



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
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Announcements

The [Minor Use Foundation](#) is bringing together growers and global agricultural experts for a three-day conference, scheduled for February 5-9, 2024, to explore the unique challenges of minor crop cultivation and international trade.

CAST College Corner

A [UC Davis](#) assistant professor led a team of researchers to determine if food banks can better promote nutrition and health.

The [University of Kentucky's](#) Ag Week (held March 19-25) will focus on food.

CAST Social Media

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

March 17, 2023

March is National Nutrition Month

Each year, the [Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics](#) conducts a campaign to help people learn about [developing healthy habits](#), such as meal planning, or including more fruits and vegetables into their diet.



National Nutrition Month celebrates its 50th anniversary with this year's theme, Fuel for the Future, which aims to challenge people to think about healthy eating with sustainability in mind.

Developing a healthy lifestyle while thinking about the environment can be easy with the many tools and resources available online. One excellent example is [MyPlate Kitchen](#), a free resource to help plan and create balanced meals.

News and Views

USDA Updates: The USDA 1) announced \$29 million to increase [American-made fertilizer production](#), 2) announced cooperative agreements for [compost and food waste reduction](#), and 3) Secretary Vilsack signed the pair of agreements for the USDA's [Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities](#).

Far Side of the Barn

Heaviest Lemon: An Israel farmer has grown the [world's heaviest lemon](#). It weighs over 5 kg and earned a Guinness World Record.



CAST Updates

New CAST Impact Report Available

Impact data for each CAST publication is [tracked and reported](#) on at 6, 12, 18, and 24 months after the paper releases. At two years, the impact report is considered “final” and CAST no longer continues tracking unless there is a special request. The 12-month impact report is available on [Goals, Strengths and Limitations Governing the Use of Life Cycle Assessment \(LCA\) in Food and Agriculture](#). The commentary, Ag quickCAST, and webinar [can be found here](#).

Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

Storing Vaccines: Research conducted by a DVM at the University of Georgia found that [old refrigerators aren't always good enough](#) to store vaccines.

Resistance to PRRS: By using [gene editing and protein modifications](#) developed by Kansas State University, a company has bred pigs naturally resistant to PRRS.

Flock Health: A new university study found that high winds can affect the [prevalence of Campylobacter](#) found in outdoor chicken flocks in the West.



Multispecies grazing can [provide many advantages](#) to producers looking to mitigate risk, diversify their income, and get more from their pastures--even when forage availability is limited.

Food Science and Safety News

Hunger Issues: Preparing for the year 2050 to [eventually feed 10 billion people](#) globally requires an intensified focus on how farmers and ranchers showcase their food production, tell their own story, and help eliminate misunderstandings between consumers and producers.

Defining Terminology: Experts from the FAO and WHO are deciding on the correct nomenclature on [foods grown from animal cells](#).

CAST Commentary (related to above): The commentary, [Producing Food Products from Cultured Animal Tissues](#), was released April 2020.



The largest-ever genetic analysis of grapevine varieties reveals how glacial cycles shaped [grape domestication and the rise of wine](#).

Wheeled Robot: Researchers from Iowa State University and North Carolina State University have demonstrated an automated technology capable of [accurately measuring the angle of leaves](#) on corn plants in the field.

CAST Issue Paper (related to above): The issue paper, [Ground and Aerial Robots for Agricultural Production: Opportunities and Challenges](#), was released November 2020.

Native Americans: The inaugural State of Native Agriculture Address was hosted by the Native American Agriculture Fund. The broadcast [showcased the diversity and growing economic impact](#) of Tribal agricultural crop systems throughout rural America.



Winter flooding in California has caused [hundreds of millions of dollars in damage](#) to the state's strawberry industry.

International News

Chernobyl: Scientists are [studying hundreds of dogs at the Chernobyl](#) disaster site that have managed to survive in extremely harsh conditions.

Corn Trade with Mexico: The U.S. Trade Representative's office announced it had called for consultations with Mexico over proposed rules that would ban GM corn for human consumption. [Mexico has since vowed not to back down in the dispute.](#)

Dryland Crops: Scientists and stakeholders in Africa are co-designing a network approach to [improve and expand dryland crops](#) value chains in the continent.



This company in Israel is using ["ugly" vegetables to create containers](#) that hold a single-size meal portion.

General Interest

Ag Tech Summits: An ag tech summit held recently at the University of Illinois discussed how [finding ag tech talent](#) requires new types of recruitment. The [World Agri-Tech Innovation Summit](#) was held March 14-15. Over 2,000 growers, agribusiness leaders, technology pioneers, and investors came together to exchange insights, be inspired, and identify future partners.

Annie's Project: University of Missouri Extension is celebrating the 20th year of Annie's Project, a [national nonprofit to educate and empower women](#) in agriculture.

Seaweed Farming: Seaweed farming is a [bright spot in an Alaska coastal economy](#) roiled by climate change, habitat disruptions, and uncertain fish



The USDA features a [Wonder Women of Agriculture](#) blog and provides resources to make sure the next generation of women are [educated, encouraged, and empowered](#) to take on the challenges of meeting the world's growing food, fuel, and fiber needs.

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- * Minor Use Foundation, Inc.
- * Mississippi State University
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- * National Corn Growers Association/Iowa Corn Promotion Board
- * National Milk Producers Federation
- * National Pork Board
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Dylana Luett (Communications and Social Media Specialist)
dluett@cast-science.org
The Council for Agricultural Science and Technology
4420 West Lincoln Way
Ames, Iowa 50014-3447
Phone: 515-292-2125



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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