



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.

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### Announcements

1972 - CAST sponsors a major international conference on "Food Safety, Sufficiency, and Security."  
1999 - The U.S. House Agriculture Committee requests a complete library of CAST publications.

1997 - To celebrate its 25th anniversary, CAST produces a commemorative publication, *Charting the Course to Science-Based Public Policy*.

series of publications, called *Papers*, is approved and the paper is published.

*Charting 50 Years of CAST*

#### CAST Blast from the Past

In March of 1997, David Lineback, CAST President-elect, testified on agricultural research before the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

March 7-11 is [Agricultural Safety Awareness Week](#).

The National Agricultural Law Center's webinar, "Considering Carbon: [Understanding the Legalities of Soil Carbon Sequestration Contracts](#)," will be March 23.

### CAST College Corner

[Penn State University](#) is offering a free webinar March 29 on state and federal regulations for farm animals.

[North Carolina A&T State University](#) was awarded a National FFA Organization grant to digitize its unique collection of materials that helped train generations of Black farmers and

## March 11, 2022

### CAST Members Honor Ukraine

As Russia's devastating invasion of Ukraine continues, the CAST editors would like to highlight responses from our members. Additional notes are included throughout this week's issue.



A biochemistry professor at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln announced that [he will open his lab's doors to Ukrainian refugees](#), students, researchers, and scientists who are fleeing their homeland.

Kansas State University [students and professors discuss](#) Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its impacts. One student said, "Everyone is afraid, but nonetheless, they fight for their home, for their family and all that stuff. But still, we need help because we're not as big as Russia: we don't have so [many] resources."

Texas A&M University ag economists explain more about [global trade, alliances, and infrastructure](#) affected by the conflict in Ukraine.

An Iowa State University [professor has a plea for help](#) and stated, "This is not a Ukrainian war; this is a war for future civilization and peace around the globe."

Members of the European plant science community have come together to support displaced scientists via an initiative explained in the [American Society of Plant Biologists' newsletter](#).

### News and Views

**USDA Announcements:** The department is providing 1) investment for [historically underserved farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners](#), 2) support for those [assisting veteran farmers and ranchers](#), and 3) funds for [infrastructure projects](#). There is also a call for [Wildfire Commission Member](#) applications.

**Communicating about Technology:** The USDA hopes that its program, [Partnerships for Data Innovations](#), will persuade more farmers and ranchers to adopt precision ag technology.

leaders.

[University of Arkansas](#) food science researchers received a USDA/NIFA grant to study minority recruitment.

The [University of Nevada, Reno](#) launched a program to enhance the state's Unmanned Aircraft Systems.

## CAST Social Media

Visit our website



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

**Gene-edited Beef:** U.S. regulators cleared the way for the sale of beef from gene-edited cattle in coming years after the FDA concluded the [animals do not raise any safety concerns](#).

**HPAI Update:** Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) has been detected in [12 states and 1.9 million birds](#) and [continues to spread](#). USDA APHIS [offers up-to-date information](#).

## Far Side of the Barn

**Otters and Water (video):** Two otters [react after tasting sparkling water](#).

**Rodeo Heroics—No Bull (video):** An eighteen-year-old bull rider got bucked off—but his father ran out and [shielded him from the attacking animal](#).



**Leapin' Lizards:** Officers arrested a man using clothes bags to smuggle 52 reptiles—[43 horned lizards and nine snakes](#)—at the San Diego border.

## CAST Updates

### Meet CAST's New President

Dr. Anna Dilger was raised in Noblesville, Indiana, attended Purdue University for her BS and MS degrees, and completed her PhD at the University of Illinois. In 2010, she joined the faculty of the Department of Animal Sciences at the University of Illinois.

With CAST, Dr. Dilger represented the American Meat Science Association from 2016-2019 when she joined the Board of Directors as the Society Liaison. She also served as the Task Force Board Liaison for a recently released paper, [Producing Food Products from Cultured Animal Tissues](#).

Learn more about Dr. Dilger and her vision for the [future of CAST on the latest blog](#).



## Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

**Swine Health:** Iowa State University veterinarians are investigating how an [aggressive bacterial strain](#) has spread among central Iowa pork production facilities.

