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

Upcoming CAST Publication Release and Webinar--P. 2
Animal Agriculture News
Food Science and Safety News
Plant and Environment News
International News
General Interest News

View from Space

In case you missed the Neowise comet, this video from the International Space Station gives you a viewpoint from on high.

Events and Announcements

See page two below for more information about the upcoming CAST publication release (July 27) and webinar (July 28) regarding hormones in food animals.

The Farm Progress Show and Husker Harvest Days will morph into the Farm Progress Virtual Experience, Sept. 15 to 17. Check here for more details.

The University of Arkansas will receive a $130,000 grant in support of the Arkansas Discovery Farms Program—a project designed to improve soil and water health.

The Poultry Science Association successfully completed its first virtual meeting—it included a selection of new board members.

News and Views

USDA Updates: The USDA announced new funding to help socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers own and operate successful farms, and the department released its Boxed Beef and Fed Cattle Price Spread Investigation Report. Note: This link features the reactions from cattle organizations to the USDA investigation.

Current Ag Issues: In this Agri-Pulse Open Mic Interview, Dr. Barbara Glenn—CEO of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture—discusses issues related to the pandemic, broadband coverage, markets, worker protection, and more.

COVID-19 Red Zone (Update): A third of all U.S. rural counties are in a "red zone" for COVID-19 cases.

"Called to Act and Speak the Truth": Tuskegee University President Dr. Lily D. McNair honors the amazing life of Congressman John Lewis.

News from the Far Side of the Barn

Fearless in the Fjord (video): A Norwegian skydiver free-fell from a
CAST welcomes ideas for future publications and projects.

**CAST Updates about Publications and Webinars**

**New CAST Commentary**

On Monday, July 27, the new CAST commentary, *Impacts on Human Health and Safety of Naturally Occurring and Supplemental Hormones in Food Animals*, will be released. A webinar session featuring Robert Collier (University of Idaho and publication task force chair) and the other task force authors will occur on July 28. Register for the free webinar here.

![Impacts on Human Health and Safety of Naturally Occurring and Supplemental Hormones in Food Animals](image)

**Student Study Guides**

CAST study guides are available on the paper's landing page on CAST's website under the "Publications" tab. As Dr. Anna Dilger (University of Illinois and CAST incoming President-Elect) said, "Through the study guides, we highlight the main topics of newly released CAST papers and then provide questions that ask students to think more deeply about the issues. We hope that teachers and students alike find them useful and that this tool attracts even more people to engage with CAST."

**Upcoming Publications**

- *Agriculture and the Microbiome* (August 25 release)
- *The Importance of Communicating Empirically Based Science for Society* (mid-September release)
Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

**Whopper of an Ad Leads to Meaningful Dialogue (video):** As reported last week, Burger King created a buzz with a commercial about burgers, cows, and methane. After hearing from Dr. Frank Mitloehner (UC-Davis) about inaccuracies in the ad, the company halted broadcasts and asked Mitloehner to work with them to get things right.

**Animal Welfare (opinion):** Check out the guest blog from Dr. Candace Croney titled The Paradox of Addressing Animal Welfare while Dehumanizing People. Croney (Purdue) was a co-chair on the CAST paper Scientific, Ethical, and Economic Aspects of Farm Animal Welfare.

**Fishy--In a Good Way:** As aquaculture and fisheries play an increasingly important role in addressing global food security, Mississippi State University is continuing to build its reputation as an international leader in the field.

**Fitbits for Chickens:** Motion sensors were placed into mini backpacks on chickens to determine if they were affected by parasite infestations.

**Pork Exports:** Despite political wrangling, the United States appears to be benefiting from the phase one trade deal with China in terms of pork exports.

**Research about Blue-green Algae and ASF:** A Kansas State University expert warns ranchers that toxic blooms in stagnant water can threaten livestock health, and KSU scientists have partnered with a company to work on a vaccine for African swine fever.

**Funds during the Crisis:** Iowa producers who euthanized hens as a result of plummeting demand for eggs caused by coronavirus shutdowns will be eligible for government payments to cover disposal costs.

**Dealing with Methane:** These experts say it is now possible for tech firms and farmers to lower the amount of livestock-based methane being released into the atmosphere.

Food Science and Safety News

**Food and Robotics (video):** Tech and robotics are part of the food industry's push for safety and sanitation during the coronavirus pandemic. The robots include Sally, the 30,000 dollar salad machine.

**Addressing Global Food Production:** The Food Systems Institute at the University of Florida will bring researchers together to find solutions to feed the world.

**Beating Cross-contamination:** Texas A&M researchers created a coating that battles cross-contamination of produce, and University of Missouri scientists made a coating capable of eliminating foodborne germs, including in meat processing plants.

**Cutting Sugar:** The proposed dietary recommendations from the USDA
Feed Your Mind is an FDA education initiative to help consumers better understand genetically engineered foods.

### Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

**Cacti and Solar Development (video):** UC-Davis experts say putting large solar energy facilities in deserts could be a threat to cacti and other plants.

**Puerto Rican Soil:** This article discusses the different soils found in Puerto Rico and what crops grow best in them.

**Isoflavones in Soybeans:** Feeding isoflavones to pigs may protect them against viral pathogens, according to a University of Illinois study.

**Biotech and Mycotoxins:** This infographic explains that biotech corn can greatly decrease levels of mycotoxins in crops.

**Controlling Invasive Weeds:** Rejuvra—a herbicide that controls weed species on rangeland, CRP land, and natural areas—has been approved by the EPA.

**Plant Diseases in the Wind:** Cornell scientists have been selected for a NASA grant to study how plant pathogens travel the globe and potentially put crops at risk.

### International News

**Study Abroad:** For 14 straight years, Robert Sites has led University of Missouri students to Thailand for an educational study abroad experience focused on biodiversity and conservation.

**Got Milk—Globally:** Increased demand for milk products in China and other parts of Asia has sparked a rebound in global dairy prices—improving the profit outlook for many farmers.

**Vitamin Bullets:** Cambridge scientists developed a way to fortify shellfish to tackle human nutrient deficiencies that cause severe health problems across the world.

**Say Cheese:** Cheesemakers from England and Bavaria have collaborated to produce a hybrid cheese called AlpenCheddar.

**Migrant Workers in Need:** This opinion piece says migrant farm workers in Canada are short of food and protective equipment.
**General Interest News**

**Saddle Up (video):** As this *60 Minutes* segment explains, the **Wright family dominates saddle bronc riding**. Excellent rodeo events occur at universities also. Cal Poly had to postpone recent rodeo events because of the pandemic, but its **successes during the past year were noteworthy**.

**Carbon Labels:** Food packaging started displaying nutritional contents 25 years ago; now some producers are featuring "**carbon labels**" to address climate change concerns.

**Digital Ag Research:** Cornell researchers are exploring how **digital agriculture could affect** small and midsized farms--and the environment.

**Celebrating Agriculture:** Abbey Werstler, an Ohio State University student, is using her position as **2020 National Ms. Agriculture** to promote agriculture.

**Fighting COVID-19 with Better Nutrition:** Self-Help International and other organizations are working to **combat disease and malnutrition**, scourges that have intensified during the pandemic.

**Big Animals and Biology:** The **world's largest** sharks, crocodiles, and spiders can tell scientists a lot about an animal's biology.

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**Societies, Companies, and Nonprofit Organizations 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
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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