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

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.

### 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.

### CAST Social Media

**View as Webpage**

**Far Side of the Barn**
CAST welcomes ideas for future publications and projects.

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, LCA's 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.

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...
Currently seeing the greatest dollar investments and that industries will require to futureproof themselves for the next decade.

A nuclear winter would impact the world's food production.

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* 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
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