

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](#)

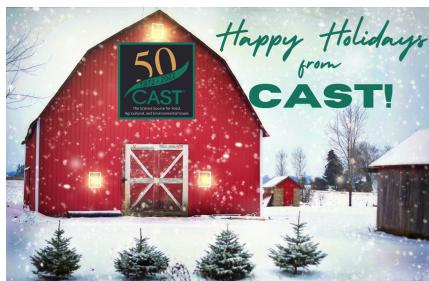
[Food Science & Safety News](#)

[Plant & Environmental News](#)

[International News](#)

[General Interest News](#)

Announcements



Happy holidays to all of our members and subscribers! The next issue of *Friday Notes* will be on January 7, 2022, but if you're looking for something to read, be sure to check out our [50th anniversary publication!](#)

Donations to support CAST's mission are [always welcomed](#).

The USDA's 98th Annual [Agricultural Outlook Forum](#) will be held virtually February 24-25.

The Poultry Science Association is now welcoming nominations for a variety of prestigious awards to be recognized at their 2022 annual meeting. [Nominations will be accepted](#) now through March 1, 2022.

Nominations are open through February 7, 2022 for the [2022 Borlaug CAST Communication Award](#), an honor that recognizes professionals actively working in the agricultural, environmental, or food sectors for contributing to the

December 17, 2021

Supply Chain Issues Continue

Just as things start to edge a little more towards the 'normal' way of life, something changes and disrupts the supply chain again.

Kraft is [paying customers \\$20 to not make cheesecake](#) this holiday season. The company is currently experiencing a cream cheese shortage. American agriculture is impacted by [supply chain disruptions](#) in both imports and exports. While closely intertwined, each aspect uniquely affects farmers and ranchers.



China's new rules on food imports will take effect on January 1, even after trading partners urged them to delay the launch, saying the policy would further [disrupt supply chains](#). Another law will also take effect on January 1—all food products with [detectable levels of bioengineered \(BE\) material](#) will need to be labeled a "bioengineered food" or a product that "contains a bioengineered food ingredient." A coalition of California restaurants and grocery stores has [filed a lawsuit to block implementation](#) of a new farm animal welfare law, adding to uncertainty about whether bacon will be much more expensive or in short supply in the state.

A recent roundtable discussion about [truck driver recruitment](#) and retention showed that turnover rates are over 90 percent for large long haul carriers and over 72 percent for small carriers—meaning that drivers are regularly leaving companies or leaving the industry altogether.

News and Views

CRP Acres: A report was released this week that [61 million acres were conserved](#) by land trusts—an increase of more than 15 million acres since 2010.

December Tornadoes: A [grain company](#) was demolished when a tornado hit their facility last Friday. Many other areas were impacted, including a farm research center at the [University of Kentucky](#). The [Midwest and Plains areas](#) also experienced unusual weather with extreme winds and tornadoes on Wednesday night.

advancement of science in the public policy arena.

CAST College Corner

A [University of Missouri](#) program allows first-year students an opportunity to get a first-hand look at plant research.

[N.C. A&T University](#) is partnering with Cornell University on a seed grant to boost sustainable production.

[Cal Poly](#)-developed COVID-19 saliva testing technology will be brought to market.

CAST Social Media

Visit our website



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

Wildfires: High winds and dry conditions resulted in multiple wildfires in western [Kansas on Wednesday](#).

COVID News: A major study from South Africa found Omicron appears to be more resistant to COVID-19 vaccines, but is [causing less severe illness](#). The [WHO warns](#) that Omicron is spreading faster than any other variant.

Monitoring Seniors: To assist those who may be experiencing difficulty completing various daily activities, researchers at the University of Missouri are using a grant to install in-home sensors that monitor the movement, sleep quality, and vital signs of [older adults in rural Missouri](#).

Far Side of the Barn

Reindeer Vet Check: Officials from the North Pole confirmed that Santa's reindeer have been [approved for their Christmas Eve flight](#), following a health checkup from Santa's veterinarian.



Scented Paper: A produce company has released a limited supply of [scented holiday wrapping paper](#).

Edible Hemp Tickets: Berlin's public transport operator has introduced an edible "hemp ticket" which it jokes can help alleviate the stress of travel at Christmas and take the [edge off](#) Berliners' infamous crabbiness.

CAST Updates

Five reasons why the GMO debate is over

This [guest blog](#) was written by Dr. Sarah Evanega, the 2021 Borlaug CAST Communication Award winner. It covers five reasons why the GMO debate is over:

1. They're safe.
2. The conversation around GMOs is both shrinking and increasingly positive in tone.
3. Young people support biotechnology.
4. Farmers love GMO crops.
5. Opposition in Europe has eased.



New Board Representatives



This week CAST is welcoming Ken Odde and Blair Siegfried to the CAST [Board of Representatives](#):

- **Ken Odde** (*left*) is the incoming rep for the [American Society of Animal Science](#). He is involved with the Animal Agriculture and Environmental Issues work group.
- **Blair Siegfried** (*right*) is the incoming rep for [Penn State University](#). He is involved with the Animal Agriculture and Environmental Issues work group.

Summary of Activities

The CAST [Summary of Activities](#) for October-December is now available for viewing. It highlights the commemorative 50th anniversary publication, the 2021 Borlaug CAST Communication Award Presentation, the latest commentary, the CAST annual meeting, and CAST student scholarship recipients. The National Turkey Federation is also welcomed as a new board-level nonprofit member and Anne Owens is introduced as the new Director of Council Operations.

You can also view past [Summary of Activities here](#).

