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....
Animal Agriculture News
Food Science & Safety News
Plant & Environmental News
International News
General Interest News

Announcements

A story and informative one-minute video from NASA confirms, for the first time, water on the sunlit surface of the Moon. And sure enough, 2020 will bring us a rare Halloween Full “Blue Moon” on Saturday, October 31.

The Farmer Veteran Coalition—a major military-to-agriculture movement—will hold its 2020 National Stakeholders Virtual Conference Nov. 18-19.

The Midwest Poultry Federation has rescheduled its 2021 convention from March to May—check here for details.

October 30, 2020

Bountiful Harvest from Rocky Ground

"This challenging year has led to some excellent output."

CAST's outgoing president, Juan Tricarico (Vice Pres., Sustainability, Dairy Management Inc.), opened the organization's annual meeting with an optimistic line that points to the fact that even though 2020 has thrown plenty at us all, CAST has increased its output of quality science-based publications, hosted highly attended webinars, developed its social media presence, adapted to a new website format, produced translated versions of papers, and initiated a series of publication study guides for students. As CAST EVP Kent Schescke said, "We are maintaining our mission to communicate credible, unbiased science-based information thanks to expert input from board members, committee participants, and numerous volunteers."

This year’s virtual gathering included nuts-and-bolts meetings plus high-level presentations and panel discussions. See page two for more about an informational USDA science forum and a BCCA panel discussion about science communication.

News and Views

Hidden Hunger: This article explains “hidden hunger” due to poor nutrition, and it supports the influential, new CAST publication, Food Biofortification—Reaping the Benefits of Science to Overcome Hidden Hunger.

Food Aid: The USDA distributed more than half of the second Coronavirus Food Assistance Program's funds to farmers; for some, rural hunger has been exacerbated by the pandemic.

Census Numbers: This U.S. Census Bureau news release includes statistics and various types of information.

Mighty Winds: The powerful derecho that hit the Midwest in August is officially the most costly thunderstorm event in recorded United States history according to NOAA. And this video report from RFD-TV looks at the effects Hurricane Zeta is...
Patterson was honored for his extensive work with beef cattle operations, and a fellow Mizzou specialist, Nichole Anderson, is getting a USDA grant to focus on bringing more tech into the classroom.

Ruby Perry of the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine received the “Champion of Diversity” recognition at a recent symposium.

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

CAST Social Media

Visit our website

CAST welcomes ideas for future publications and projects.

CAST Updates

The CAST Annual Meeting Featured Noteworthy Events

Aside from work groups, business meetings, and other official actions, the annual meeting included a "USDA Science Panel" and a "BCCA Winners Science Communications Panel."

The USDA science session was moderated by incoming CAST President David Baltensperger, and it featured insights and information from Scott Hutchins, Chavonda Jacobs-Young, Parag Chitnis, and Spiro Stefanou. See photo below left for their official titles and duties, and click here to access the video of the session. The panelists provided specifics about the REE mission area and its agencies, the progress on the USDA’s Ag Innovation Agenda, and answers to questions from viewers.

The BCCA winners session, moderated by Julie Borlaug, included insightful comments from four of the Borlaug CAST Communication Award winners—Alison Van Eenennaam, Kevin Folta, Jayson Lusk, and this year’s recipient, Alexa Lamm. With a key focus on the need for building trust, the participants gave examples and advice about communicating ag and science to wide and varied audiences: “Take it to the farmers; take it to the scientists; take it to the people.” Their insights are geared toward getting us all out of our "echo chambers." They urge scientists and food production stakeholders to communicate with the public and policymakers to make progress on issues such as hunger and food production, the environment, and the use of innovation and technology. This video of the session is filled with good ideas, thoughtful discussions, and answers to viewers’ questions. See the photo below right for participants and titles.

CAST 2020 Annual Meeting

USDA Science Panel

Scott Hutchins
Deputy Under Secretary
Research, Education, and Economics

Parag Chitnis
Acting Director
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Chavonda Jacobs-Young
Agricultural Research Service

Spiro Stefanou
Economic Research Service

MODERATOR:
David Baltensperger
CAST President-elect
Chair, National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board

BCCA Winners Science Communications Panel

Alison Van Eenennaam, 2014
Animal Genomics and Biotechnology Cooperative Extension Specialist, Department of Animal Science, University of California, Davis

Kevin Folta, 2016
Professor of Horticultural Sciences, University of Florida’s Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Allexa Lamm, 2020
Associate Professor, Science Communication, University of Georgia

Jayson Lusk, 2017
Distinguished Professor, Agricultural Economics, Purdue University

MODERATOR: Julie Borlaug
Vice President of Communications and Public Relations, INNAtrophic Agriculture, A Flagship Pioneering Co.
CAST Board of Trustees
Jeff Simmons—2013 BCCA winner and President and CEO of Elanco—discusses how the agriculture industry can emerge stronger during the post-pandemic era in the new CAST guest blog.

Elanco has also announced its first sustainability commitments. It is issuing three "Healthy Purpose Pledges" that include pledges for protein, the planet, and pets. Read more about their commitment to drive sustainable change by 2030.

Upcoming Publications

Ground and Aerial Robots for Agricultural Production: Opportunities and Challenges
The paper will be released on November 16, with a webinar on November 17.

Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

**Pig Production:** A National Pork Board study says America's pig farmers continue to make strides in overall sustainability, and a Farm Journal survey looks at how COVID-19 might be changing pig production methods.

