



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

The [National Pork Industry Forum](#) will be held March 8-10 in Orlando, Florida.

Registration is now open for the virtual [2023 IR-4 Project Research Symposium: Food Crops](#) on April 11.

### CAST College Corner

The [University of Missouri](#) is bringing attention to February being National Pesticide Safety Education Month.

[Penn State University](#) researchers received funding from the USDA so they can test feed additives' effect on methane emissions.

### CAST Social Media

Visit our website

**February 17, 2023**

## Western U.S. Water Issues

As part of the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to making Western communities more resilient to the impacts of drought and climate change, the USDA announced new investments and [strategies to help farmers and ranchers conserve water](#),



address climate change and build drought resilience in the West, supported in part by funding from the Inflation Reduction Act.

The seven basin states impacted by the Colorado River, known as the "work horse of the West," are trying to [find ways to save up to four million acre-feet of water](#) in the system. More than 40 million people in the West rely on the water from the Colorado River that irrigates 5.5 million acres of farmland and provides hydropower for two dams generating electricity for millions of users, mostly in rural areas.

Scientists fear a Great Toxic Dustbowl could soon emerge from the Great Salt Lake in Utah [as water disappears](#). As the lakebed is exposed, it could lead to a potential health disaster, as the soil that's exposed holds centuries of natural and manmade toxins.

### News and Views

**USDA Updates:** The USDA 1) is making funding available for agricultural producers and forest landowners nationwide to adopt [climate-smart practices](#) and 2) announced the nomination of Xochitl Torres Small [to serve as Deputy Secretary](#).

### Far Side of the Barn

**Super Bowl:** This company



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

[showcased farmers](#) in their Super Bowl LVII commercial. This university developed the [bermudagrass turf](#) that was used for the game.



## CAST Updates

### 2023 BCCA Nominations are Closing Soon

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](#).



### Past BCCA Recipient Highlights



#### Dr. Alexa Lamm

During the Global Teach Ag Network's (GTAN) Global Learning in Agriculture Community Kickoff Week, Dr. Alexa Lamm ([2020 BCCA](#)) delivered an interactive keynote on educator impact stories. To view the recording [click here](#). (Note: If you are not already a member of the GLAG Community, you will need to request to join first. After joining, the link will take you directly to the interactive keynote.)

#### Dr. Frank Mitloehner

In a recent interview, Dr. Frank Mitloehner ([2019 BCCA](#)), livestock emissions and air quality scientist, said it is important for farmers to [commit to their role in reducing emissions](#).



## Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

**Antibiotics:** This Texas A&M Extension expert answers questions to help prepare livestock owners for the new rule that [over-the-counter livestock antibiotics](#) will require a prescription in June.

**HPAI:** Federal scientists are gearing up to [test the first vaccines in poultry](#) against bird flu in years, as Biden administration officials say they have now begun weighing an unprecedented shift in the U.S. strategy to counter the growing outbreak.

**ASFV:** Researchers [recently led successful efforts](#) to work on African swine fever virus (ASFV) to



The ["stock cropper" method](#)—raising chickens, hogs, and sheep between rows of grains—is on the verge of scaling

control it. The USDA, NASDA, National Pork Board, and National Pork Producers Council partnered to [protect the U.S. from ASFV](#).

up.

## Food Science and Safety News

**Chocolate:** A food scientist explains [how chocolate gets its flavor](#), texture, and tricky reputation as an ingredient.

**Sweet Potatoes:** Gluten-free flour is being made from [sweet potatoes and used in recipes](#).

**Heart Disease:** While diet and nutrition can affect your cardiovascular health, [a new study suggests](#) that a lack of access to food and the stress caused by that food insecurity were associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular disease.



Some workers in the food industry [experiencing parosmia](#) (a long-term distorted sense of smell) from COVID find their lives and livelihoods disrupted.

## Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

**California Rice:** The fierce storms and heavy rain that have pounded California in recent weeks could be a [lifeline for the rice industry](#). Nearly all of the nation's sushi rice comes from California.

**Cotton:** Cotton growers needing better control of [tarnished plant bugs, thrips, and other key pests](#) this season have a new biotech trait to look into.

**Carbon Programs:** An Iowa State University professor [discusses three questions to ask](#) before looking at a carbon program in this podcast.



A manufacturer has [created an air-free tire](#) that's designed to eliminate the headache of tire changes and maintenance on center pivot and lateral move irrigation rigs.

## International News

**Morocco:** A growing protein sector in Morocco is [opening the door to sales](#) of U.S. soybeans and soybean meal.

**Israel:** An ag tech company in Israel has created a [nature-based alternative](#) to fertilizer that cuts carbon emissions, water use, and farmers' costs.

**South America:** South America's large soybean and corn production means the weather and yields in that region [can have a big impact for U.S. crop](#) markets and exports.



A [co-operative that sells food to local families](#) could help form a template to make farming in Wales greener.

## General Interest

**Black History Month and Land-Grants:** It was 28 years after the 1862 land-grant system was established that Justin Morrill introduced a Second Morrill Act to address the race restrictions. The Second Morrill Act of 1890 required the former Confederate states to establish sister universities for Blacks—creating the [1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Universities](#).

**Economics:** A University of Illinois researcher has issued a report, "[Agriculture's Contributions to Country's Economic Activity](#)."

**World Ag Expo:** The World Ag Expo was held this week. It's one of the largest agricultural trade shows in the world with more than 1,200 exhibitors, and in 2022 it [drew in more than 98,000 people](#).



People are planting moon gardens by choosing [plants with bright foliage and light-colored flowers](#), so they can be enjoyed by the light of the moon.

## Photo Credits

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- \* American Meat Science Association
- \* American Meteorological Society, Committee on Agricultural and Forest Meteorology
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- \* Corteva Agriscience
- \* CropLife America
- \* Crop Science Society of America
- \* Global Teach Ag Network
- \* Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy
- \* 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



\* Iowa State University

\* Western Society of Weed Science

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The Science Source for Food,  
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*\*\* With assistance from Colleen Hamilton (Membership Specialist) and Charlotte Brockman (Communications Project Coordinator)*

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