



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....

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Announcements



CAST's 2022 BCCA Announcement will take place Tuesday, May 10 from 11:30-12:30 pm (CST). [You can register for the free event here.](#) See more info under the CAST Updates section.

Agri-Pulse has announced a ["Scaling ag innovation for climate action"](#) webinar on April 27--registration is free.

The [World Food Prize Laureate Announcement](#) will be held on May 5.

CAST College Corner

[The Ohio State University](#) has issued a report on monopoly pricing power and fertilizer prices in conjunction with another university.

[Iowa State University](#) research explores the impacts of tile drainage water quality on streams.

CAST Social Media

April 22, 2022

Agricultural and Environmental Technology

Innovation continues to advance in agriculture, as it does in other industries.



There are [small farms that can be operated fully remotely](#) by combining a monitoring and control system for irrigation systems with a management tool product.

Some farmers are using [laser-weeding robots](#) instead of chemical options on their fields.

A startup is using artificial intelligence to maximize weather information in new ways in hopes to bring precision weather and [long-term forecasts to farmers](#).

Drones are also [being used for dropping thousands of tree seeds](#) on wildfire-scarred ground.

Check out the CAST paper [Ground and Aerial Robots for Agricultural Production: Opportunities and Challenges](#).

News and Views

USDA Updates: The USDA has 1) awarded [\\$9.98 million to 14 collaborative](#), multi-state projects impacting 28 states to enhance the competitiveness of U.S. specialty crops, 2) announced [changes to WASDE](#) starting in May, 3) invested more than \$31 million in 15 [landscape restoration projects](#), and 4) launched a network of partners to [tap resources for rural America](#).

Inflation Impacts: The Farm Bureau's chief economist reports on how [inflation is impacting farmers](#).

HPAI Updates: A [6,500 duck flock in Indiana](#) is now quarantined with HPAI, pushing total number affected by the virus close to 200,000 birds. An outbreak in a region of France has led [authorities to consider new zoning rules](#)

Earth Day: [Today is Earth Day](#), this website shows how you can get involved in your community, help plant trees, and offers an

Visit our website

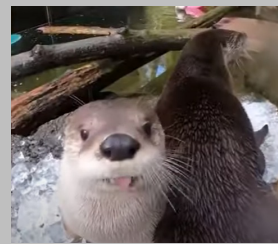


CAST [welcomes ideas](#) for future publications and projects.

Earth Day livestream.

Far Side of the Barn

It's an Ice Day (video): Tilly, Flora, and Hobson the river otters [crunched on ice cubes](#) at the Oregon Zoo recently.



Sheep vs. Tub (video): A [sheep loses to a tub](#) in its field when it decides to headbutt the tub.

CAST Updates

Upcoming 2022 BCCA Announcement

The 2022 Borlaug CAST Communication Award (BCCA) Announcement will take place Tuesday, May 10 from 11:30-12:30 pm (CST).

Dr. Sarah Evanega, the 2021 BCCA recipient, will be the featured speaker. Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young, Administrator, Agricultural Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture, will give welcome remarks and Dr. Anna Dilger, CAST President, will announce the 2022 recipient.



[You can register for the free webinar here](#)

MBA Student Project Partnership



CAST partnered with an Iowa State University professor to enlist several MBA students to help CAST with two projects—a communications audit and setting up project management software. The communications team consisted of three students who researched ways to improve brand awareness through digital technology and reach a new audience. A group of four students worked on setting up project management software and processes to help CAST staff and volunteers to operate more efficiently and automate various organization processes.

Anne Owens, CAST Director of Council Operations, said, "It is always exciting to work with a group of students, introduce them to our organization, and support their efforts to apply what they are learning in the classroom to a real world challenge. Both student groups were highly motivated, energetic, and contributed many fresh, new ideas to CAST. They are all interested in continuing to work with CAST on further project implementation and future opportunities."

Please contact us if your university has a similar program and are interested in partnering with CAST.

United Way Food Drive

Through their [United Way of Story County's 2022 LIVE UNITED Food Drive](#), CAST staff is participating in a local effort to fight hunger in their central Iowa community. If you live in the area and are interested in supporting efforts to stock food pantries, please drop off your non-perishable food donations at CAST, 4420 West Lincoln Way, Ames, Iowa, weekdays during office hours from April 25 through May 6. Cash donations are also encouraged so that the pantries can purchase the items they need. You may donate

Moving on to the Far Side of the Barn

In case you missed it, CAST's Dan Gogerty is retiring 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



through Venmo at <https://www.uwstory.org/live-united-food-drive>.

found over the years deserve an honorable mention. He discusses his reflections on his blog that [you can read on our website](#).

