacts of COVID-19 on Food and Agricultural Markets**

CAST Commentary OTA2020-3

Jayson Lusk
Purdue University

Alison Davis
University of Kentucky

Timothy Richards
Arizona State University

John D. Anderson
University of Arkansas

A panel of agricultural economists will present highlights of CAST’s new paper on the impacts of COVID-19 on food and agricultural markets followed by a Q&A session.

CAST and the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA) have partnered on a new paper *Economic Impacts of COVID-19 on Food and Agricultural Markets*. The paper’s authors discuss the following topics: macroeconomics, trade, supply chain, consumer behavior, food service/grocery, meat processing, forestry and wood products, local food systems, food waste, food insecurity, major commodity crops, agricultural finance, agricultural labor, rural health care, and research and outreach priorities.

CAST and AAEA will present a free webinar hosted by NC-FAR featuring the new commentary on Monday, June 29, 2020, at 11:00 a.m. Central. Register for the free webinar here. A panel of agricultural economists will present highlights of the CAST Issue Paper, followed by a Q&A session.

Read more about the commentary and webinar on this CAST blog post. An Ag quickCAST—a one-page summary of the commentary—and a Student Study Guide regarding the commentary will be available on Monday, June 29—the commentary, recorded webinar, Ag quickCAST, and Student Study Guide will be on the CAST website.

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**Release Date Changes for Upcoming Publications**

- *Naturally Occurring Hormones in Meat, Milk, and Eggs and Use of Supplemental Hormones in Animal Production* (July release)
- *Agriculture and the Microbiome* (August release)
- *The Importance of Communicating Empirically Based Science for Society* (September release)
**Animal Agriculture and Environmental News**

On the Farm (videos): This Pork Checkoff website features videos taking us on [virtual tours of facilities](https://www.porkcheckoff.org/virtual-tours).

Attacking Future Zoonotic Diseases: A [Texas Tech researcher](https://www.ttu.edu/) predicting treatment failure of metritis in dairy cattle while also studying mastitis at organic dairies is hoping to use the findings to understand how to attack future zoonotic diseases.

Poultry Information: On this website, the [U.S. Poultry & Egg Association](https://www.uspoultry.org/) provides a wide range of information about research, education, and more.

Cattle Markets (audio): This agriculture analyst looks at the [twists and turns of the COVID-altered cattle market](https://www.ars.usda.gov/) and offers his outlook for the second half of 2020 and beyond.

Pork Deliveries: Pork producers partnered with Minnesota Pork, the University of Minnesota, and Second Harvest Heartland to deliver more than 12,000 pounds of [ground pork](https://www.mnpork.org/) to food-insecure families.

Veterinarian Links: (1) In this new article, Dr. Christine Navarre (Louisiana State University) discusses research about [food animal veterinarians](https://www.cast.usda.gov/), (2) Navarre was the task force chair for the [CAST Issue Paper](https://www.cast.usda.gov/issue-paper) titled *Impact of Recruitment and Retention of Food Animal Veterinarians on the U.S. Food Supply* and (3) this video explains that veterinarians who [commit to practicing in rural Iowa](https://www.iowavet.org/) can get student debt relief under a new law in Iowa.

Honeybee Buzz: (1) American [honeybee colonies have bounced back](https://www.ars.usda.gov/) after a bad year, (2) a USDA-ARS report explains how honeybees can [better survive winter](https://www.ars.usda.gov/) and (3) this research looked at the [food honeybees need](https://www.eecs.berkeley.edu/).

Honeybee Research: [Check out the CAST Commentary](https://www.cast.usda.gov/issue-paper) titled *Why Does Bee Health Matter? The Science Surrounding Honey Bee Health Concerns and What We Can Do About It*.

**Food Science and Safety News**

A Taxing Situation: The American Heart Association reports that a simulation model details how [different taxing strategies for sugary drinks](https://www.ahajournals.org/) could impact health gains linked to heart attacks, strokes, and diabetes.

The Meat of the Matter (video): This recorded webinar presentation explains the [history of meat-eating](https://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v574/n7780/full/nature17386.html), starting with our earliest ancestors and up to meat's role in today's health and wellness trends.

Pork Production: Capacity utilization in the U.S. [pork processing industry is on the rebound](https://www.bee.org/). Since April 29, when capacity utilization bottomed out at 53.9%, capacity has averaged 78.5%.

School Food Program: Retired Senator Bob Dole leads a call for implementing a [Pandemic School Meals Program](https://www.pandemicschoolmeals.org/).

Keepin’ It Lean and Healthy: The draft scientific report presented by the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee confirmed the role dairy and lean meat can play in a healthy diet.
SOS: Save Our Soil. According to the FAO, 33% of the world's soil is moderately to highly degraded. This article discusses the causes and possible solutions.

Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

Herbicide Ruling: According to a federal judge's ruling, California cannot require a cancer warning label on Roundup, a widely used herbicide.

Court Settlements: Bayer announced agreements that will substantially resolve major outstanding Monsanto litigation, including U.S. Roundup product liability litigation, dicamba drift litigation, and PCB water litigation.

Environmental Ruling: The Administration's Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule, now termed the Navigable Waters Protection Rule, went into effect on June 22 after a judge denied a request to block the implementation.

Temperature Inversions and Pesticides: This blog looks at temperature inversions and why they can be dangerous for pesticide applications.

Wheat, Genes, and Rust Diseases: Researchers have received a grant to discover genes that help farmers combat devastating wheat rust diseases.

Searching for Nutritious Forage: Researchers documented the function of tepary beans and guar as potential summer forages under the growing conditions of the Southern Great Plains.

Carbon "Farming": According to backers, a proposed Senate bill would help farmers get into carbon markets and sequestration projects.

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International News

Milk Dispensers and Glass: Fresh milk dispensers and reusable glass bottles are being introduced into grocery stores in New Zealand following calls from shoppers for milk brands to ditch plastic bottles.

Demand for Rare Earth Minerals Goes Toxic: An Inner Mongolia lake is a toxic zone created by a high demand for smartphones, consumer gadgets, and green tech.

Cleaning with Enzymes: This German lab says that enzymatic detergents are twice as effective for cleaning surgical tools as standard chemical products.

Cooperative Effort: An American nonprofit organization launched a $40 million joint venture with one of Zambia's top farm suppliers to boost crop yields and food security as farmers struggle with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Durian Strikes Again: Twelve German postal workers received medical treatment and dozens more were evacuated due to a pungent suspect package--a shipment of the notoriously smelly durian fruit.

General Interest News

Fighting Fish (video): Siamese fighting fish battles are highly choreographed and so are their genes, researchers found.

"Fishy" Plastic (video): A Cornell-led collaboration is turning DNA from organic matter--such as onions, fish, and algae--into biodegradable gels and plastics.

Post Office under Threat? (opinion): Many say the U.S. Postal Service delivers economic access and democracy to small communities, especially during the COVID-19 crisis.

Termites, Spiders, and Even Some Bloodsuckers: Kansas State entomologists point out that this is the time of year for household pests.
Spiders--Live and Let Live? A North Carolina State entomology specialist says we should not kill spiders in our homes, because they are an important part of nature and our indoor ecosystem.

Harry Potter's Cloak? University of Missouri research about cloak-like structures that can steer mechanical wave energy around objects has garnered interest. The structures can provide protection and make something "invisible."

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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
* 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 Dairy 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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* North Carolina State University
Note: Land O'Lakes supports the delivery of Friday Notes to NAAE

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