

CAST<sup>®</sup>

# Friday Notes



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

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



Friday Notes Special 4<sup>th</sup> of July Weekend Edition

### 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](#).

Economic Impacts of COVID-19 on Food and Agricultural Markets  
CAST Commentary Q1A2020-3



June 29, 2020



It is the one-year anniversary of [CAST's COVID-19 paper](#)—*Economic Impacts of COVID-19 on Food and Agricultural Markets*. [This Impact Report](#) features statistics about the publication's influence and links to the Ag quickCAST and the

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](#).

webinar video.

## 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.

**COVID Vaccines:** This [regularly updated map shows](#) how the COVID-19 vaccination is going in each state, and this CDC site includes [official information about vaccines](#).

**Gene Editing and Medicine:** A new medical treatment for amyloidosis adds to the success with sickle cell disease to [show that CRISPR can be used to treat more common diseases](#) such as cancer and blindness.

## Far Side of the Barn

**Is There Anybody Out There?** The latest [government report about UFO sightings](#) had no “X-Files moments,” but it [did not close the extraterrestrial doors](#). There is both [renewed interest and skepticism](#) in the search for alien life.



**He Found What?** A YouTuber received permission to [dive along the San Antonio River Walk](#) and search for “treasures.”

**The Latest "Jetson Car":** Developers are hailing a “new era” of transport after a [flying car completed its first inter-city flight](#)

# CAST Updates

## The Role of Agricultural Science and Technology in Climate 21 Project Implementation



The Role of Agricultural Science and Technology in Climate 21 Project Implementation

Authors	Reviewers
David Baltensperger Texas A&M University	Charles W. Rice Kansas State University
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	John Swarthout Bayer Crop Science
	Todd Peterson Customwood Ag Services, LLC

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

<b>David Baltensperger</b> Soil and Crop Sciences, Texas A&M University	<b>Zhengxia Dou</b> School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania	<b>Marty Matlock</b> Biological & Agricultural Engineering, University of Arkansas
<b>Debbie Reed</b> Ecosystem Services Market consortium	<b>Alex Thomasson</b> Agricultural & Biological Engineering, Mississippi State University	<b>Juan Tricarico</b> Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy

public/private partnerships.

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

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

## 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.

## 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.

## 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](#)



The USDA [supports climate-smart agriculture and forestry](#) through

[genomics](#) in corn, wheat, and oats.

voluntary conservation practices in  
10 states.

**Bioreactors in the Field:** Bioreactors—underground trenches filled with woodchips—have gained traction as a [tool to remove nitrogen](#) from water in agricultural settings.

## Photo Credits

P. 1 climate collage from the bulletin.org, farm scene pic from fb.org, and UFO cartoon from cnn.com. Animal Sec. chicken collage from collage.jpg. Food Sec. recipe collage from rd.com. Plant Sec. plant pic from usda.gov. Unless otherwise noted, photos courtesy of the USDA Agricultural Research Service or CAST.

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- \* 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 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
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- \* Corteva Agriscience
- \* CropLife America
- \* Crop Science 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 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

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