



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.

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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 [2022 World Food Prize](#) was awarded to Dr. Cynthia Rosenzweig, a leading climatologist, agronomist, and former farmer.

CAST College Corner

[Penn State University](#) Agricultural Sciences has received \$950,000 in USDA-NIFA grants to fund soil microbe research.

An [Iowa State University](#) graduate assistant published information on the health benefits of wine.

A [Cornell University](#) undergraduate researcher is helping dairy farmers reduce costs and their environmental footprint.

CAST Social Media

May 6, 2022

GHGs, LCAs, and Agriculture

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), [agriculture's greenhouse gas emissions fell more than 4% from 2019 to 2020](#). The most recent Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks shows agriculture continues to represent just 10% of total U.S. emissions, much lower than other economic sectors.



Satellites are now able to [detect methane emissions from belching cows](#) at a California feedlot, marking the first time emissions from livestock could be measured from space.

Life cycle assessment (LCA) is a method to identify all the inputs and outputs necessary to make a product and quantify the associated environmental and socioeconomic impacts. Check out the CAST Commentary, *Goals, Strengths and Limitations Governing the Use of Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) in Food and Agriculture* to find out why it's important for agriculture to know this information.

News and Views

USDA Updates: The department announced it is [accepting more than 2 million acres](#) in offers from agricultural producers and landowners through the Conservation Reserve Program General signup.

HPAI Update: The USDA APHIS has confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in [Oklahoma, Alaska, and Vermont](#), bringing the total to 32 states impacted. The USDA announced that \$263 million from the Commodity Credit Corporation will be [transferred to APHIS to help fight the virus](#).

Far Side of the Barn

Good Guard Dog (video): A video went viral of a [livestock guardian dog](#)

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

[babysitting baby goats.](#)

All-You-Can-Eat Buffet: Dozens of [sea lions have broken into an industrial fish farm](#) in British Columbia, where they are feasting on Atlantic salmon.



On the Loose: Construction workers [used a tractor to wrangle a 400-pound loose pig](#) in Arizona.

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](#)



As mentioned by the recipient's nominators, the 2022 BCCA recipient is said to "have the gift of communicating technical information to non-technical audiences. Their style is extremely effective in both conveying information to the intended audience, as well as stimulating discussion and questions around key issues."

Societies Enrich CAST



Since 1972, [society members](#) have been an important component in the effort to fulfill CAST's mission—communicating credible, science-based information to a wide audience. Society members include those representing medicine, plants, food, animals, and other types of science and agriculture.

CAST's [society members enjoy several benefits](#) such as access to publications and a weekly newsletter. But just as notable, these groups share information with others through CAST's publications and social media, and their members keep aware of science-based research and information from the many sources available through CAST. Member societies have a voice on the [CAST Board of Representatives](#), a body made up of member societies, universities, companies, nonprofit organizations, and the Board of Directors. Each member of the board serves on one of three work groups—Animal Agriculture and Environmental Issues, Food Science and Safety, or Plant Agriculture and Environmental Issues. The work groups meet at an annual board meeting, hold monthly virtual calls, and help CAST identify, clarify, and prioritize national issues it should address in its publications to support science, technology, and innovation.

Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

Price Risk Management: An associate professor of agricultural economics at Kansas State University has [released a nine-part series and historic performance decision aid](#) about price risk management considerations and strategies for cow-calf producers.

H5 Avian Influenza: The first known human case of H5 bird flu in the U.S. has [appeared in a person in Colorado](#), according to the CDC, but they [say risk of infection is low](#).

State Legislation Threats: Some states are calling for



With the current energy prices, feed

legislation similar to California's Prop 12, which could be [detrimental to livestock producers](#).

companies are looking for solutions to [reduce production costs for swine feed](#).

Food Science and Safety News

Processing Facility: A group of cattle producers have bought a facility to begin their [own cattle processing to combat the "Big 4" packers](#).

Cereal Problems: The FDA has logged more than 500 complaints of "[adverse events](#)" related to a "dry cereal" in an investigation of an ongoing outbreak. They have not reported where the ill people live, what their ages are, or what "adverse events" have been reported.

Human Milk: Startups are [racing to reproduce milk in the lab](#), as there's never been enough human milk in the world to feed all the world's babies until they're six months old.



One bite from a lone star tick could cause an allergy to red meat, also [known as alpha-gal syndrome](#)

Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

Crop Production: President Biden has called for [\\$500M in emergency incentives for U.S. crop production](#), particularly wheat and soybeans, to address the world's expected loss of production from Ukraine.

Increasing Ammonia Prices: A university economist says [ammonia could hit \\$2,000/ton](#) in 2023.

Droughts and Wildfires: [California is at its driest ever](#)—land is expected to be at its most vulnerable for wildfires this season.

Corn Yield: An agronomy research company found [three management practices](#) to increase corn yield potential.



The availability of avocados in the U.S. has tripled in about 15 years, and there is [still room for growth](#).

International News

Protocols and Imports: With China's strict COVID-19 protocols, the country has [had issues importing meat](#) and receiving other imports.

Production vs. Imports: An ag economist says China has [not increased domestic corn acres](#) in seven years, which is a primary driver for the country's ramp up in corn imports.

Cooking Oil Prices: Russia's invasion of Ukraine has caused [cooking oil prices to skyrocket](#). Ukraine supplies nearly half of the world's sunflower oil.

Pig Industry in the Philippines: Although the war in Ukraine does not directly affect the domestic economy of the Philippines, there are [indirect ways that have caused disruptions](#) to the pig industry.



Russian military forces invading Ukraine stole \$5 million worth of equipment from an ag dealership. After shipping the equipment back to Russia, [they found their loot had been remotely disabled](#).

General Interest News

Food Production: The Association of Equipment Manufacturers released The Future of Food Production, a whitepaper detailing the [drivers impacting how food is produced](#) in North America.

Shipping Bees: About 5 million honeybees bound for Alaska last weekend got [waylaid when Delta Air Lines routed them through Atlanta](#), where most of the bees died after being left for hours in crates on the ground during hot weather.

CAST Bee Health Paper: Check out the CAST Commentary released in June 2017, [Why Does Bee Health Matter? The Science Surrounding Honey Bee Health Concerns and What We Can Do About It](#).



The number of colonies of bees has been increasing in recent years. Although the [industry is doing well](#), there are still important issues to address.

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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.

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

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