



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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Announcements



Western wildfires continue to [destroy homes and affect lives](#). Now, California's [Napa Valley and its wineries are in flames](#). See the "News and Views" section for more about the fires.

[Click here to read the guest blog](#) from Cami Ryan about misinformation and disinformation. She was also a coauthor on CAST's recent [publication about credible science communication](#).

As examples of how universities are dealing with (1) pandemic challenges, [check the health services site](#) from Texas A&M, (2) school traditions, check out Tuskegee's [virtual homecoming weekend](#), and (3) sports during COVID-19, see Mississippi State's [guidelines for football game attendance](#).

Check out the details for the Oct. 6-7 conference called [Securing Agriculture, Food, and its Economy \(SAFE\) with Cyberbiosecurity](#).

October 2, 2020

The Content and the Message

Alexa Lamm is an educator and a scientist, but running through it all is her focus on getting the message across. The word "communicate" is in the titles of two new publications she coauthored: (1)



Identifying Audience Needs to [Effectively Communicate](#) about the Cost of Implementing Sustainable Farming Practices, and (2) *[Animating Science Communication: Measuring U.S. Consumers' Recall about Genetic Modification with Animated Infographics](#)*.

Dr. Lamm (University of Georgia) will be honored as the 2020 BCCA recipient on [October 13](#) at a CAST online event in conjunction with the [World Food Prize](#). During the virtual WFP week, CAST will also host an [October 15](#) webinar focused on its new "Food Biofortification" Issue Paper. See page two for more details.

News and Views

USDA Updates: The "[Farmers to Families Food Box Program](#)" hit the 100-million mark in deliveries. More USDA [press releases here](#).

Epic Fire Season: As California begins what is typically the most dangerous month of fire season, nearly [4 million acres have burned so far](#) in a record-breaking year. This site from the [Northwest Fire Science Consortium](#) provides resource information, and a [USDA Forest Service](#) page looks at the terms involved with "the language of fire." Scientists--such as this University of Nevada-Reno expert--are [studying these wildfires](#), and a team of Cal Poly students, alumni, and professors are creating a prototype for a system of devices that will [detect and prevent wildfires](#).

FIFRA Issue: Numerous weed science societies and more than 300 other organizations are joining with CropLife America in a [call for House and Senate members to oppose legislation](#) that would amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act. [The petition letter is posted here](#).

CAST College Corner

An [NC-State](#) team found a solution for internal necrosis in sweet potatoes.

[UC-Davis](#) received a grant to establish a cultivated meat research program.

[Iowa State University](#) researchers secured a grant to study how the pandemic has impacted the U.S. food supply chain.

Check throughout *Friday Notes* to see more featured articles from member universities.

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CAST [welcomes ideas](#) for future publications and projects.

Ag Income Forecast: An economist says the current agriculture income outlook in much of the Midwest is [higher than expected](#) because of rising commodity prices, the CFAP2, and overall good yields.

News from the Far Side of the Barn

Flying Cars Take Off (video): The [promise of flying cars](#) may finally get off the ground, with several prototypes in the air---not including the joke one at bottom right!



Get Out Your Grass-Stained Bib Overalls: [Pre-stained overalls from Gucci](#) sell for \$1,400, but real farmers have their own fashion reviews of this “haute mess” trend.

A Head with Floppy Ears Might Help (video): We don't want to be paranoid or obsessive, but [the headless robo dog](#) showed up again, and it is evoking delight and creepiness.

CAST Updates

Food Biofortification--Reaping the Benefits of Science to Overcome Hidden Hunger

CAST's new Issue Paper, *Food Biofortification—Reaping the Benefits of Science to Overcome Hidden Hunger*, will be released on October 14 as part of the series on *The Need for Agricultural Innovation to Sustainably Feed the World by 2050*.

On October 15, join Dr. Howarth Bouis, 2016 World Food Prize Laureate and lead author for this publication, as he and a [panel of the task force authors](#) present highlights from this paper followed by Q&A. The webinar will be held at 10 a.m. Central, and registration for the free webinar can be [found here](#).

BCCA Award Presentation

Please join us for the 11th annual Borlaug CAST Communication Award (BCCA) presentation cohosted by CAST and CropLife Foundation, featuring keynote speaker and 2020 award winner Dr. Alexa Lamm. [Check here for registration information](#). This online presentation event--held during World Food Prize week--will occur on Tuesday, October 13, from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM Central Time.



Upcoming Publications

Ground and Aerial Robots for Agricultural Production: Opportunities and Challenges
(November 17 release)

Have a second? Take our poll:

To better serve our readers, we have a voluntary, anonymous poll below. We won't use the data for anything except assessing who our readers are.

Are you a ___?

College Student

Select

Scientist

Select

Educator/Faculty

Select

Communicator

Select

Other

Select

Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

Feeding the World Without Wasting It (video): The Poultry Science Association provides a look at last summer's [2020 WPSA Lecture](#) featuring Frank Mitloehner ([2019 BCCA winner](#)).

Proposition 12 and Livestock: The National Pork Producers Council and the American Farm Bureau Federation are [asking the U.S. Court of Appeals to strike California's Proposition 12](#) as invalid. [Proposition 12 affects standards](#) for sow housing and other livestock operations.

