



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....

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Announcements

North Carolina State University hosted the Emerging Research Showcase focused on Long-Term Carbon Capture on February 21. Event [recording can be found here](#) and faculty and [panel slides here](#).

This week (March 6-10) is [Agricultural Safety Awareness Program](#) week.

CAST College Corner

March is Women's History Month.

A variety of factors have contributed to the rise in [female student enrollment at ag colleges](#). University of Missouri's College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources is about 54% female; Iowa State's CALS is 58% female; and the University of Illinois' College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Studies is about 55% female.

CAST Social Media

[Visit our website](#)

March 10, 2023

CAST Announces Dr. Chris Boomsma as Next EVP/CEO

CAST is pleased to announce the appointment of its next Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer (EVP/CEO), Dr. Chris Boomsma. Kent Schescke, the current EVP/CEO, will retire at the end of August after eight successful years leading the organization.



Dr. Boomsma is currently serving as the Director of Education for the American Society of Agronomy, the Crop Science Society of America, and the Soil Science Society of America (ACSESS). He will assume his new role with CAST on August 1, 2023. Dr. Boomsma and Schescke will work together in the coming months and overlap in August to help facilitate a smooth, seamless transition.

"I am honored to have been selected to serve as the next EVP/CEO of CAST and to continue the organization's important work in advancing science-based knowledge in agriculture," says Dr. Boomsma.

The full press release is [available here](#).

News and Views

USDA Updates: The USDA 1) released the latest World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates ([WASDE](#)) [report](#) and 2) celebrated inaugural [National Biobased Products Day](#).

Far Side of the Barn

Tricked Out Tractors: In a rural part of Pakistan's Punjab province,



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

tradesmen weld and paint tractors, [transforming them into eye-popping art.](#)



CAST Updates

New University Grads, Join CAST Now!

Congratulations to the many talented, hard-working young people who are nearing graduation or have recently graduated from a college or university!

You may now be considering which organizations or societies you should join to help enhance your new career. As a premier, professional organization that has been keeping the public current on important scientific agricultural topics for more than 50 years, CAST is uniquely qualified to be one of your top choices through its Young Professional membership. Here are just a few key reasons to take advantage of this opportunity:

Friday Notes newsletter. You will receive a members-only subscription to CAST's signature e-newsletter. Each Friday morning, look forward to learning the latest national and international news and research around animal, plant, and food science—all in one easy-to-read format.

Additional CAST resources. Search CAST's website for papers on many timely agricultural issues, helping you grow in your particular field of interest. Then regularly visit CAST's social media platforms to learn what other agricultural professionals are sharing, and contribute to the conversation yourself!

Budget-friendly, tax deductible cost. The Young Professional annual membership is only \$35.00!

Joining is easy! Simply visit the [CAST website](#); click on "Membership;" then "Become a New Member." Your membership type is "Individual Membership" and your pricing option is "Young Professional (\$35.00)."

Welcome in advance to CAST! University faculty and advisors, help us spread the word!



Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

Livestock Feed: University of Florida students are turning weeds into potentially [methane-reducing livestock feed](#).

Feral Swine: Managing feral swine starts with good data. Recently published research by scientists from the University of Arkansas, Texas A&M University, and Louisiana Tech University provides a "[broader and deeper understanding](#)" of rural landowners' perceptions of feral swine damage.

Food System Transformation: The USDA announced today an investment of more than [\\$43 million in meat and poultry processing research](#), innovation, and expansion in support of its ongoing efforts to transform the food system at every stage



The U.S. is considering vaccinating chickens [in response to the avian influenza outbreak](#), which has led to the deaths of tens of millions of chickens. The decision could affect the U.S.

Food Science and Safety News

Plant-based Foods: A public-private consortium has been created to investigate the potential food safety and quality issues posed by [microbial contaminants in plant-based food products](#).

Early Maple Syrup Season: Vermont, New York, and Maine are the top maple syrup-producing states, generating about 80% of the product in the nation. [This year maple syrup taps will start weeks ahead of past years](#).

New Country of Origin Labels: The USDA released a proposed rule outlining new requirements that [better align the voluntary "Product of USA" label](#) with consumers' interpretation of the claim.



The Agricultural Research Service is [breeding a better potato](#) for a better potato chip. National Potato Chip Day is March 14.

Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

Tractor Weight: Dr. Rattan Lal, [2020 WFP Laureate](#) and [CAST author](#), says that heavy machinery used in fields can damage soil--[tractors now weigh more than certain dinosaurs](#).

Cover Crops: A \$10 million grant from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture will help the University of Missouri [double the acreage of cover crops](#) in the U.S. by 2030.

Biosensor for Crop Blight: Potatoes and tomatoes are among the most popular foods in the world, but [they are susceptible to serious plant diseases](#) that cause major crop losses. Late blight disease is responsible for an estimated \$6.5 billion in annual global crop damage.



Wildfires and severe drought are killing trees at an alarming rate across the West, and forests are struggling to recover as the planet warms. However, new research shows [there are ways to improve forests' chances of recovery](#)—by altering how wildfires burn.

International News

Food Security: The downstream effects of the war in Ukraine imperil food security in countries like Nepal. A [new activity looks to boost local production](#) via increased sustainable irrigation capacity and investment.

U.S. Corn to Mexico: USDA's Secretary Vilsack issued a new statement [regarding the future of U.S. and Mexico trade negotiations](#) as the U.S. requests technical consultations.

Pork: The UK's pork exports to Japan are surging



Researchers say that Africa's shifting climate will make [hydropower increasingly](#)

as the [demand for quality meat grows](#).

[unreliable](#) and are searching for alternatives--including solar power.

General Interest

Urban Agroforestry: These publications, videos, and blog posts can [inspire and instruct urban farmers](#).

Ag Innovation Challenge: The [Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge](#) is now accepting applications. It's a national business competition that showcases U.S. startups developing innovative solutions that address challenges facing America's farmers, ranchers, and rural communities.

Solar Farms: Cornell University research found that growing commercial crops on solar farms is a [potentially efficient use of agricultural land](#) that can both increase commercial food production and improve solar panel performance and longevity.



[Dry farming could help agriculture in the western U.S. amid climate change.](#) Forgoing irrigation can save water and produce more flavorful fruits and vegetables.

Photo Credits

Far Side from Diaa Hadid/NPR. General from Catherine Nguyen. 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
- * 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

- * Crop Science Society of America
- * Global Teach Ag Network
- * Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy
- * Iowa State University

- * 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

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The Science Source for Food,
 Agricultural, and Environmental Issues

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