



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



CAST and the Farm Journal Foundation will honor the [2021 Borlaug CAST Communication Award winner—Dr. Sarah Evanega](#)—on the occasion of the 2021 Borlaug Dialogue hosted by the World Food Prize Foundation.

The breakfast event on October 21 at 7:00 a.m. will have limited in-person attendance and a post-event video available to all.

Contact Melissa Sly at mshly@cast-science.org for further information.

This installment of the [Women in Ag series features Julie Borlaug](#), the president of the Borlaug Foundation and granddaughter of the “father of modern agriculture.” Among many other roles, Julie Borlaug is an active supporter of the World Food Prize, and she serves on the CAST Board of Trustees.

Registration for the [World Food Prize Foundation 2021 Borlaug Dialogue](#) will close October 13.

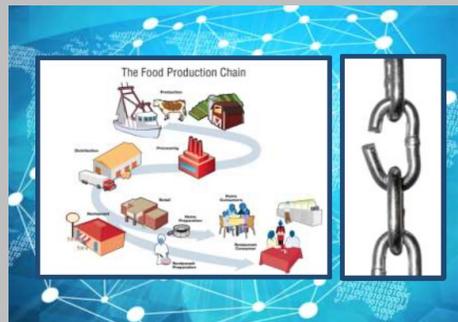
An October 25 webinar from the Center for Food Integrity looks at “[Key Drivers to Consumer Acceptance of Ag and Food](#)”

October 1, 2021

Supply Chain Issues

Food and Ag Products Affected

As one expert said, the [pandemic is clogging supply chains](#) much like a car accident jams a highway. Traffic problems have many causes, and so do the issues that are affecting the world's “supply chain highway.”



Agricultural sectors are working hard to keep goods moving, and society does not need more panic buying and viral rumors. But food items and many other goods are essential, so in this edition, we provide several articles that cover a sampling of the “links in the supply chain.”

- 1) The USDA announced further assistance to [help school food service directors](#) respond to supply chain disruptions. For example, Michigan schools report a [need for truck drivers](#), and some North Carolina schools have a [shortage of cafeteria workers](#).
- 2) Transport problems are also at sea as this [California port logjam](#) demonstrates; some worry that the intense [Christmas shopping time](#) will be affected.
- 3) For various reasons, [restaurant food shortages](#) have been happening throughout the pandemic.
- 4) [Supply chain issues are global](#), and England consumers are dealing with shortages of items such as petrol, beef, milk, and timber.

News and Views

USDA Actions: The department announced a [comprehensive set of investments](#) to address challenges facing America's agricultural producers—drought, animal health, market disruptions, climate initiatives, and more. The department also applauded efforts to [prevent the spread of African swine fever](#), directed [aid for those affected by Hurricane Ida](#), and called for [nominations for an Equity Commission](#).

Technology on the Farm: Ag technology keeps [moving from futuristic to reality](#), as aerial robots hover and autonomous tractors plant crops.

[Technology.](#)"

This site covers some important issues from the 2021 [National Association of State Departments of Agriculture](#) Annual Meeting.

CAST College Corner

[North Carolina A&T State University](#) opened a \$6 million pavilion for ag research and education on its research farm in Greensboro.

An [Iowa State University](#) professor points out that food science job opportunities have boomed during the pandemic.

A [UC Davis](#) professor—Frank Mitloehner, [2019 BCCA](#)—is the featured speaker for the Henry C. Gardiner Global Food Systems lecture October 11 at the [Kansas State University](#) campus.

CAST Social Media

Visit our
website



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

Vaccine Campaign: This regularly updated site looks at how the [COVID-19 vaccination campaign](#) is going in each state.

Wildfire Recovery: Cal Poly professors and students [used artificial intelligence](#) to quickly assess wildfire damage.

Prestigious Research Grant: Iowa State University Professor Lisa Schulte Moore received a MacArthur Fellowship to work on "building more [sustainable and resilient agricultural systems](#)."

Far Side of the Barn

Rude and "Boaring"

Tourists: Ancient Rome was invaded by barbarians, but the Eternal City is now grappling with [rampaging, rubbish-seeking wild boars](#).



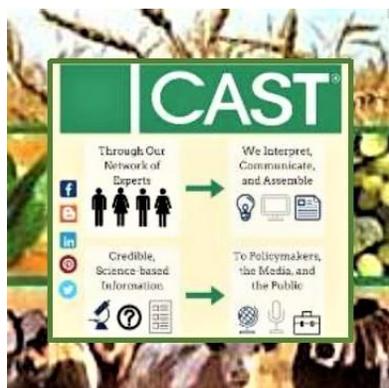
Monkey Thieves and

Drunk Elephants: This author examines [crimes committed by animals](#)—including some cases that are "unbearable."

Trash-talking with a Wayward Gator (videos): A determined Florida man [used a garbage can to bag a marauding alligator](#) and return it to the lagoon.

CAST Updates

Member Societies Help Promote CAST's Mission



Society members are an important component in the effort to fulfill CAST's mission—communicating credible, science-based information to a wide audience. [Society members include](#) those representing medicine, plants, food, animals, and other types of science and agriculture. CAST's society members enjoy several benefits such as access to publications and a weekly newsletter. But just as notable, these groups share information with others through CAST's publications and social media, and their members keep aware of science-based research and information from the many sources available through CAST.

