



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



CFARE is hosting a webinar on [The Implications of Natural Disasters on U.S. Agriculture](#) on February 13 at 11 am CST.

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

[Mississippi State University](#) is offering the Summer Research Experience Program. The application deadline is February 17.

CAST College Corner

[Tuskegee University](#) is offering a four-week-long virtual series during Black History Month that will spotlight the African American heritage and issues relevant to the Black community.

CAST Social Media

Visit our website

February 10, 2023

Food Label Updates

GMO foods have been on supermarket shelves since the 1990s, but GMO labels have only been required for a year. The USDA says implementation and compliance with the GMO food labeling program have been "successful," while experts suggest [consumers aren't noticing the labels](#).



The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is [updating the use of the term "healthy"](#) on food labels for the first time since 1994—in an attempt to align the agency's definition of healthy with the latest nutritional science and federal dietary guidelines.

Big changes for food labels are also [happening in South Africa](#)—including sugar warnings as an end to "super-food" labels.

Check out the CAST Issue Paper, [Process Labeling of Food: Consumer Behavior, the Agricultural Sector, and Policy Recommendations](#), released in October 2015.

News and Views

USDA Updates: The USDA 1) announced an investment in 45 cooperative agreements that support innovative, scalable waste management plans to [reduce and divert food waste from landfills](#), 2) released the latest [World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates](#) (WASDE) report, and 3) announced that 2022 was another [record year for U.S. farm exports](#).

Far Side of the Barn

Happy Birthday:
The Cincinnati Zoo's beloved hippo [Fiona](#)



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

[turned 6 years old](#) recently, and she celebrated in a big way.



CAST Updates

New CAST Representative



Dr. Martin Wiedmann, [2022 BCCA recipient](#), is the new CAST representative for Cornell University and will be serving on the Food Work Group. Wiedmann says, "With my specific interest on food safety and sustainable food systems, I am excited to join the CAST Food Work Group and to help this group communicate credible, unbiased, science-based information about food and agriculture."

2023 BCCA Nominations are Open

Nominations are now open for the 2023 Borlaug CAST Communication Award (BCCA), an honor that recognizes professionals actively working in the agricultural, environmental, or food sectors who are promoting agricultural science in the public policy arena. More nomination information can be [found on the CAST website](#). **Applications are due February 27, 2023.** A list of previous BCCA recipients [can be viewed here](#).

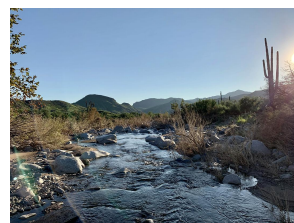


Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

AI in Dairy Farms: Examples and opportunities for [AI and machine learning in the dairy sector](#) are provided in a recent review.

Super Cows: Scientists said they have [successfully cloned three "super cow" calves](#) that, once fully grown, are capable of producing 50% more milk than the average American cow.

Wool Production: The University of Nevada-Reno's sheep program has [helped improve wool quality and economics](#) for the range sheep industry.



Penn State found that [populations of various species](#) of aquatic insects and other invertebrates respond to flooding and waterway drying in different ways.

Food Science and Safety News

Food Safety: The USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) outlined its [key achievements from last year](#).

Candy: An assistant professor at Mississippi State University discusses [how much candy](#) Americans eat each year.

Ready-To-Eat: More than 400 food products—including ready-to-eat sandwiches, salads, yogurts and wraps—[were recalled due to possible listeria](#) contamination.



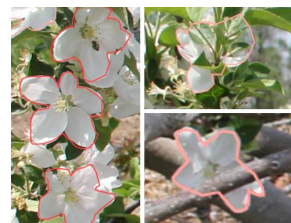
Football fans can expect [lower prices on chicken wings](#) this year as another consumption record is expected around Super Bowl LVII, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert.

Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

Fungicide: Some studies suggest that applying fungicides outside the presence of disease can [boost yields in corn and soybeans](#).

Evolution of Wheat: A study has analyzed the evolution of wheat since its cultivation began by the [inhabitants of ancient Mesopotamia](#).

Wildfire Predictions: The latest blog from the Soil Science Society of America discusses how to [improve wildfire predictions with soil science](#).



A [machine vision system](#) is capable of locating and identifying apple king flowers within clusters of blossoms on trees in orchards.

International News

Agriculture: North Korea has [scheduled a major political conference](#) to discuss the “urgent task” of improving its agricultural sector.

Bird Flu: More than 270 H5N1 cases have been confirmed across the country since late October 2021 in the [worst outbreak of bird flu](#) the UK has ever experienced.

Agritech in Africa: Three [African youth-led agritech businesses](#) will receive mentorship and grants to help them to aggressively expand solutions to long-standing challenges faced by smallholder farmers across the continent.



[High-rise hog farms](#) have sprung up nationwide as part of Beijing's drive to enhance its agricultural competitiveness and reduce its dependence on imports.

General Interest

U.S. Ag Exports: The United States' exports of agricultural and related [products hit record levels by value in 2022](#), though higher prices played a big role as volumes across some major items like grain

and meat were down on the year.

Ants: A recent study from NC State University suggests that [ants aren't adjusting their behavior](#) in response to warming temperatures.

Tracking COVID: Scientists with the USDA Agricultural Research Service are developing new tests to identify the COVID virus and its variants and [tools for tracking the virus](#) in wild and domestic animals.



The U.S. has sent Mexico a request to [explain the science](#) behind Mexico's planned bans on genetically modified corn and glyphosate herbicide.

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- * 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
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- * 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
- * Global Teach Ag Network
- * 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

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The Science Source for Food,
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