



*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**  
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### Announcements



Nominations are now open for the 2023 Borlaug CAST Communication Award (BCCA). [Completed nomination packets](#) are due **Monday, February 27**.

The USDA [Agricultural Outlook Forum](#) will be held February 23-24.

### CAST College Corner

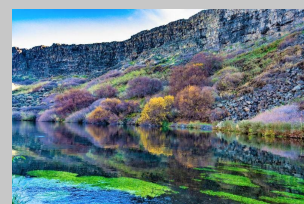
[University of Georgia](#) experts discuss where bees go in the winter. Check out the CAST Commentary, [Why Does Bee Health Matter? The Science Surrounding Honey Bee Health Concerns and What We Can Do About It](#), released June 2017.

At [Penn State University](#), researchers devised and tested a food safety training program for farmers market vendors. Check out the CAST Issue Paper, [Interpreting Pesticide Residues in Food](#),

### January 27, 2023

## Water—Flooding and Scarcity

As floodwaters begin to recede, agricultural leaders are getting a clearer picture of the damage caused when floodwaters on the Salinas River in California breached berms and levees, flooding farmland. California's [infrastructure lacks the ability](#) to take water and set it aside quickly enough to store for later use. Damage from the floods is [estimated to be in the tens of millions](#) of dollars.



California isn't the only location facing water scarcity. Kansas legislators are [renewing their efforts to save the Ogallala Aquifer](#), even if it means economic trade-offs in the short-term. Currently irrigated agriculture is [draining the aquifer](#) much faster than rainfall can replenish it.

Check out the CAST Issue Paper, [Aquifer Depletion and Potential Impacts on Long-term Irrigated Agricultural Productivity](#), released February 2019. This issue paper reviews the causes and consequences of groundwater depletion and aides in developing effective policies and practices for groundwater development, use, and management.

### News and Views

**USDA Updates:** The USDA announced 1) additional [assistance for dairy farmers](#), 2) grants for [urban agriculture and innovative production](#), and 3) Deputy Secretary Jewel Bronaugh will be departing.

**HPAI:** Florida's unprecedented outbreak of HPAI among wild birds has spread to two more species: [Sandhill cranes and white pelicans](#).

**World Food Prize:** Former U.S. Ambassador [Terry Branstad will lead](#) the World Food Prize Foundation as

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## Far Side of the Barn

*This section is usually used for humorous news stories, but CAST staff enjoyed this heart-warming article and wanted to share it with readers.*



**Paying it Forward:** Over the past decade, a farmer was [paying off strangers' medication bills](#) at a local pharmacy.

## CAST Updates

### Summary of Activities

The June-December 2022 CAST Summary of Activities is [available for viewing](#). It includes an overview on the 2022-2023 President-Elect, 2022 BCCA presentation, CAST's 50th annual meeting, the CAST scholarship program, the Zoonoses publication release, new board-level members, and staff updates.

### 2022 Scholarship Recipients' Blog



During the 2022 CAST Annual Meeting, 13 graduate students from Iowa State University received the CAST Science Communication Scholarship. The recipients were nominated by their professors. A blog with all the students' media is [available for viewing](#) on the CAST website. This scholarship is supported by individual donors of CAST.

## Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

**ASF:** U.S. Customs and Border Protection is fighting to keep African swine fever (ASF) [out of the United States](#).

**One Health:** This [webinar hosted by the National Academies of Sciences](#) focused on the collaborative and transdisciplinary 'One Health' approach, as discussed in the Strategy, for effective biodefense and global health security.

**CAST Publication (*related to above*):** CAST released a special publication in November 2022, [Zoonotic Diseases in Animal Agriculture and Beyond: A One Health Perspective](#).



**Kansas State University experts advise that rotating calving pastures is one way to [reduce the likelihood](#) of disease spread to newborn calves.**

# Food Science and Safety News

**Wild Birds and Food Safety:** UC-Davis is examining the prevalence of different wild bird species in agriculture and whether they carry and [transmit foodborne pathogens](#).

**Egg Prices:** A perfect storm of rising input costs and the return of HPAI have combined to [significantly increase egg prices](#). As egg prices rise, so do attempts to [smuggle them in from Mexico](#), according to U.S. Customs officials.

**Buying Online:** The Food Standards Agency (FSA) commissioned research to [understand consumer attitudes](#) toward buying food online, including the perceived risks.



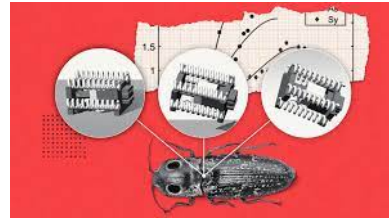
A Cornell University researcher has completed a decades-long program to develop new varieties of tomato that naturally resist pests and [limit transfer of viral disease by insects](#).

## Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

**Corn Ban:** U.S. officials are not satisfied with recent amendments to Mexico's proposed ban on biotech corn and are [considering official action](#) to oppose the ban.

**Smaller Harvest:** The USDA released three major reports recently. When combined, they tell a story of a [smaller 2022 harvest](#) and smaller domestic supplies of corn, soybeans, and wheat.

**Streamflow:** Researchers at the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station recently published a paper highlighting their work to develop a [cost-efficient method to monitor streamflow](#) in small-scale watersheds remotely.



A swarm of bug robots could one day soon bounce between farm crops to [examine plant health](#).

## International News

**Therapeutics:** Saudi Arabia researchers have found a way to use a common garden plant to produce saffron's active ingredient, a compound with important [therapeutic and food industry applications](#).

**Solving Food Shortages:** U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen traveled to a ramen noodle manufacturing plant in Zambia to showcase [Africa's potential to help solve](#) the world's problems with food shortages.

**Opinion (related to above):** In this opinion piece, Joe Cornelius, Ph.D., of the Bill & Melinda Gates Agricultural Innovations discusses how the [untapped potential of breakthrough crop technologies](#) can help Africa's farmers thrive in the face of climate change.



Minks at a large farm in Spain became [infected by the H5N1 avian influenza virus](#)—bringing the fear back that H5N1 could trigger a human pandemic.



## General Interest

**Road Salt:** A recent study found that road salt—used by counties, cities, and homeowners—[impacts ground water year-round](#).

**Pollinating Insects:** Researchers have now investigated how a mixture of crops of faba beans and wheat affects the [number of pollinating insects](#).

**Navigation Systems:** Farmers use global positioning satellite systems in the form of tractor guidance—which can [help farmers to optimize](#) their use of fertilizer, seed, and even herbicides.



With a new [photovoltaic panel](#), UC-Davis researchers harness sunshine to harvest energy and food together, taking advantage of the full light spectrum.

## Photo Credits

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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
- \* 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

- \* Iowa State University
- \* Minor Use Foundation, Inc.

- \* Western Society of Weed Science

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- \* North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University
- \* North Carolina State University
- \* Penn State University
- \* Purdue University Libraries and School of Information Studies
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- \* 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 Georgia
- \* 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

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

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