



*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



Notice: There will be not be an issue of *Friday Notes* next week due to the 4th of July holiday.

The Soil and Water Conservation Society's [77th International Annual Conference](#) will be held July 31-August 3, 2022, in Denver, Colorado.

### CAST College Corner

[Penn State University](#) has paired with another university to conduct research that shows COVID-19 had a positive effect on rural hospitality and agritourism.

This [University of Missouri](#) study shows real numbers on food insecurity and offers a draft report for policy makers to help food pantries.

## June 24, 2022

### Advances in Robotic Technology Benefit Agriculture

Everyday we are learning about new uses of robots in agriculture; included in this story are some recent advancements.



A dairy farmer from Texas is using new technology to transform [cow manure into clean water](#) and dry organic fertilizer.

A robot in the prototype phase can [identify a berry that's ripe enough to pick](#) and can pick the fruit without damaging it or the plant.

A company has invented a [solar-powered robot chicken coop](#) on wheels, which it says fosters regenerative farming.

Check out the CAST Issue Paper, [Ground and Aerial Robots for Agricultural Production: Opportunities and Challenges](#), released in November 2020.

### News and Views

**USDA Updates:** The USDA 1) announced plans to provide up to \$200 million in assistance for [specialty crop producers](#) and 2) issued a memorandum to the USDA Forest Service directing the agency to [take bold actions to restore forests](#), improve resilience, and address the climate crisis.

**Farmers and Policy Discussions:** A noted group of experts worked together on a journal paper titled "[Sustainable and Regenerative Agriculture – Protecting, Restoring and Enhancing Life On Earth Begins and Ends With the Soil.](#)"

**Rural COVID-19 Infections:** The number of new COVID-19 infections in rural America [remained](#)

A [Texas A&M University](#) team helped formulate new fish diets with protein substitutes.

[relatively steady last week.](#)

## Far Side of the Barn

### CAST Social Media

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

**Cheese in Caves:** The USDA has kept cheese and other dairy products in [cold-storage caves](#) for decades, but their purpose has shifted over the years.



**Pink Flamingo Day:** Pink Flamingo Day, celebrated annually on June 23, was founded by a Massachusetts mayor in 2007 to [pay tribute to the inventor](#) of the plastic lawn decorations.

## CAST Updates

### New Board-Level Society Member

CAST is pleased to welcome a new board-level society member. The [Society for Range Management](#) (SRM) is an international organization that includes people who manage, conserve, and enjoy the vast landscapes known as rangelands. The SRM has been at the forefront of rangeland management for 75 years and they are dedicated to delivering unparalleled support for rangeland science, management, and serving as the voice for the stewardship of rangelands across the world.



This level of support for CAST allows the organization the opportunity to appoint a representative to serve on a work group and network with other professionals to help CAST address agricultural issues through its publications.



The SRM has chosen Dr. Barry Perryman, their First Vice President, to serve on the [CAST Board of Representatives](#) with the Plant Agriculture and Environmental Issues work group. Dr. Perryman said, "We are looking forward to this membership with CAST, as we work towards the common goal of communicating science-based information that promotes productive and sustainable natural resource management."

## Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

**Market Predictions:** A group of university students reimagined a rancher's 30-year-old [cattle market prediction model](#).

**Proposition 12:** The Biden administration asked the Supreme Court to [strike down California's attempt](#) to ban the sale of pork from hogs that fail to meet the new production standards. It is said to be unconstitutional and violates the Commerce Clause.

**Nose Doesn't Know:** Behavioral ecologists have discovered a way to harness [animals' olfactory ability to protect vulnerable plants](#) and endangered



**New research transforms our understanding of the circumstances and timing of the [domestication of chickens](#)**

animals.

and their spread across Asia into the west.

## Food Science and Safety News

**Lentil Dish Recall:** A food home delivery service has [issued a recall on its lentil and leek crumbles](#) dish, after multiple customers complained on social media of stomach issues after consuming them.

**Norovirus:** An organic company is recalling certain smoothie and oat products from the marketplace because of [possible norovirus contamination](#) of the raspberries used in these products.

**Plant-based Food Wrap:** Scientists have developed a [antimicrobial, plant-based food wrap](#) designed to replace plastic.



More than 40 percent of restaurants in Hong Kong serve undercooked burgers if asked, [according to a survey](#).

## Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

**Growing Bacteria:** Scientists have [invented a new method](#) to encourage bacteria to form growth-promoting ecosystems that could be used to coat the roots of plant seedlings.

**Glyphosate:** The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals [ordered the U.S. EPA to reassess](#) whether glyphosate is potentially harmful to humans, wildlife, or the environment.

**Fertilizer:** A report from Iowa State University noted that farmers are paying more for fertilizer, but [price-gouging wasn't found](#).



A cold winter and a hot summer have damaged the NW cherry crop. [Low yields and high prices](#) are expected to follow.

## International News

**Export Challenges:** Ukraine's top food processor of chicken and grains warned recently that it [could not give an outlook for the year](#) due to the war with Russia and challenges exporting goods.

**Temporary Grain Housing:** Ukraine will receive [temporary grain housing](#) amidst the 2022 harvest.

**World Happiness Report:** The World Happiness Report 2022 shines a bright light in dark times and shows the pandemic brought an [increase in social support and benevolence](#).



A corridor agreement to combat global wheat shortage is still under discussions by [Turkey, Russia, and Ukraine](#).

## General Interest News

**Workers Needed:** Agricultural companies are in [desperate need for workers](#).

**Heat Records:** The current heat wave is [continuing to break records](#). This podcast discusses how this heat is [threatening livestock herds and crops](#).

**Lowering Prices:** The U.S. House passed the Lower Food and Fuels Cost Act [aimed toward lowering prices](#).

**Free School Lunches:** A Bipartisan, bicameral deal was reached that [extends school meal waivers](#) beyond the June 30 expiration date.



June 20-26 is [National Pollinator Week](#). Check out the [CAST Commentary on why bee health matters](#).

## Photo Credits

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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
- \* Society for Range Management
- \* 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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*\*\* With assistance from Colleen Hamilton (Membership Specialist) and Nick Plaughner (Communications Project Coordinator)*

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