



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 Blast from the Past: In May of 1976, the American Phytopathological Society became the 18th member society of CAST.

The [USMEF Spring Conference](#) is May 25-27 in San Antonio, Texas.

CAST College Corner

The [University of Nevada Reno](#) received a grant to begin a five year research project on wildland fire research, education, and workforce development.

The [UC Davis Olive Center](#) is bringing back courses after a break due to the pandemic.

The [University of Arkansas AAES Rice Breeding Program](#) off-season harvest in the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico pulled in a record amount of rice breeding materials.

CAST Social Media

May 20, 2022

Advances in Genetically Modified Wheat

Genetically modified wheat could help farmers deal with drought and protect the environment, among other positives. It has been [approved for human consumption](#) in Australia and New Zealand. In November, [Brazil cleared GMO wheat flour](#) from Argentina. Genome edited wheat has been [given the go-ahead](#) from the UK government.



This blog from the Alliance for Science [discusses the differences](#) between GMOs and gene editing. There are many ways that GMOs can save lives, including the use of [Golden Rice](#), [Bt eggplant](#), [flood-tolerant rice](#), and [GM bananas](#).

News and Views

USDA Updates: 1) The USDA NAREEE Advisory Board is seeking [applications for a pollinator subcommittee](#). 2) [Alexis Taylor](#) was nominated as Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs. 3) [Stacy Dean](#) was nominated as Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services.

Food Security Updates: The UN warns that the invasion in Ukraine [could cause a global food crisis](#).

HPAI: The 2022 HPAI outbreak is [greatly impacting wild birds and bald eagles](#) more so than commercial flocks. This is due to [improved biosecurity](#) from the 2015 outbreak. Twenty-nine million [egg-laying poultry have been lost](#) to HPAI in the recent outbreak.

Far Side of the Barn

Who Let the Dog In? A couple in Tennessee woke

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

up to [find a dog smuggled between them](#), but it wasn't one of their own three dogs.

Not Very Vogue: A well-known magazine contacted a pub in Vogue, England asking the owner to [change the name of his business](#).



CAST Updates

Wiedmann Named 2022 BCCA Recipient



Dr. Martin Wiedmann was named the [2022 Borlaug CAST Communication Award](#) (BCCA) recipient on Tuesday, May 10. He is the Gellert Family Professor of Food Safety, Department of Food Science in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University. He is currently an associate director at the Northeast Dairy Foods Research Center at Cornell University and co-director at the New York Integrated Food Safety Center of Excellence. His communication style is extremely effective in both conveying information to the intended audience, as well as stimulating discussion and questions around key food safety issues.

Opening the webinar, Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young, Administrator, Agricultural Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture, [gave welcome remarks](#). Dr. Sarah Evanega ([2021 BCCA](#)) presented on [People & Planet: Finding our science communication purpose](#), and Dr. Anna Dilger, CAST President, [announced Wiedmann as the 2022 BCCA recipient](#). The [whole webinar can be viewed here](#).

Wiedmann commented on his award, *"I am very honored to have been selected as the recipient of the 2022 Borlaug CAST Communication Award. The last few years have taught us many things, including the importance of communicating science, including its limitations, to a broad audience. I feel fortunate to always have been surrounded by outstanding team members and mentors. This award really honors all their contributions and their dedication to communicating science to assure sustainable food systems."*

Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

Leg Bands: Animal technicians have explored less invasive methods of [identifying chickens in research environments](#).

Expressing Emotion: Artificial intelligence is able to [translate pig vocalizations](#), which allows farmers to ensure their welfare.

Virtual Fencing: Kansas State University is [researching 'virtual' fencing's influence](#) on grassland conservation by using high-tech collars to usher livestock away from bird nest sites and fragile water resources.



A food company is [supporting the construction of the 'largest' research dairy](#) at a university in the U.S. with a \$1 million gift.

Food Science and Safety News

Industry Guidance: The U.S. FDA [has issued a final guidance](#) titled “Reducing Microbial Food Safety Hazards in the Production of Seed for Sprouting: Guidance for Industry.”

Blue Light Study: The USDA NIFA has awarded researchers a grant to begin a new study to [investigate the effectiveness of antimicrobial blue light technology](#) in reducing foodborne pathogens.

High-Pressure Processing: A cold preservation method is pumping more value into crops by [capturing ripeness and extending shelf life](#).



The Caribbean is not prepared to tackle the [potential food safety impacts](#) of climate change, according to experts.

Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

New Fungicide: A new hybrid fungicide was [created for expanded disease control](#) for soybean, rice, and pecans.

Relief Payments: The USDA announced that [commodity and specialty crop producers](#) impacted by natural disaster events in 2020 and 2021 will soon begin receiving emergency relief payments.

Sweet Potato: North Carolina [growers account for almost 70%](#) of the U.S. sweet potato crop.



Oregon has launched a [grasshopper and cricket suppression program](#) due to last year's extreme outbreak.

International News

Wheat Exports: To manage overall food security and support vulnerable neighboring countries, the [government of India is only exporting to countries](#) that require wheat for food security needs.

Farmer Attacked: In East Ukraine, a [Russian pilot attacked a farmer and his tractor](#) while he was cultivating a field.

Seed Potatoes: Working to safeguard the food security and livelihoods of vulnerable rural families in Ukraine, the FAO has [distributed seed potato kits to households](#).



A large fast food company is [shutting down all of its restaurants in Russia](#), which includes more than 800 locations.

General Interest News

Land Value: The Chicago Federal Reserve has reported that [midwestern agricultural land value](#) is skyrocketing.

Derecho Damage: A recent derecho forced a dairy farmer from South Dakota to [relocate his 1,700 dairy cows overnight](#).

Ecosystem Services Markets: A new market



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- * 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

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The Science Source for Food,
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*** With assistance from Colleen Hamilton (Membership Specialist) and Nick Plaughner (Communications Project Coordinator)*

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