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

Special Holiday Edition
This week's Friday Notes newsletter arrives on a Thursday and focuses on headlines, high-interest links, and coverage of the CAST Climate 21 publication rollout and webinar.

World Food Prize laureates, staff members, and partners work to alleviate hunger through innovative approaches. Their expertise, research, and insights are often featured on the Borlaug Blog website.

July 1, 2021

Agriculture as a Solution
Climate 21 Paper and Webinar Highlight Ag Innovations, Technology, and Programs

Agriculture has always been a major part of environmental efforts, but now that role has become more significant as the world faces pronounced climate issues. The new CAST Commentary—The Role of Agricultural Science and Technology in Climate 21 Project Implementation—discusses several key topics including nutrient and pest management, animal systems, agricultural technologies, the food supply chain, and carbon markets. The publication, ag QuickCAST, and webinar video are available here.

CAST President David Baltensperger (Texas A&M) says agriculture is central to the Climate 21 efforts, and he points out that CAST and its members can be actively involved. He chaired a task force of authors who shared their insights to produce a commentary that informs policymakers, scientists, the public, and various ag stakeholders about innovations, technology, and programs that are making a difference. As Marty Matlock (University of Arkansas and 2018 BCCA) said, “Ag can be a solution—we must motivate all sectors in this effort.”

See page two below for more about the publication and webinar.

News and Views

Deadly Heat: Record-breaking temperatures created a blistering “heat dome” in the Pacific Northwest; utilities, agriculture, and human health have been affected.

USDA News: The USDA announced (1) new resources to inform consumers about food waste reduction, (2) the appointment of Randy Moore as Chief of the Forest Service, and (3) an interagency agreement to coordinate the distribution of broadband deployment federal funds.

Court Ruling on Prop 12: The Supreme Court denied a petition to review California’s Proposition 12.
CAST College Corner

The Cornell Alliance for Science website covers diverse topics ranging from gene sequencing to "infodemic misinformation."

Seven faculty members at the University of Nevada, Reno received the prestigious National Science Foundation award.

The University of Florida's supercomputer was named one of the most powerful in the world.

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 Role of Agricultural Science and Technology in Climate 21 Project Implementation

This link of the latest CAST Commentary comes with an Ag quickCAST and a video of the webinar presentation. The publication summarizes key recommendations and priorities regarding how agricultural science and technology are critical to meeting the goals of the Climate 21 Project. David Baltensperger was chair of the publication task force, and many specialists from universities and the private sector provided their expertise.

The June 29 webinar was part of a series on climate change cohosted by the National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research. CAST EVP/CEO Kent Schescke opened the presentation, CAST President David Baltensperger coordinated the proceedings, and a panel of experts gave insights and answered questions about the material.

Webinar Panelist Comments

David Baltensperger: Ag, including forestry, is central to climate mitigation.

Zhengxia Dou: Food waste can be countered with composting, anaerobic digesters, and re-feeding practices.

Marty Matlock: Agriculture has become more efficient, but we need to motivate all sectors.

Debbie Reed: We must consider the importance of
public/private partnerships.

Juan M. Tricarico: Animal agriculture can help reverse climate change.

Alex Thomasson: Precision agriculture and advanced breeding techniques are important.

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**Animal Agriculture and Environmental News**

**Hog Report:** The USDA released the "Quarterly Hogs and Pigs" report, revealing tighter supplies are ahead.

**Beef News:** This site includes headlines about beef production—including WOTUS and fair cattle markets.

**Boosting Bees:** Entomologists from the University of Arkansas investigated the value of wild bees and native plants in agriculture.

**Pig World News:** A range of products for swine producers hit the market in June, including various pig health products.

**Cattle Report:** A University of Missouri economist commented about the USDA's latest Cattle on Feed report that had placements in May at the low-end of pre-report estimates.

The pandemic had a huge impact on chicken consumer behavior; some will keep new habits, but many will shift back to old ways.

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**Food Science and Safety News**

**Essential Food Chain Workers (video):** An Oregon fruit and vegetable producer explains that agricultural workers—including migrant farm laborers—are among the hardest-working, lowest-paid, yet most vital workers in America.

**Safe Eating:** It's a good time of year to consider food safety, and this CDC site contains useful, pertinent information.

**Food Worker Staffing:** Restaurant employment rose for the fifth consecutive month in May, but staffing remains well below pre-pandemic levels, according to government figures.

**Food Prices:** Restaurant food prices increased 0.6% in May. This USDA report also looks at supermarket prices and overall food inflation.

**On the Side:** A Kansas State University food scientist suggests summer side dishes for thrifty consumers.

Colorful, creative, and tasty? Check here for hundreds of 4th of July recipes on Pinterest.

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**Plant Agriculture and Environmental News**

**Government Crop Report:** The USDA's annual "June 30 Acreage Report" looks at grain acres planted, and markets indicate favorable reactions for crop farmers but less upbeat news for livestock producers facing high feed costs. Check here for more related statistics.

**Crop Conditions:** The USDA crop report said corn and soybean crop conditions held steady, but variable weather conditions are affecting progress in many areas.

**Genomics and Environment:** A study led by an Iowa State University scientist uses advanced data analytics to help scientists understand how the environment interacts with...
Bioreactors in the Field: Bioreactors—underground trenches filled with woodchips—have gained traction as a tool to remove nitrogen from water in agricultural settings.

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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