



*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**  
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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.

The International Dairy Foods Association [Dairy Tech Conference](#) is May 18-20, in Austin, Texas.

### CAST College Corner

[University of Missouri's](#) National Agri-Marketing Association team wins National Student Marketing Competition.

A [University of Arkansas](#) professor, and a renowned food chemist, is retiring after nearly 30 years of research, teaching, and service.

A [Texas A&M University](#) student has created a database to identify cows that are best suited for heat tolerance.

### CAST Social Media

**April 29, 2022**

## Planting '22 Outlook

The United States is [averaging half as much corn and soybeans planted](#) as of now compared to previous years. This is due to weather working against farmers and other natural disasters happening across the country. Soil temps are [ranging between 30 and 40 degrees](#) in southwest Minnesota. Multiple states are [waiting for better planting weather](#)—they've been dealing with rain and snow in the forecast.



In the western half of the U.S., some states are experiencing drought conditions as well. [Forty thousand acres have been burned](#) in Nebraska due to a wildfire. [Two wildfires have combined in New Mexico](#) and fires are also [raging in Arizona](#). Winter wheat that has been established in Kansas is being [severely impacted by the current drought conditions](#). There has been research done on [agronomic strategies to mitigate yield loss](#) of late-planted wheat.

## News and Views

**USDA Updates:** Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack 1) highlighted the investment of more than \$39 million in [six watershed infrastructure projects](#) and 2) announced that the USDA is investing nearly [\\$800 million in climate-smart infrastructure in 40 states](#), in honor of Earth Day 2022 (April 22).

**USDA APHIS HPAI Updates:** The USDA APHIS [has taken action to ensure continued rapid response](#) to highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in the US. APHIS has a variety of [biosecurity resources available](#). More information about the 2022 HPAI [outbreak may be found here](#). Resources for bird owners and more information about the [HPAI response process](#) may be found here.

**Ukraine Crisis:** It's [planting season in Ukraine](#), which means there's a possibility of a shortage for global food supply. [Fruit and vegetable harvest season](#) is also being disrupted in Ukraine.

## Far Side of the Barn

Visit our website



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

**Penguin Post Office:** A remote [post office in Antarctica is hiring](#). And if you're good at sorting mail, selling postage stamps—and counting penguins—this could be the job for you.

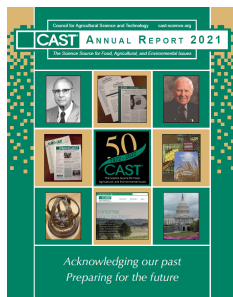
**Ancient Statue:** A Palestinian farmer found a [rare 4,500-year-old stone sculpture](#) while working his land.



## CAST Updates

### 2021 CAST Annual Report Released

The 2021 CAST Annual Report is now available for [reading and free download on the CAST website](#).

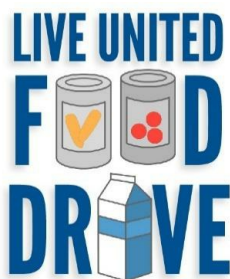


### Importance of Life Cycle Assessments

[Solutions from the Land](#) published a blog, [LCAs Offer Ag a Valuable Tool When Countering Misguided Criticisms](#), that highlighted the CAST paper released in January.

You can view the publication, Ag quickCAST, and webinar on [Goals, Strengths, and Limitations Governing the Use of Life Cycle Assessment \(LCA\) in Food and Agriculture](#) on the CAST website.

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

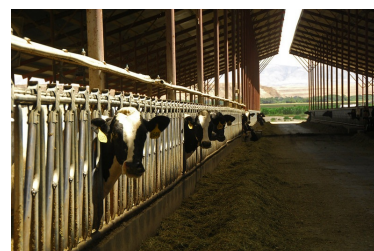
Our heartfelt thanks to the many farmers, ranchers, producers, organizations, and universities that are on the front lines fighting hunger in the world every single day.

## Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

**CRISPR & Climate Change (podcast):** Jennifer Doudna, the Nobel laureate who pioneered CRISPR technology, explains [how CRISPR could transform healthcare and the food supply](#)—and help with the fight against climate change.

**Dairy Producers in Texas:** Texas milk production growth has steadily risen over the last two decades. It has surpassed Idaho and now [Texas ranks 3rd for milk production](#).

**ASF Vaccine:** Scientists with the USDA ARS announced that a vaccine candidate for African Swine Fever (ASF) [passed an important safety test](#) required for regulatory approval, moving the vaccine one step closer to commercial availability.



A recent study by Kansas State University shows feeding industrial [hemp to cattle can improve the animal's welfare](#) and reduce stress.

## Food Science and Safety News

**Food Insecurity:** Producers have formed a partnership throughout Montana to [fight food insecurity](#).

**Local Food:** An Iowa State University graduate student finds [environmental benefits of local food production](#).

**No Garden, No Problem:** An extension educator from The Ohio State University shares tips on how to [grow your own food without a garden](#).

**Food Cravings:** New research on mice shows for the first time that the [microbes in animals' guts influence what they choose to eat](#), making substances that prompt cravings for different kinds of foods—which goes for humans, too.



A materials scientist and his colleagues have [invented a yeast-free method of leavening pizza dough](#) that tastes "exactly like the yeast pizza."

## Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

**Conservation:** Wisconsin farmers have banded together to form a local conservation group that [promotes soil health and land management](#).

**Rock Dust:** Scientists think adding rock dust to farm soil [could absorb 45% of the carbon removal](#) that is needed to reach net zero in the UK.

**Growing Alfalfa:** A new program created by the USDA is offering a grant to [help producers improve alfalfa forage](#) and seed production systems.

**Preserving the Land:** A rancher discusses how grazing management [transforms bare land into grasslands](#).



University researchers found that soil with clay high in illite content needs less potassium fertilizer, which could [greatly impact corn and soybean yield](#).

## International News

**Exporting Coffee:** After their Civil War hiatus, Angola looks to [make its way back to being a powerhouse](#) in coffee exporting.

**Green Technologies:** Singapore and New Zealand have formed a government [partnership to focus on green energy](#) and fighting climate change.

**Call for Action:** The Food and Agriculture Organization of UN has [called for a global food import financing facility](#) to help countries hit with surging food prices as result of the conflict in Ukraine.



Indonesia will [start restricting exports of palm oil this week](#), a move that could make the global food crisis worse.

## General Interest News

**CWD in Deer:** A University of Missouri student has turned his passion for white tailed deer into a [graduate research project and future career](#) studying Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in the species.

**Food Hubs Awarded:** The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets announced awards to five New England based [non-profit food hubs to advance development](#) and infrastructure.

**New Ag Tech:** Here are ten new technologies that are



A research technologist from Penn State University [investigated how a](#)



currently seeing the [greatest dollar investments](#) and that industries will require to futureproof themselves for the next decade.

[nuclear winter would impact the world's food production.](#)

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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
- \* 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

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