



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



The Council for Agricultural Science and Technology 2022 Borlaug CAST Communication Award (BCCA) Recipient Announcement will take place Tuesday, May 10 from 11:30-12:30 pm (CST). [You can register for the free event here.](#)

CAST College Corner

Half of the CAST Education Program member universities are on the list of the [top agricultural universities in the world.](#)

[Kansas State University](#) research reveals how probiotics may not be as beneficial for animal and human health as thought.

CAST Social Media

Visit our website



April 15, 2022

Impacts of HPAI

It's been over two months since a strain of [Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza \(HPAI\)](#) was confirmed in a commercial turkey flock in Indiana. According to the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service department, HPAI has been detected in both [wild birds](#) and [commercial and backyard](#) flocks. These cases [seem to be outpacing](#) the 2014/2015 outbreak.



[Two bald eagles](#) were found with HPAI in Vermont at the end of March, making Vermont the 34th state to fall victim to these avian influenza cases.

As another consequence to the HPAI cases, [rising egg prices](#) are typical around the Easter holiday, but Americans are dealing with a one-two punch because of the increasing number of HPAI cases.

News and Views

USDA Updates: The USDA has announced steps it's taking to implement President Biden's plan to enable energy [independence by boosting homegrown biofuels.](#)

Phosphorus Concerns: Phosphorus is one of the main ingredients in fertilizer and a new study is suggesting that [wildlife might be an answer](#) to the phosphorus crisis.

Climate Change and Soybeans: Climate change is impacting farmers by [affecting soybean yield](#) since rising temperatures promote exponential weed growth.

Far Side of the Barn

School's Kitchen: Celebrity chef [Gordon Ramsay came to the rescue](#) for a middle school, when the kitchen manager was left to feed hundreds of students alone.



CAST Updates

Moving on to the Far Side of the Barn



CAST's Dan Gogerty has now decided to retire after passionately serving as the Friday Notes' editor for more than a decade. If anyone could receive a Ph.D. in *Friday Notes*, it would be Dan as he has created more than 560 editions of the weekly newsletter. All of the naked mole rat articles that Dan found over the years deserve an honorable mention. Below is an excerpt from his blog that [you can read on our website](#). We are going to miss seeing him in the office everyday and hearing his witty humor, but are hoping he'll stop in occasionally to visit.

"After teaching for thirty-six years at seven schools in Japan, Australia, and Iowa, I signed on with an organization that has a reputation for doing what I was trying to teach: communicating effectively and clearly. With CAST's content focused on science and agriculture, the move gave me opportunities

to explore modern changes in food production as well as pull from my experiences of growing up on a traditional Midwest family farm.

Working on ag and science issues is rewarding because of the people involved—food producers, ag journalists, CAST members, and especially CAST staffers. I'll be leaving behind a small office in west Ames that is a beehive of friendly, dedicated workers who know how to make the job fun. It's been a buzz well worth the efforts."

Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

Herd Health: A veterinarian at Kansas State University says the [time is now to start preparing cattle](#) for herd health and immunity for the summer season.

JEV in Swine: The Swine Health Information Center and American Association of Swine Veterinarians hosted a webinar focused on the [recent outbreak of Japanese encephalitis virus](#) (JEV) in pigs and people in Australia.

Droughts and the Cow Supply: With spring upon us and the drought persisting, liquidation puts the cow industry on track to [reduce the nation's cowherd](#) back near 2014 levels, which was the smallest beef cowherd since 1952.



A Ph.D. candidate from Cornell University has been awarded for [outstanding research on immunity and survivability](#) of dairy calves.

Food Science and Safety News

Traceability: Scientists with the USDA-ARS aim to enhance the [capacity of regulatory agencies to trace](#) Escherichia coli back to its source during a foodborne outbreak investigation.

GMOs: The [anti-GMO movement has lost much](#) of its cultural relevance in recent years and it now appears that the political debate surrounding crop biotechnology is all but over.

Cybersecurity: In 2021 the U.S. experienced [cybersecurity ransomware attacks on industries](#) including a meat packing company and an oil company.



University-grown meat and produce are now available to those in need [through an on-campus food pantry](#) at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

Plants for Feed: An author of the most recent IPCC report says it's critical for the agriculture sector to take carbon out of the atmosphere to mitigate climate change. His team's work [shows it might be possible to do this](#) with tropical plants grown as animal feed.

Next-gen Ag Markets: Iowa State University scientists are dreaming up [innovative ways to grow new value](#), new markets, and new revenue streams from Iowa soils.

Ethanol: The E15 [summer ban has been suspended](#) and the USDA has committed \$700 million to biofuels producers.

Protecting the Environment: The Conservation Fund has partnered with State of New Hampshire agencies to protect [over 6,000 acres of forestland and waterways](#) to ensure wildlife habitat, water resource, and recreation are safe.



The USDA has determined an [estimated 1.4 million acres of sunflowers will be planted](#) this year due to high pricing and Ukrainian supply.

International News

Russia-Ukraine War: 1) Hunger [could rise by 47 million people](#) if the Russia-Ukraine war continues as food insecurity increases. 2) The harvest of some [Ukrainian crops could fall](#) by half, and export projections have been reduced further. 3) China purchases [over 1 million metric tons](#) of U.S. corn as the Ukraine invasion hurts exports.

Sugarcane Fields: Brazilian farmers are set to nearly [double the area planted with transgenic sugarcane](#) in the season starting this month.

Organic Fertilizer: At a processing plant in Mwea, central Kenya, [agricultural waste is turned into an organic fertilizer](#) that retails at less than half the price of its inorganic alternative.



Lebanon's cabinet [approved the demolition](#) of the Beirut silos damaged in the August 2020 port blast.

General Interest News

Trucker Shortage: It's been reported that there is a [shortage of about 80,000 drivers](#) in the trucking industry—some companies are increasing starting salaries of drivers.

Morel Mushrooms: These mushrooms are [usually hunted as a hobby](#)—when you're searching, keep an eye out for false morel mushrooms.

Manure Supply: Crop farmers are [turning to livestock manure](#) as chemical fertilizer prices soar, but manure is in short supply.



The USDA's APHIS issued a federal order officially [prohibiting the importation of seed potatoes](#) from Prince Edward Island into the U.S.

Photo Credits

Far Side from Idaho Potato Commission. Animal sec. from Cornell University. Int. sec. from Reuters/Mohamed Azakir.

Gen. Int. from CBC. Unless otherwise noted, photos courtesy of the USDA Agricultural Research Service, Constant

Contact, or CAST.

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
- * 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

Dylana Luett (Communications and Social Media Specialist)
dluett@cast-science.org
The Council for Agricultural Science and Technology
4420 West Lincoln Way
Ames, Iowa 50014-3447
Phone: 515-292-2125



The Science Source for Food,
Agricultural, and Environmental Issues

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

CAST provides Friday Notes as a benefit to its members. Please do not forward, edit, copy, or distribute the Notes in any form to nonmembers without the express permission of the CAST CEO/EVP Kent Schescke (kschescke@cast-science.org). Instead, please encourage your colleagues to join CAST and thereby become eligible for all membership benefits. Contact Colleen Hamilton at 515-292-2125 or chamilton@cast-science.org, or [CLICK HERE](#) for CAST membership information.



