



*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



Nominations are now open for the 2023 Borlaug CAST Communication Award. Information and the nomination packet are [on the CAST website](#). Completed nomination packets are due February 26, 2023.

There will be no *Friday Notes* December 23rd or 30th. *Friday Notes* will resume January 6th, 2023.

### CAST College Corner

A [Texas A&M University](#) expert and others associated with the Christmas tree industry are expecting another good year for live tree sales, despite the drought.

### CAST Social Media

## December 9, 2022

### Agricultural Transportation Issues

There are a few issues that are impacting the transportation of agricultural products. The Department of Transportation has denied the [Hours-of-Service exemption](#) for livestock trucking—which puts a burden on cattle producers.



The Mississippi River levels are still historically low, and [corn shipments via barge](#) are 322 million bushels behind the pace needed to meet the USDA's export target.

Another transportation concern was a possible rail strike. Fortunately, with the Senate's swift vote to pass a tentative rail agreement and a favorable vote from the House, President Biden was able to sign the labor bill to [avert the rail strike](#).

### News and Views

**USDA Updates:** The USDA 1) announced its new Agricultural Science Center of Excellence for Nutrition and Diet for Better Health ([ASCEND for Better Health](#)) in support of President Biden's Cancer Moonshot effort to end cancer as we know it and 2) has released a map showing where [organically raised food](#) is produced.

**Online Consultation:** FAO's [online consultation](#), *What are the barriers and opportunities for scientists and other knowledge holders to contribute to informing policy for more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems?*, is open until January 15, 2023.

### Far Side of the Barn

Visit our website



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

**Microscopic World:** The yearly Nikon photo contest reveals the fantastic microscopic world that surrounds us. This photo is of an embryonic hand of a Madagascar giant day gecko.

[More pictures can be viewed here.](#)



## CAST Updates

### Rachel's Next Chapter



Rachel Bauler has been the student administrative assistant of finance and membership since early 2022 and will be leaving CAST this month. She will be student teaching in the spring and graduating from Iowa State University in May. Her favorite memories

while working with CAST have been all the funny moments in the office and attending the BCCA presentation. Read more [about her time at CAST](#).

### Past Student Worker Spotlight

Caryn Dawson was the student administrative assistant at CAST from January 2018-June 2021. Caryn graduated from Iowa State University in May 2021. She's recently been recognized as Iowa State University's Young Alum of the Month. You can catch up with her [current career here](#).



## Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

**HPAI:** The latest reports of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) bring the [current total number of affected birds](#) in the United States well above the estimated record of 50 million birds from the wave in 2015. An additional 1.8 million chickens have been depopulated in Nebraska to [prevent the HPAI spread](#).

**Veterinarian Shortage:** Cornell University's latest report shows that [more than 500 U.S. counties](#) have shortages of food animal veterinarians.

**CAST Issue Paper:** Related to above, CAST released [Impact of Recruitment and Retention of Food Animal Veterinarians on the U.S. Food Supply](#) in April 2020.



**Sow longevity is generally heritable, which is important to know when it comes to the [bottom line and animal welfare](#).**

## Food Science and Safety News

**CBD in Food:** Recent warning letters to brands selling CBD-infused foods and beverages marked a [shift in FDA approaches](#) to the ingredient, with the FDA seeming to opine that food and beverages are “somehow a greater risk than supplements”.

**Artichokes:** Results from a recent survey revealed that more consumers made it their intention to shop [exclusively organic when they purchase artichokes](#), compared with the previous two years.

**BBQ Sauce:** University of Missouri Food Science students [developed barbecue sauces](#) in hopes of their own recipe to be chosen as the official university sauce.



University of Georgia plant biologists are trying to find out if the [pawpaw fruit species](#) can survive climate change.

## Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

**Drought:** America's largest rivers are reaching their lowest levels ever, [threatening water access](#) for millions.

**Cumin:** This blog from the American Society of Agronomy and the Crop Science Society of America discusses [current research about growing cumin](#).

**Wheat Varieties:** Reduced height, or semi-dwarf, wheat varieties with [improved drought resilience](#) may soon be grown in fields across the globe following a major UK scientific discovery.



This new university website provides a trove of [science-based solutions for garden pests, weeds, and disease problems](#) in one easy-to-navigate place.

## International News

**ASF:** The Czech Republic has seen its first case of [African swine fever in five years](#).

**Netherlands:** The Dutch government is planning to [buy out and close as many as 3,000 farms](#) in the country as leaders attempt to halve the country's nitrogen emissions by 2030.

**Farm Industry:** From oxen to horses to tractors to robots: the European farm industry is [poised to undergo another innovative disruption](#)—this time brought about by artificial intelligence.



The current drought has reduced the yield potential of [EU sunflowers](#).

## General Interest News

**Mental Health:** There are many barriers to receiving mental health care. It's expensive, not always covered by insurance, and it can be difficult to find a therapist. A new report says those barriers can be [even higher for people working in agriculture](#).



**Fossil Fuels:** A viral post claims that animal

The [global insect population](#) is

agriculture is the biggest contributor to climate change, but experts say [fossil fuels are](#).

**declining at an unprecedented rate of up to two percent per year.**

**Fish Stocks:** [Trawler cams](#) could help save the world's dwindling fish supply.

## Photo Credits

Lead from Successful Farming. Far Side from Grigorii Timin and Michel Milinkovitch, University of Geneva. CAST Updates from Caryn/Iowa State University. Plant from Markus Spiske/Unsplash. Unless otherwise noted, photos courtesy of the USDA Agricultural Research Service, Constant Contact, or CAST.

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

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

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