



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 EVP/CEO, Kent Schescke, [will be retiring](#) mid-2023. See the CAST Updates section for information.

The Poultry Science Association is hosting the Latin American Scientific Conference in Iguazu Falls, Parana, Brazil. The conference will take place [October 4-6, 2022](#).

Join policymakers, private-sector innovators, and research leaders as they discuss the need to accelerate agricultural productivity growth and concrete actions to do so. [The event](#) will also feature the release of the 2022 GAP Report.

CAST College Corner

[University of Arkansas](#) researchers are developing a tool to help poultry producers realize the full value of solar technology.

[University of Nevada, Reno](#) researchers led a study that shows restored meadows capture and store large amounts of carbon.

September 16, 2022

Reflections from CAST EVPs

This article is part of a series highlighting CAST's 50th anniversary.

Under CAST Updates, four [CAST executive vice presidents](#)—Richard Stuckey, top left; John Bonner, top right; Linda Chimenti, bottom left; and Kent Schescke, bottom right—briefly reflect on important developments during their tenure. Collectively their service represents over half of CAST's 50 years as an organization!



News and Views

USDA Updates: The USDA 1) released the latest [World Agricultural Supply & Demand Estimates](#) (WASDE), 2) is now accepting applications for the [rural high-speed internet program](#), and 3) announced that children's food insecurity [reached a two-decade low](#) in 2021.

The USDA also announced a [\\$2 Billion investment](#) for "Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities". This grant will be used to help fund [70 agricultural projects](#).

Far Side of the Barn

Get Lost: A Spring Grove, Illinois, farmer boasts the "World's Largest" corn maze.

CAST Social Media

Visit our website



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

The [28-acre live corn attraction](#) features a James Bond theme for the coming season.



ICYMI: The words shrinkflation, adorkable, subvariant, and even pumpkin spice are now [officially in the Merriam-Webster dictionary](#). ICYMI, short for “in case you missed it,” was also added.

Happy Hour: A North Dakota woman was found carrying a [raccoon through a local bar](#) leading officials to warn patrons about possible rabies exposure.

CAST Updates

EVP Reflections

Continued from Page 1

Richard E. Stuckey (1992-2001)

- CAST moved from renting to a refurbished, CAST-owned office, where it remains today.
- Scientific society membership grew from 29 to 38.
- CAST moved to shorter, more timely issue papers that were then distributed through Congressional briefings and to the appropriate regulatory agencies, interest groups, and media.

John M. Bonner (2005-2013)

- The CAST governance was restructured into three distinctly focused boards—Directors, Representatives, and Trustees.
- The Borlaug CAST Communication Award (BCCA)—in conjunction with the World Food Prize—was created.
- Funds were raised from CAST’s dedicated lifetime members to pay off the remainder of its mortgage.

Linda M. Chimenti (2014-2015)

- CAST developed a new series of “1-pagers”—the Ag quickCASTS—that were excerpted from its full-length companion publication.
- CAST gained new or returning members in all categories—companies, nonprofit organization, societies, and universities in the Education Program.
- Following guidance in the Strategic Plan, CAST focused on partnerships, interacting with numerous ag-related organizations to reach new audiences and share opportunities of mutual interest.

Kent G. Schescke (2015-Present)

- The number of Education Program members have nearly doubled.
- In response to the pandemic, webinars became part of CAST’s publication rollout process and staff moved to a remote or hybrid work environment.
- The Communications Scholarship Program was established to offer graduate students attending an Education Program university member the opportunity to grow their science communication skills.

Schescke Retiring from CAST Mid-2023

Kent Schescke, CAST Executive Vice President and CEO, has announced his plans to retire in 2023 after almost 50 years of service to the agriculture, education, and scientific communities. More information about Schescke’s retirement can be found [here](#).

A position description and application information are posted on the CAST website and [can be accessed here](#).

Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

Hog Virus: Senecavirus A (SVA) was [detected in imported soybean](#) meal hog-feed—a wake-up call for livestock feed management.

Weaned Piglet Diet: A study found that weaned piglets can [benefit from including acidifiers](#) in their diet.

Avian Influenza: The [risk of another](#) highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreak remains for poultry farmers as fall approaches across the U.S., according to experts.



Universities are working on a collaborative genomics project that seeks to relate the [genetic differences in the culinary quality](#) of various beef cattle.

Food Science and Safety News

Food Labels: Judge rules that QR code labels alone are not enough to [properly inform customers](#) of bioengineering in food products.

Executive Order Issued: President Biden issued an executive order that advances biotechnology and biomanufacturing towards innovative solutions in [climate change, food security, and agriculture](#)—among other items.

Railroad Strike: The nation's supply of food could take a hit [if railroad workers go on strike](#), driving up prices at the grocery store and limiting U.S. grain exports to countries facing famine.



A gene-edited tomato that is believed to fight cancer and heart disease was [approved by the USDA](#).

Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

Ethanol: Ethanol [production in the US is slightly falling](#) after a four-week high, but biofuel producer says [market will not be hurt](#) by recent electric vehicle movements.

CRISPR Crops: A researcher at NC State University is [proposing new framework](#) for regulating engineered crops.

Cash Rent: The cropland cash rent in the U.S. has [hit an all-time high](#); this year's rent eclipsed the previous 2015 high.



University of Florida researchers refined colony management for thrips—insects [that can cause significant damage](#) to greenhouse plants.

International News

Wheat Yields: China's wheat yields continue to increase year-over-year—for seven years in a row [harvest has surpassed 130 million tonnes](#).

Inspections: A recent inspection gave the Australian livestock sector [increased confidence in their biosecurity measures](#).

Resignation: The [Dutch Farm Minister has resigned](#) after pollution protests.



Australian pig operations see an [outbreak of Japanese-encephalitis virus](#); which could cause reproductive issues.

General Interest News

Pharma and Farms: Defenders of a 42-year-old law are claiming that attempts by some members of Congress to lower the price of a particular drug [could jeopardize scientific innovation](#) in the United States—including ag innovations.

Semiconductor Chips: More than [\\$50B has been allocated](#) for research, development, and manufacturing that could bring production to rural areas.

Ancient Reef Structure: Researchers using advanced satellite imagery have discovered an [ancient reef-like landform](#) "hidden" in plain view on the Nullarbor Plain in Australia.



A year ago, a farmer created a [one-to-one scale of the Twin Towers](#) by planting multiple hybrids in his field.

Photo Credits

Animal from Drovers. Food from Norfolk Plant Sciences. Plant from Kansas State University. General from From Above Aerial. Unless otherwise noted, photos courtesy of the USDA 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
- * 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
- * Nutrien
- * Penn State University

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 Crop Science
- * Corteva Agriscience
- * CropLife America
- * Crop Science Society of America
- * Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy
- * Iowa State University
- * Minor Use Foundation, Inc.

* Poultry Science Association

- * Society for In Vitro Biology
- * Society for Range Management
- * Soil Science Society of America
- * Syngenta Crop Protection
- * The Fertilizer Institute
- * The Mosaic Company
- * 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
- * Purdue University Libraries and School of Information Studies
- * 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 Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental 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

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