Celebrating 50 Years of CAST in 2022
CAST is celebrating 50 years as the trusted source for credible, balanced science. In addition to the 2021 Summary of Activities, the 2021 Annual Meeting was held in October 2021, and offers three sections covering 1) CAST historical highlights, publications, and milestones; 2) the 2021 Annual Meeting activities; 3) the impact of CAST, and 5) messages on the future of CAST.

A number of meetings and presentations will take place in the following months to mark the 50th anniversary. These include the 2022 Annual Meeting, the 2022 CAST Annual Conference, the 2022 CAST Student Conference, the 2022 CAST Annual Meeting, and the 2022 CAST Annual Meeting. These events will culminate at the 2022 CAST Annual Meeting, where CAST will be honored and celebrated.

2021 Borlaug CAST Communication Award Presentation

CAST's 2021 Borlaug CAST Communication Award was presented with the 2021 Borlaug CAST Communication Award (BCCA). The award was held at the Hall of Agriculture in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 16, 2021. The award was presented to Dr. Deepak Rayamajhi, a Nepalese scientist and agricultural researcher. Deepak, originally from Nepal, says, "I am a person who offers a hand, a hand, and says, 'Will you join me at my table?' I hope that you will join me at my table. Please come to my table and eat your lunch." A video of her presentation and more information about the award can be found [here](#).



Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

Micro-animal Farming: A professor and his students are aiming to feed the world using [micro-animal farming](#).

Stem-cell Breakthrough: A researcher from Cornell University has found a way that could [preserve diverse livestock breeds](#).

CRISPR in Poultry: Gene editing techniques like CRISPR could [revolutionize the poultry industry](#) in the future, improving yield, resistance to disease, and leading to better welfare.

Antimicrobial Resistance: USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has begun a new collaborative effort to study [antimicrobial use and resistance](#) on commercial swine farms in the Midwest.



A comprehensive guide has been published to help pork processors and producers [maximize pork carcass value](#).

Food Science and Safety News

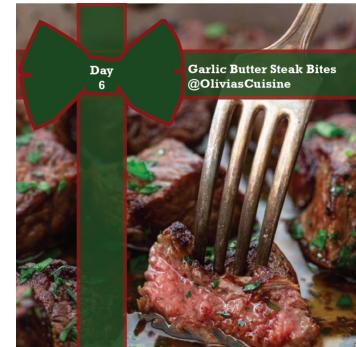
Holiday Food Safety: The CDC offers some [food safety tips](#) to prevent food poisoning during the holidays.

12 Beef Apps of Christmas: The New York Beef Council featured [beef appetizer ideas](#) for the upcoming holidays.

Lamb Flavor: New research is being conducted to separate [different flavor profiles of lamb](#) at the processing level of production.

Online Shopping: Online grocery sales in the U.S. are up [six percent from a year ago](#).

Raw Milk: Proponents say a raw milk option for Georgia residents [would help local dairies](#). Retail raw milk sales are legal in ten states. Direct raw milk sales to consumers in 17 states are legal.



The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is stepping up to better investigate foodborne illness outbreaks and [find root causes](#).

Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

Protecting Water Quality: A report was released highlighting initiatives and progress being made by farmers to reduce nutrient loss across the [Mississippi River Basin](#).

Mistletoe: It's famous for holiday kisses, but it's actually a parasite that [steals water and nutrients](#) from other plants.

Dicamba Products: A state agency is working with the EPA to [implement restrictions](#) that are aimed at curbing off-site movement of the products.

Indoor Farming: A proposed skyscraper would include a [51-story hydroponic farm](#).

Grapevine Performance: A university is starting a [new extension service](#) to study the performance of grape varieties.

Cowpea Demand (related to link to the right) Smallholder farms in Nigeria are thrilled with the better yields and higher profits from growing GM cowpea—the demand for [seeds exceeds the supply](#).



Nigeria is moving to adopt drought-tolerant and insect-resistant [GM TELA maize](#) and high-yielding [GM NEWEST rice](#).

International News

Protest: Indian farmers end yearlong protests and return home and dance to [celebrate their victory](#).



Raw Sugar Recall: Food safety officials in New Zealand are probing a series of botched recalls involving sugar because of lead contamination [linked to transportation](#).

Grain Exports: Argentina will cut export taxes on soybeans, corn, and wheat, but only if they are organics, which currently make up a [small fraction of their harvest](#).

Harvest Hopes: Mixed rainfall across [Ivory Coast's cocoa regions](#) last week has left some farmers pinning their harvest hopes on more downpours, while others on Monday remained confident of a good crop.

Mexican demand for U.S. peanuts has quadrupled over the last decade. In the U.S., the number one way to enjoy peanuts is in peanut butter. But in Mexico, it's [all about peanut snacks](#).

General Interest News

Ladybugs: A Texas A&M AgriLife Extension [expert answers questions](#) about the annual swarm of the beetles as temperatures drop.



Ag Tech Development: This podcast [covers biologicals](#) and technology used with hi-tech farming.

Fertilizer Costs: Fertilizer prices continue to skyrocket, as much as 300% in some areas. Farm Bureau economists have found several elements that are [contributing to the increased prices](#).

With their bright red blooms, Poinsettias are a holiday tradition, but buyers don't have to limit their selection to one color. Any blue and purple Poinsettias are actually [cream-colored varieties](#) that have been spray painted.

University Grant: The National Cancer Institute has awarded Tuskegee University a grant renewal to study and address cancer disparities in [Black and rural communities](#).

Food Insecurity: An associate professor at The Ohio State University is combating food insecurity abroad and in the [U.S.](#)

Photo Credits

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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 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
- * National Turkey Federation
- * 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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- * North Carolina State University
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- * The Ohio State University
- * Tuskegee University
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- * 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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