Member societies have a voice on the [CAST Board of Representatives](#), a body made up of member societies, universities, companies, nonprofit organizations, and the Board of Directors. Each member of the board serves on one of three work groups—Animal Agriculture and

Environmental Issues, Food Science and Safety, or Plant Agriculture and Environmental Issues. The work groups meet at an annual board meeting, hold monthly conference calls, and help CAST identify, clarify, and prioritize national issues it should address in its publications to support science, technology, and innovation.

Final Impact Report for "Gene Pool" Publication

CAST [Issue Paper #65](#)—*Protecting Food Animal Gene Pools for Future Generations*—addresses several

Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

ASF Hope: The Agricultural Research Service says an African swine fever (ASF) [vaccine candidate is effective](#) in fighting the virus.

The Carbon Neutral Pig: This short film from the U.S. Farmers and Ranchers in Action group covers the story of a [climate-focused pig farmer](#).

Eggshell Integrity: The poultry industry is [looking for research that identifies methods and practices](#) to improve eggshell quality.

Helping Veterinary Labs: Texas A&M has been working with the World Organization for Animal Health to [improve the economic sustainability](#) of veterinary labs.

A Final Goodbye: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service declared [23 animal species are now officially extinct](#)

Bugged about History: These University of Arkansas entomologists focus on [insects that have altered the course of human history](#).



Kansas State University agricultural economists [looked at cattle markets](#), and the university hosted [a podcast](#) dealing with several beef production topics.

Food Science and Safety News

Safe Dining: Researchers from the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station are investigating whether food service industry [disinfecting practices are adequate](#).

Toxins in Baby Food: A government report indicates [high levels of toxic heavy metals](#) in some baby food products.

A Pandemic Positive? Possibly due to the pandemic, the number of [cases of food poisoning dropped](#) significantly in 2020, according to a CDC report.

Dairy and Heart Health: This study suggests that people who eat more dairy fat have a [lower risk of heart disease](#).

High Tech in Hawaii: Producers are looking at [high-tech techniques](#) that might help Hawaii with its dependency on food imports.

Food Waste (see related links in photo caption): The UN FAO noted the [International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste](#) with an informational website.



The CAST Issue Paper [Food Loss and Waste](#) covered a topic of global concern. [These apps and websites around the world](#) allow users to track their food purchases and repurpose ingredients.

Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

Microbes Can Help: This article says a large percentage of our crop budgets revolve around fertility, so producers should [utilize the nutrients already contained in the soil](#)—and the previous year's crop residues.

Nocturnal Pollinators: New research from Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station researchers shows nocturnal pollinators are [equally as important to nature's system](#) as

flowering plants are.

Terrible Beauty: The [attractive but damaging spotted lanternfly](#) affects plants like trees, shrubs, and grapes.

Corn and Nitrous Oxide: This Kansas State University soil microbiologist explains how producers can save money by [reducing nitrous oxide emissions from corn](#)

Indoor Farming: [Controlled Environment Agriculture](#) is small but growing. This article considers challenges such as sourcing clean energy and lowering production costs.



Research is under way to [make golf balls out of soybeans](#), as oil-based plastics could be replaced by soybean products.

International News

World Hunger: As a UN summit convened, many say [hunger is getting worse, not better](#), around the globe.

You Say Tomato, I Say Blood Pressure: Japanese consumers can purchase [genetically engineered tomatoes](#) that—according to some—can help protect against high blood pressure.

Ag Drone Regulations: Brazil is [regulating the use of drones in agribusiness](#), especially regarding the application of pesticides, fertilizers, and seeds. Check out the CAST publication titled [Ground and Aerial Robots for Agricultural Production: Opportunities and Challenges](#).

Demand for Gene-edited Seeds (video): The demand from Nigerian farmers for [genetically modified, pod borer-resistant cowpea](#) seeds far outstripped the supply.

Colorful but Alarming: A lagoon in Argentina's famed Patagonia region [turned bright fuschia](#)—reports say it could be from a preservative used for shrimp fishing.



As night falls, fishermen set sail off the coast of Taiwan, where they prepare to [catch sardines using a traditional method](#).

General Interest News

A Troubling Melt: This photo-essay looks at environmental changes in [Antarctica's warming climate](#).

Going Underground: More [power lines could move underground](#) as part of the infrastructure bill and the nation's energy system, but rural energy providers still worry about the cost of installation and maintenance.

Youngster Safety on the Farm: This article looks at how farmers can [safely involve the younger members](#) of the family in the harvest and other ag activities.

Hurricane Ag Damage: Hurricane Ida did at least \$584 million in [damage to agriculture](#) in Louisiana alone, with much of that coming in the timber industry.

Into the Eye of the Storm: These [boat drones are designed to sail](#) directly into the eye of a hurricane so scientists can study storm intensity.



The James Webb Space Telescope will be 100 times as powerful as the

Innovation: Mississippi State University is [supporting student and faculty innovators](#) in many ways.

Hubble, and it [could change how we see the universe](#)—a December launch is scheduled.

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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
- * Association of Equipment Manufacturers
- * Aquatic Plant Management Society
- * BASF Corporation
- * Cal Poly State University
- * 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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The Science Source for Food,
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