**Preventing Weaning Woes:** This article discusses ways to reduce stress on calves during weaning time.

**Robotic Milking:** A college's dairy center uses a robotic milking system as well as a traditional system to give students a chance to learn different milking techniques.

**Striving for the Perfect Egg:** Quality requirements for the table egg vary, so this article looks at how to identify and take care of egg abnormalities.

**High on Beef:** The months ahead look positive for the beef industry, especially at the cow-calf level, according to a global outlook report from Rabo AgriFinance.

**Turkey Time:** With smaller Thanksgiving celebrations due to the pandemic, grocery stores are stocking their fresh and frozen sections with proportionally appropriate poultry.

**Scientists performed a “sting operation”** on a nest of murder hornets using space suits, high-tech vacuums, and even dental floss. They hope to contain or wipe out the vicious insect that is a threat to other bee species. The hornet hunters also used a radio tag and trap developed by USDA scientists.

Food Science and Safety News

**Food Safety and Science:** A virtual meeting called a “U.S. Regulatory Update on Food Safety” featured FDA Deputy Commissioner Frank Yiannas and USDA Under Secretary for Food Safety Mindy Brashears.

**Stopping Foodborne Illness:** This story looks at USDA/NIFA work to reduce the incidence of foodborne illness while providing a safer food supply.

**Pandemic Food Trends:** This Kansas State report says eating habits have changed during the pandemic—with comments about home preparation, Millennial and Gen Z food habits, slow-cooker use, and the baking trend.

**Puerto Rico’s Food Heritage:** Hardship and hurricanes have shaped Puerto Rico's food for centuries with cooking that expresses ancestry, adaptability, and fortitude.

**These researchers say kids with popular YouTube channels are promoting unhealthy food and**
**Blue Thumb Farm:** Two scientists-turned-farmers bring salad greens to North Carolina’s Research Triangle year-round with their state-of-the-art hydroponic farm.

**Plant Agriculture and Environmental News**

**Dicamba Ruling:** The EPA announced approval of three dicamba formulations for over-the-top use for five years.

**USDA Certified Organic Label:** The USDA reports that organic farming is thriving.

**Wine and Wildfires:** Devastating wildfires have pummeled the California areas of Napa and Sonoma, including the $43 billion wine industry.

**Cover Up:** Iowa State University experts showed that perennial groundcovers help farmers merge high yield agriculture with conservation and profitability, and related research ideas come from the Noble Research Institute.

**Hay Bales in the Water (video):** Researchers are studying the benefits of staking hay bales in waterways to prevent the growth of blue-green algae.

**Compost, Soil, and the Ecology (related to link below):** Compost—an organic blend of food and natural waste—plays an integral part in helping plants grow.

**Waste Not on Campus:** Kansas State students are mixing food waste from three campus dining halls with other compostable materials to provide a boost to soil.

**NC-State researchers teamed up with technology leaders to tackle the complex challenges facing agriculture. They will use the cloud and internet for interdisciplinary projects including the use of sensors to detect plant diseases.**

**General Interest News**

**Trick or Treat:** Mark Parker’s top 10 reasons farmhouses...
don't get much trick-or-treat action include lonely settings, howling coyotes, and real corn treats—not candy corn!

**ClusterCluck 5000:** A Midwest farmer planted alternating sections of corn and pasture in an experiment he calls “stock cropping.” Hoping to promote diversification and multiple species, a group has patented the setup.

**Coastal Solutions:** Cal Poly researchers launched an effort to develop practical solutions to the unique environmental challenges facing California’s Central Coast.

**Hemp in Dry Country:** Hemp is versatile and uses less water than many other crops. University of Nevada-Reno researchers are studying varieties and best practices.

**Egrets and Mercury:** University of Florida researchers found that mercury exposure affects great egret breeding.

USDA-ARS researchers say the weird insects called treehoppers have the most bizarre costumes in the insect world—one that helps them hide from predators.

---

**Photo Credits**

P. 1 moon pic from usda.com and chipmunk pic from mamaspuncut.com. Animal Sec. hornet pic from nbcnews.com and vox.com. Food Sec. boy and food pic from nypost.com and cnn.com. Plant Sec. device pic from uncs.edu. Inter Sec. plastics pic from theecologist.org. Gen. Sec. insect pic from AndrewKay.govdelivery.com. Unless otherwise noted, photos courtesy of the USDA Agricultural Research Service or CAST.

---

**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 Cattlemen’s 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

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.

**Members of CAST's Education Program**
* Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo  
* Cornell University  
* Iowa State University  
* Kansas State University  
* Mississippi State University  
* North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University  
* North Carolina State University  
* Penn State University  
* Texas A&M University College of Ag & Life Sciences  
* The Ohio State University  
* Tuskegee University  
* University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture  
* University of California-Davis  
* University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences  
* University of Kentucky  
* University of Missouri-Columbia  
* University of Nebraska Agricultural Research Division  
* University of Nevada-Reno College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources

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

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

CAST provides Friday Notes as a benefit to its members. Please do not forward, edit, copy, or distribute the Notes in any form to nonmembers without the express permission of the CAST Executive Vice President Kent Schescke (kschescke@cast-science.org). Instead, please encourage your colleagues to join CAST and thereby become eligible for all membership benefits. Contact Colleen Hamilton at 515-292-2125 or chamilton@cast-science.org, or CLICK HERE for CAST membership information.