Disposition and Pregnancy: University of Florida animal scientists recorded disposition scores over two years for many crossbred cows to [gauge their temperament](#) and their probability to become pregnant.

Eggs for a Cause: America's egg farmers are [donating more than 46 million eggs](#) in 2020, as food banks experience heavy demand due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Beefy Resilience: Even in this turbulent year, [beef demand has remained resilient](#), and markets have almost completely rebounded to year-ago levels.

Pig Diseases: This Pork Checkoff site focuses on "[foreign animal disease prevention](#)"---with articles about Germany's AFS cases, the United States dealing with its [millions of feral swine](#), and Japan's confirmation of a new case of classical swine fever.



Alison Van Eenennaam ([2014 BCCA winner](#)) joined with others to [release a new scientific report: *Harnessing Endogenous Repair Mechanisms for Targeted Gene Knock-in of Bovine Embryos.*](#)

Kansas State University experts explain how [processing facilities can be safe](#) for people and cattle.

Food Science and Safety News

Hunger Issues: In communities across the country, the lines at food pantries are stretching longer, and the [rates of food insecurity continue to rise](#).

Food Chain Challenges: The COVID-19 [pandemic continues to affect the food chain](#), including constraining

supplies, spiking prices, and hurting restaurants.

Working on Waste: After a sharp increase in food waste following the outbreak of COVID-19, [the “waste rate” might be slowing](#). Also, the United Nations designated September 29 as the [inaugural International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste](#).

Salmon Pigmentation: Research shows that [feed and stress](#) can influence salmon flesh pigmentation.

Digging into Menus of the Past: Archaeologists find that unglazed ceramic cookware absorbs the chemical residue of present and past meals—and ancient findings can reveal the [culinary secrets of the past](#).



North Carolina State’s Howling Cow ice cream has faced pandemic sales problems, but [university-produced honey has been a sweet surprise for the operation](#).

Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

Grain Report: U.S. farmers are sitting on [less corn and soybeans than previously thought](#), according to the USDA *Quarterly Grain Stocks Report*. The "September Grain Stocks" report shows a [big readjustment for corn](#).

Alfalfa's Genetic Markers: Alfalfa's complex genome has hindered efforts to breed alfalfa for desirable qualities, but some markers [have been identified](#).

Field Crop Production Handbook: Growing successful field crops is a science, and this Iowa State University [publication looks at important basics](#).

Organic Farming: Certified organic land accounts for a tiny amount of U.S. farmland. Purdue specialists are working with [farmers who want to attain certification](#).

Regenerative Agriculture: Released by the Rodale Institute, [Regenerative Agriculture and the Soil Carbon Solution](#) is a publication looking at agricultural practices that can affect climate stabilization and more.



These researchers received grants from federal agencies to continue their work [studying the communities of microorganisms](#).

Also, check out CAST’s paper, webinar, student study guide, and Ag quickCAST focused on [Agriculture and the Microbiome](#).

International News

Smart Farm: Canada’s first [research smart farm](#) is focused on maximizing livestock operations’ efficiency.

Insects as Food: The [German startup, "FarmInsect,"](#) offers insect larvae as protein feed for animals.

Tech Ag Down Under: This Australian report looks at [how technology can lead to a fertile future](#) with a focus on sensors, robotics, AI, and blockchain.

China's "Rural Hollowing": China is facing a [rural labor shortage ahead of the autumn harvest](#), as concerns grow about the security of the nation’s grain supply.

Six-day Thunderstorm: A [volcano in Indonesia](#) erupted, releasing a gaseous plume that helped feed a six-day thunderstorm.



This “hero rat” was given a gold medal for its [ability to detect undetonated landmines](#) in Cambodia, a country where

Genetically Improved Millet: A nutritious millet crop grown mainly in West Africa could be [genetically improved for large-scale agriculture](#) in Saudi Arabia.

thousands have been killed or maimed by deadly remnants of several wars.

General Interest News

On the Road Again--at Home--for Farm Aid (video):[Farm Aid marked its 35th anniversary with a virtual at-home festival](#) featuring appearances and performances by Willie Nelson, Neil Young, John Mellencamp, Dave Matthews, Norah Jones, and many more.

Hand-washing, Social Distancing, and Masks Due to "Farm Fragrances": Mark Parker's top-10 list shows that [pandemic rules applied](#) on the farm before coronavirus.

Martha's Vineyard Farm Bureau: It's been [at least 40 years](#) since a new county Farm Bureau has been created.

Tech and Ag Go Virtual: The Ohio State University's 58th annual [Farm Science Review went virtual](#) but delivered tech-based information about food, livestock, and crop production to thousands of participants.

Hands On in Ohio: The "[Farm Chore Experience](#)" offers families a chance to dig in, get hands dirty, and see what happens behind the scenes.



For 70 years, David Attenborough has traveled the world directing wildlife films. In this video, he [talks about nature and climate change](#).

A purchase of Reebok's [new plant-based shoes](#) comes with a box of fresh produce.

Photo Credits

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- * 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

- * 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

- * American Veterinary Medical Association
- * Aquatic Plant Management Society
- * BASF Corporation
- * Cal Poly State University
- * Corteva Agriscience
- * CropLife America

- * 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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The Science Source for Food,
 Agricultural, and Environmental Issues

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