**Ag Environmental Footprint:** Professor Frank Mitloehner (UC Davis and [2019 BCCA](#)) says the U.S. agricultural sector is the "[hallmark of sustainability](#)"—doing more with less," but he points out there is more that can be done.

**Meat Processing:** The University of Nebraska-Lincoln announced plans to develop the [Small Meat Processing Plant of the Future](#)—to be located alongside existing animal science facilities.

**Zombie Urchins:** The [purple sea urchin](#) off the California coast has had negative effects on marine ecosystems, but some say they can be fought—by eating them.



**Stolen beehives are a troubling issue for beekeepers, but a company is [installing GPS tracking devices in hives to prevent theft](#).**

# Food Science and Safety News

**Food Boycotts:** Food companies such as McDonald's, Coca-Cola, and Starbucks have joined the list of [firms halting business](#) in Russia due to the invasion of Ukraine.

**Got Milk in Schools?** A bipartisan letter from New York City congressional members urges the mayor to maintain the [flavored milk availability for school meals](#).

**Better Cabbage for St. Pat:** For some, St. Patrick's Day calls for corned beef and cabbage—and these Cornell University specialists explain [how to grow organic cabbage](#) by managing weeds and increasing nutrition.

**Purple Tomato:** A purple GMO tomato [could help fight cancer](#). The purple pigment is the result of the transfer of a gene from a snapdragon plant.



Chain restaurants have been a major part of the American food scene, but [many franchises have disappeared](#) over the years.

## Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

**Fertilizers and Irrigation:** UC Davis researchers are part of a project to help farmers in the state [improve their fertilization and irrigation practices](#).

**Soaring Wheat:** Wheat prices have [hit a 14-year high](#).

**Warning for Wheat and Alfalfa Growers:** A Kansas State University crop entomologist discusses [army cutworms, winter grain mites, and the Hessian fly](#).

**Chlorpyrifos:** The EPA has finalized a decision to revoke chlorpyrifos tolerances [which will impact soybean, fruit, and nut tree growers](#).



This podcast discusses how electric dirt bikes—instead of crop scouts—are used to collect high resolution imagery of crop fields.

## International News

**The 4F's:** The crucial roles both Ukraine and Russia play in global agri-food and related trade are hard to underestimate. They are core to [feeds, fuels, fertilizer, and food](#).

**Banned Exports:** Ukraine's government has banned the export of wheat, oats, and other staples that are crucial for global food supplies as authorities try to [ensure they can feed people](#) during Russia's intensifying war.

**App for Food Waste:** A Canadian start-up is promoting a smartphone [app designed to tackle the problem of food waste](#) and help customers keep their grocery bill down.

**Reducing Waste (related to above):** Check out this CAST Issue Paper, [Food Loss and Waste](#).

**Bird's Eye View:** A hotel in Sweden is a spherical room suspended among the trees, [covered in 350 birdhouses](#).



Some scientists think [animals may have inbuilt systems that alert them to impending natural disasters](#)—cows, goats, and other animals have reportedly moved to higher ground after earthquakes but before a tsunami came.

## General Interest News

**Food Allergens:** Here are [five things that science](#) tells us about food allergens.

**Biofuels:** Biofuels are becoming a mainstay around the world, but there [continues to be a struggle](#) over biofuel feedstocks.

**Mining Solar Energy:** In Virginia, some abandoned coal mines have been [transformed into solar farms](#).

**Internet Connection:** A [sizable portion of America's](#) largest farmers "are unable to take advantage of many applications and services" on the internet because they don't have a connection or it is of poor quality.



This noted photographer shows the [magic of Yosemite's beauty](#)—and the "good, bad, and ugly" of the crowds in the park.

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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
- \* Bayer
- \* Corteva Agriscience
- \* CropLife America
- \* Crop Science Society of America
- \* Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy
- \* Iowa State University
- \* Mississippi State University
- \* 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
- \* Penn State University
- \* Poultry Science Association
- \* Rural Sociological Society
- \* Society for In Vitro Biology
- \* Soil Science Society of America
- \* Syngenta Crop Protection
- \* The Fertilizer Institute
- \* The Minor Use Foundation
- \* 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
- \* Zoetis

*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

\* Cornell University

\* University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture

- \* 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 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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*\*\* With assistance from Colleen Hamilton (Membership Specialist)*

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