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Animal Agriculture News
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Announcements

A group has created the world’s first underwater garden for terrestrial plants. It’s fittingly called Nemo’s Garden.

Iowa State University and the Iowa Pork Industry Center are holding the International Conference on Swine Nutrition August 11-12, 2021, in Ames, IA.

The American Meat Science Association 2021 Achievement Award Recipients have been announced.

CAST College Corner

The University of Nevada-Reno is celebrating The Morrill Act of 1862, also known as the Land-Grant College Act.

The University of Missouri has announced a restructuring of their Agricultural Experiment Station.

A North Carolina State University horticultural scientist believes their Corpse Flower will bloom within the next two weeks. They have a livestream of it on their website as well.

July 16, 2021

Drought Continues to Cause Problems

With the continuing drought, ten states are seeing the majority of pasture and range conditions in poor to very poor shape. Livestock producers may need to rely on rangeland insurance policies due to the lack of rainfall. The USDA Risk Management Agency offers a pasture, rangeland, forage pilot insurance program fact sheet. A second municipality in Manitoba has declared a state of agricultural disaster following a season of relentless heat, record-breaking temperatures, and drought. In this video series, three California farmers show the impact the drought is having on their operations.

News and Views

USDA Updates: 1) The USDA will provide pandemic assistance to livestock producers for animal losses caused by insufficient access to processing. 2) The USDA’s AMS has announced that it has upgraded its Agricultural Transportation Open Data Platform with new datasets and dashboards.

Executive Order: Twenty percent of President Biden’s recent executive order impacts agriculture. It has drawn mixed reactions from different farm groups.

Solar Leases vs. Carbon Contracts: The relative handful of farmers who have signed carbon sequestration contracts is half the size of the group that has leased land for solar electricity production. This website allows for people to ask questions about carbon markets and learn more about them.

Far Side of the Barn

Flying Fish (video): The Utah Division of Wildlife restocks lakes using planes.
CAST welcomes ideas for future publications and projects.

CAST Social Media

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CAST welcomes ideas for future publications and projects.

CAST Updates

New Board of Trustees Members

Welcome to the CAST Board of Trustees

Dr. Cathann Kress serves as Vice President for Agricultural Administration and Dean, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) at The Ohio State University since May 2017. Dean Kress has responsibility for leadership of the college which also comprises OSU Extension, research centers including the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, and the Agricultural Technical Institute in Wooster. She is also a full professor within the department of Agricultural Communication, Education, and Leadership.

Dr. Julie Funk serves as Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Arizona. Prior to her current role she was at Michigan State University serving as Associate Dean for Academic Programs and Student Success and Profession in the College of Veterinary Medicine. She also served as Director of the Master of Food Safety at Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine. Before joining Michigan State University she served as an Assistant Professor at The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

Finding Feed: In response to farmers facing feed shortages, two websites are helping connect producers who need feed with those who have it.

ASF Update: The first cases of African swine fever have been confirmed in farm pigs in Germany.

Poultry Research: US Poultry has recently published studies on euthanasia and the impact of anthelmintic resistance in parasites.

Gene-edited Animals: University experts call for a coordinated, streamlined approach between the FDA and the USDA on biotech animal approvals.

Precision for Producers: A new broiler platform is being distributed to help producers monitor and manage their flocks.

Cool Cows: To restore some degrees of comfort to dairy
Food Science and Safety News

**New Designs:** A new resource has been released for all equipment used in meat and poultry establishments to **address food safety hazards.**

**Heat Damage:** With record-breaking temperatures, the heat is taking a **toll on the U.S. fruit crop.**

**The Three R’s:** It’s been a challenge, but this company believes they’ve found an **environmentally friendly alternative** to plastic food packaging.

**Still Disrupted:** Dr. Jayson Lusk (**2017 BCCA**) and Dr. Brandon McFadden look at the disruptions in food supply chains and consumer behavior **months after the initial shutdown.**

A new study found that more than half of university students surveyed have tried a meat alternative. This **podcast discusses the study** and the article **discusses the results.**

Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

**Rain Makes Corn (video):** Rain is a good thing, but too much rain could strip soils of applied **nutrients at a key time** in the growing season.

**Apples to Apples (podcast):** This podcast discusses **changes, challenges, and opportunities** within the apple industry.

**Growing Hemp:** This newly approved crop has proven **riskier and more difficult** than many farmers initially expected.

**Crop Insurance Webinar:** A webinar on July 20 will provide an overview of available **federal crop insurance options.**

**CRP Signups:** The USDA has updated signup options to provide **greater incentives for producers** who put ground into CRP.

The government is lifting a roadblock to cannabis research that scientists and advocates say has **hindered studies** of its possible health benefits.

International News

**World Hunger:** A multi-agency report estimates up to **811 million people were undernourished** last year due to COVID-19.

**Going Global:** The **Minor Use Foundation** website is now available in Spanish and French to provide growers around the globe with the latest plant protection technology.

**High-rise Piggeries:** This chairman, founder, and designer of hog buildings in China has been focused on how to **raise more pigs** on the same amount of land.

**Corn Imports:** The USDA’s Foreign Agricultural Service stated Brazil corn imports are forecast at 2.6 million tons for 2020/21, which would be the **largest volume on record.**

According to a new study, Filipino farmers, including low-income households, have benefitted economically from growing **genetically modified corn.**
Aquaculture: Researchers from UC Santa Cruz’s ecological aquaculture lab won a three-year, $1 million grant that will support collaborative research to develop, test, and evaluate new low-polluting fish feed formulas for farm-raised trout.

New Discovery: Penn State researchers found a fossil deposit in China that may hold the keys to understanding how animals and algae developed 500 million years ago.

Cotton for the Future: Re-usable, disposable, and 100% biodegradable cotton grocery bags may be the future for retailers.

E15 Year Round: After a recent court decision, the U.S. Senate moves to ensure E15 is available year round.

Fifty years ago a company invented the first large round baler; in 2017 they created the first self-propelled baler.

Photo Credits
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* 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
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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.

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