Our heartfelt thanks to the many farmers, ranchers, producers, organizations, and universities that are on the front lines fighting hunger in the world every single day.

Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

Livestock Gene Editing: Eleven ag organizations sent a letter to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack that expressed [continued support for USDA's effort](#) to develop a "modern" regulatory structure for gene editing in livestock.

New App: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension faculty have created a veterinary-based app and website to [track disease and promote education](#).

Beef Imports: The NCBA is calling for the USDA to [suspend imported Brazilian beef](#) as they're claiming the country has not followed animal health and food safety standards.

Innovation Challenge: The National Pork Board is accepting submissions for the inaugural [Pork Industry Innovation Challenge](#) through July 31.



Ranchers in the plains are [facing more and more issues](#) with fires and drought.

Food Science and Safety News

E. Coli Outbreaks: The USDA ARS scientists might have begun to [unravel the mystery behind an underlying pattern](#) of seasonal E. coli outbreaks.

Meat Prices: The price of beef may be high or low, but its level relative to pork and poultry is a [key determinant of consumer purchasing behavior](#).

Food Prices: Food prices at home have increased by 10%—American shoppers are [willing to fork over the extra cash](#).

Reducing Food Waste: A food safety expert and an extension associate at North Carolina State University provides some [helpful tips to reduce food waste](#).



Ranching advocates say consumers are [willing to pay more](#) for U.S.-produced beef—if it's labeled properly.

Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

Invasive Worm: The [invasive jumping worm](#) has made its way through 14 states in the Midwest, disturbing native soil and plant species and causing an infestation.

Grain Tracking: A farm employee wired a control board that allows everyone on the farm to [know what is happening](#) anywhere in the system at any time.

Fishermen to Farmers: A Maine-based company is helping [fishermen become kelp farmers](#) to adapt to climate change.

Drought Conditions: A University of Nebraska Extension Educator says to plan for the worst now as [drought is likely to loom over the planting season](#).



With drought plaguing the American west, this year's hay crop is [expected to be down 10M acres](#) from 2000-2014 averages.

International News

India and Their Food Supply: The Indian Prime Minister stated that India was ready to [ship food to the rest of the world](#) following supply shocks and rising prices due to the war in Ukraine.

Exporting: Ukrainian farmers will be able to use a [Lithuanian port to export corn](#) and other ag commodities. USDA's Foreign Ag Service is reporting a sale of [132,000 metric tons of soybeans to China](#).

U.S. to Colombia: The U.S. Meat Export Federation is [partnering with many butcher shops](#) in Colombia to improve the merchandising of U.S. meat.



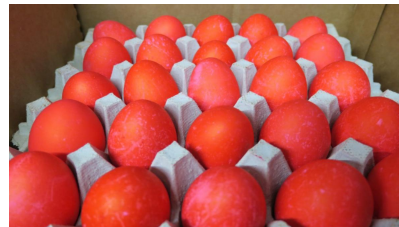
The Indonesian state food procurement agency has been tasked with distributing [800,000 tons of subsidized soybeans](#) as global prices rise.

General Interest News

Vet Students: A new partnership is working to [address and ease the student debt problem](#) and, in the process, increase the number of rural veterinarians. Check out the CAST paper *Impact of Recruitment and [Retention of Food Animal Veterinarians](#) on the U.S. Food Supply*.

Animal Antibiotics: The stewardship of animal antibiotics continues to be a topic for discussion in animal welfare, and it's [important for consumers to understand](#).

Farthest Galaxy: An international team of astronomers has spotted the most distant astronomical object ever: a galaxy—shining only [approximately 300 million years](#) after the Big Bang.



The White House Easter Egg Roll resumed for the first time in three years. A family farm from North Carolina [supplied the 20,000-plus eggs for the event](#).

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

Contact, or CAST.

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- * 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

- * 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

- * 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

- * 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
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- * North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University
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- * Penn State University
- * Texas A&M University College of Ag & Life Sciences
- * The Ohio State University
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