



*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



The National Academies invite you to [Science on the Hill: Climate - Smart Agriculture](#) on Friday, July 15 from 12:00PM to 1:00PM EDT.

### CAST College Corner

The [Iowa State University](#) football field will feature a new homegrown turfgrass created by multiple college departments.

A [Kansas State University](#) economist says the price outlook for fertilizer and fuel is not very optimistic.

Mississippi State University students were honored at the [annual Academy of Sciences conference](#) and other students were part of a national group at an [agricultural education symposium](#).

[NC State University](#) offers a podcast titled Farms, Food and You: Plants in Space.

## July 8, 2022

### Consumers Views on Gene-Edited Food

A study found that those who view science and technology positively, trust agricultural biotech companies, and possess a good understanding of gene-editing technology also [are less likely to avoid gene-edited foods](#).



Another recent study examined the nutritional composition of meat and milk derived from gene-edited cattle bred to be hornless. The two-year-long project provided further evidence [indicating the safe use of biotechnology](#) in food production.

A company from Argentina plans to carry out field tests of its genetically modified drought resistant wheat in Australia and seek planting approvals next year. The company is [counting on consumers warming to eating wheat](#) that has been genetically modified, as food prices soar due to the Ukraine war and more extreme weather patterns increase the risk of global famines.

Check out the CAST Issue Paper released July 2018, [Genome Editing in Agriculture: Methods, Applications, and Governance](#) and an Issue Paper released April 2014, [The Potential Impacts of Mandatory Labeling for Genetically Engineered Food in the United States](#).

### News and Views

**USDA Updates:** 1) At the G20 Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists this week, the USDA underscored the [importance of agricultural research](#) and development in tackling the challenges of global food security and climate change. 2) The Departments of Agriculture, the Interior and Homeland Security through the Federal Emergency Management Agency [selected members to serve](#) on the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management

## CAST Social Media

Visit our website



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

Commission.

## Far Side of the Barn

**Gaming vs. Reality:** An Iowa State University student earned enough money to [purchase 250 acres of farmland](#) while playing a video game and uploading content of it to YouTube.



## CAST Updates

### Dr. J. Alex Thomasson Voted CAST President-Elect for 2022-2023



Congratulations to Dr. J. Alex Thomasson (*pictured left*)—head of the Mississippi State University Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering and William B. and Sherry Berry Endowed Chairholder—for being elected [as the CAST President-Elect for 2022-2023!](#)

His vision for CAST includes maintaining scientific objectivity so position papers are viewed as informed and credible. Thomasson said, “Within CAST’s position as a scientific authority on agricultural matters, modern means of communicating critical ideas to the public should be explored and adopted where appropriate.” He plans to grow CAST’s membership—he believes with the growth of agricultural technology in the last decade, it is critical that CAST expand its academic, nonprofit, and corporate membership with emphasis on technologies. He hopes to do so through engaging and increasing opportunities for young members, such as college students, and encouraging lifetime memberships.

### Value of Being a CAST Member

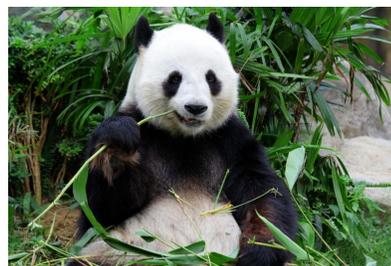
Hear from some current CAST members on how CAST makes a difference in the world, the impact of CAST, why they love being a part of CAST, and [why others should join and support CAST in this video](#).

There are different types and levels of CAST membership and [more information can be found](#) on the CAST website.

## Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

**Goats and Vegetation:** Goats truly are the Greatest of All Time, this time for [munching on weeds and invasive plant species](#) at Riverside Park in Manhattan to protect the area's native vegetation.

**Working Together:** The U.S. agriculture industry is a [web of connections](#) between livestock producers and crop growers in areas of feed production, commodity value and exports, manure and resource



management, and sustainability.

**Food Facilities:** A guidance was finalized to help [animal food facilities develop](#) a food safety plan that complies with the FDA's Hazard Analysis and Risk-Based Preventive Controls requirements.

An ancient fossil reveals the [earliest panda to survive solely on bamboo](#) and the evolutionary history of panda's false thumbs.

## Food Science and Safety News

**Food Aid:** G7 says they will spare no effort to [increase global food and nutrition security](#) and to protect the most vulnerable, whom the food crisis threatens to hit the hardest.

**Leafy Greens and Tech:** Through its evaluation of emerging technologies, a food company has been [applying beneficial insects by drones](#) the last four years.

**Listeria:** German officials believe they have [solved a seven-year](#) Listeria outbreak.



Research from Penn State University showed that eating [one avocado a day](#) led to a slight decrease in unhealthy cholesterol levels.

## Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

**Artificial Photosynthesis:** A hybrid inorganic-biological artificial photosynthesis system has been [created to make energy-efficient food](#).

**Precision Ag:** The percentage of U.S. vegetable [growers who use precision agriculture](#) tools remains just under 50%.

**CAST Issue Paper** (*related to right*): Check out the CAST Issue Paper released November 2020 titled [Ground and Aerial Robots for Agricultural Production: Opportunities and Challenges](#).



A university group found that drones could be used to [scare off pesky birds in vineyards](#).

## International News

**Demand for U.S. Lamb:** The [Caribbean is the largest destination](#) for U.S. lamb muscle cuts.

**U.S. Farmland:** Companies from Russia, China, North Korea, and Iran would be barred from purchasing U.S. agricultural land [under language recently approved](#) by the House Appropriations Committee.

**Rice Crop:** Indian farmers have planted 1.96 million hectares with summer-sown rice so far, which is [down 46% from last year](#) mainly due to a weak start to the monsoon season.



Afghan farmers need wheat varieties with improved traits such as [heat and drought resilience](#), incorporating functional variation.

**Energy-dense Biofuel:** Scientists have created an energy-dense and eco-friendly fuel—[derived from bacteria](#).

**Ag Tech Funding:** Despite growing concerns about a potential recession, [ag tech startups still raised a near-record amount](#) of VC money in the first three months of this year.

**Farms Under Threat:** This publication is a multi-year initiative to document the status of and threats to agricultural land while [offering policy solutions to protect that land](#).



**More than 2.4 million acres have burned across Alaska this year, among the most burned acreage so early in the year in at least eight decades.**

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Agricultural Research Service, Constant Contact, or CAST.

## 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

## 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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The Science Source for Food,  
Agricultural, and Environmental Issues

*\*\* With assistance from Colleen Hamilton (Membership Specialist) and Nick Plaughter (Communications Project Coordinator)*

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