



*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.

The Center for Food Integrity is hosting a webinar on [Gen Z: Engaging The Consumer, Farmer/Rancher & Workforce](#) on February 28, 1-2 p.m. CST.

### CAST College Corner

[Kansas State University](#), the [University of Missouri](#), and two other universities are working with the United Soybean Board to better understand the genetic diversity of flower loss and how it opens the door to untapped yield potential in soybeans.

[Mississippi State University](#) is

**February 3, 2023**

## Black History Month Ag Science Edition

As CAST celebrates Black History Month, we want to highlight Black and African American scientists and innovators who have shaped agriculture, horticulture, and the food industry.



These articles highlight African Americans who 1) helped [shape the agriculture industry](#), 2) contributed to [horticulture, plant sciences, and gardening practices](#), and 3) had a lasting impact on the [science of food and the global food system](#).

This article honors past and present Black and African American scientists who significantly impacted the fields of [science and technology](#).

Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young, USDA Under Secretary, discusses Black scientists joining the ARS in the early 1960s and how more than 600 African Americans are [fulfilling ARS's mission](#) to solve America's biggest agricultural problems.

CAST offers a blog that features African American agriculturalists and scientists who have had an [impact on our member universities](#).

### News and Views

**USDA Updates:** The USDA announced 1) an investment to improve and expand [rural electric infrastructure](#), 2) the [public is invited to attend](#) the Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production, and 3) a launch of its pilot [Cattle Contracts Library](#).

**Egg Prices:** Dr. Jayson Lusk's ([2017 BCCA](#)) latest blog discusses [egg prices and avian influenza](#).

offering the Summer Research Experience Program. The application deadline is February 17.

## CAST Social Media

Visit our website



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

## Far Side of the Barn

**Groundhog Day:** According to [Punxsutawney Phil](#) and folklore, six more weeks of winter awaits us. Oregon Zoo's [Stumptown Fil](#) also predicted six more weeks of winter.



## CAST Updates

### Welcome Charlotte!

Charlotte Brockman recently joined CAST as the Communications Project Coordinator. She currently attends the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and is studying Agronomy, with minors in Agricultural Communication and International Relations. Charlotte is excited to join the CAST team and grow her skills as a communicator to better represent agriculture in the future. [Learn more about her here.](#)



### New CAST Representative



CAST is pleased to announce a new representative for the Rural Sociological Society (RSS), which was established in 1937. RSS is a national association of sociologists, and other closely allied fields, whose research focuses on a wide range of issues relevant to rural communities such as natural resources, health, education, and policy. The Sociology of Agriculture and Food (SAFRIG) is one of RSS' core research interest groups. Over the years SAFRIG has had several members serve as RSS representatives to CAST and as contributors to CAST publications.

RSS has chosen Dr. Michelle R. Worosz (right), a professor of Rural Sociology at Auburn University, to serve as its newest member of the CAST Board of Representatives. Dr. Worosz said, "I am honored to be the new RSS representative on the Board. I have a long-standing interest in the dissemination of science-based information, and I hope that I will be able to support the work of CAST by drawing attention to the ways in which agricultural science and technology impacts, and provides opportunities for, farmers, farm families and rural communities, as well as consumers more broadly."



### University Students Can Join CAST for Free!

We often hear from our university members that our *Friday Notes* and other CAST agricultural resources are utilized as educational tools within their classrooms. Just as importantly—and

perhaps less known—is that university students can join CAST at no cost and gain direct access to our weekly newsletter each week!

Free student membership is available to those currently enrolled as a full-time student at an accredited college or university. A student member must provide an educational (.edu) email address or proof of full-time enrollment status to verify their eligibility.

As a CAST member, you can help CAST to address some of the most important issues that impact our planet, such as how to feed the world's population; water and soil conservation; leading land use practices; and animal, food, and environmental science. This video shows the [benefits of being a CAST member](#).

University staff and faculty, please share this excellent opportunity with your students. We look forward to welcoming them to CAST!

For more information on our free student membership or other membership options, please [visit our website](#).

## *Animal Agriculture and Environmental News*

**New Feed System:** A proprietary feeding system for beef cattle that [improves feed efficiency and carcass yield](#) while reducing methane gas emissions and wet waste has been launched.

**Livestock Conservancy:** Heritage breed producers and organizations across the country are working to restore biodiversity and to educate their communities about the [importance of biodiversity](#) for the security of tomorrow's food systems and fiber sources.

**Egg Industry Innovation:** Iowa State University seniors decided their capstone project would be to develop a self-contained, water-based [system that heats perches](#) in laying hen houses.



An ongoing collaboration between the Swine Health Information Center and the Center for the Ecology of Infectious Diseases at the University of Georgia [examines spillover risk of bacteria](#) from North American wild mammal species into the U.S. swine herd.

## *Food Science and Safety News*

**National Meat Week:** This week is National Meat Week and the [USDA's FSIS has a list of meat puns](#).

**Microalgae:** Sustainable and packed with nutrients, [microalgae is being hailed](#) as a food of the future--but with a bitter aftertaste, consumers aren't keen. That's why a bio-designer gave the microscopic organism a sleek makeover.

**Food Safety:** The FSA Consumer Insights Tracker found that people are still [taking food safety risks to save money](#).



Believe it or not, hot sauces are part of a [billion-dollar U.S. export industry](#).

## *Plant Agriculture and Environmental News*



**Nutrients and Drought:** Dr. Karly Wyant, Nutrient Director of Agronomy, discusses [nutrient uptake considerations](#) under drought conditions.

**Bee Vaccine:** The USDA has [approved a vaccine for bees](#) against the bacterial disease, American foulbrood. The vaccine will be administered in the form of food to the bees.

**CAST Commentary (related to above):** 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 in June 2017.



University entomologists developed a [biodegradable hydrogel baiting system](#) that targets ant populations, which protects sap-sucking pests from their natural enemies.

## International News

**Salmonella:** More than 7,000 birds on eight poultry farms in Ireland will be culled due to a [salmonella outbreak](#).

**Adaptation in Africa:** Bill Gates recaps his visit with an African smallholder farmer on their plans for [adaptation and innovation](#).

**Milk Market:** Tunisia's farmers are struggling to feed their cows as the [cost of fodder has soared by up to 40 percent](#) in the past year due to the impact of the war in Ukraine on imported ingredients.



An Australian university study has shown that expanding global seaweed farming could go a long way to [addressing the planet's food security](#), biodiversity loss, and climate change challenges.

## General Interest

**Climate Funding:** [Land-grant universities](#) in the U.S. aren't getting enough funding to tackle agriculture's climate impact.

**ChatGPT:** ChatGPT, a form of artificial intelligence, [offers its views](#) on its impact on farming.

**Carbon Pipelines:** A proposed legislation could kill or [restrict carbon dioxide pipelines](#) in Iowa.

**Gut Bacteria:** A new study takes an important step forward in understanding the relationship of gut bacteria to [what we eat and how we feel](#).



Five species of plants and animals were [taken off the endangered species list](#) following conservation efforts between the Department of Defense and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on a Navy-owned island.

## Photo Credits

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# *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 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

*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 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,  
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*\*\* With assistance from Colleen Hamilton (Membership Specialist) and Charlotte Brockman (Communications Project Coordinator)*

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**Council for Agricultural Science and Technology**

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