



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

USDA Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack released a statement in celebration of the annual [National Agriculture Day](#) (March 21).

CFARE is hosting a webinar on [Food Shopping at Dollar Stores: The Changing Face of Food Retail, and What It Means for Consumers](#) on March 31 at 11 am CST.

CAST College Corner

The [University of Nebraska-Lincoln](#) has joined an international research effort focused on the ethical deployment of artificial intelligence.

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March 24, 2023

Women Scientists in Food and Agriculture

Not only is March Women's History Month, but National Ag Day was observed and celebrated by [USDA's NIFA in Washington, D.C.](#) this week.



USDA is celebrating women of agriculture through this blog that highlights those who are [making a difference](#) in the world of agricultural research. This article from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service notes the impact the field of soil science has had because of [many notable women](#). The U.S. Forest Service spotlights women in the [field of forestry](#).

Here are five women who are considered to be [excellent science communicators](#). This article discusses why [more women in science are needed](#) to fulfill agriculture's potential.

News and Views

USDA Updates: USDA 1) is looking for applicants for its National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics ([NAREEE](#)) [Advisory Board](#) and its committees and subcommittees and 2) announced upcoming changes to the World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates ([WASDE](#)) [wheat tables](#).

Far Side of the Barn

Animals on the Loose: A young zebra walked, trotted, and galloped for hours [in the busy streets of South Korea's capital](#) before emergency workers caught it and brought it back to a zoo. An [escape-artist bear](#) from Missouri is headed to



CAST Updates

CAST Member Highlights

Nutrien has recently joined the [Iowa Soybean Research Center](#) (ISRC) at Iowa State University as an industry partner. In this role, Nutrien will have a representative serving on the ISRC's Industry Advisory Council, which provides guidance on research needs and funding priorities for the center.

Other CAST members involved in this initiative—in addition to Nutrien and Iowa State University—are BASF, Bayer, Corteva Agriscience, Iowa Soybean Association, Mosaic, and Syngenta.

Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

HPAI: The USDA has [spent more than \\$670 million](#) to contain highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and to indemnify owners for their losses.

Feed Supplements: As consumer demand for animal protein increases, meat producers want to increase productivity, while maintaining profitability. As a result, many [producers rely on feed supplements](#) to encourage faster growth, reduce disease, and improve feed efficiency.

Wild Hogs: Researchers at land-grant institutions in the southern region of the United States are working hard to stop more than [\\$1 billion in economic damages](#) each year caused by nine million feral hogs.



Secretary Vilsack met with the leaders of the state Departments of Agriculture for the seven [Colorado River Basin states](#) to discuss the [challenges](#) faced by farmers and ranchers as a result of the historic and ongoing drought affecting the region.

Food Science and Safety News

Cultured Protein: The U.S. Food and Drug Administration completed its second pre-market consultation for a [human food made from cultured animal cells](#).

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

School Lunches: The USDA announced new investments in [healthy school lunch programs](#) across the country, including \$50 million available in grants to support the program.



University engineers [explored the benefits and drawbacks of 3-D printing](#) technology in the homes of average consumers.

Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

Photosynthesis: University researchers have [discovered the earliest stages of photosynthesis](#) to collect energy and potentially develop a new form of clean energy.

Root Anatomy: New research on root anatomy may lead to [breeding corn that is more resistant](#) to drought and nitrogen deficient environments.

Wildfire Grants: The USDA Forest Service announced nearly [\\$200 million in investments](#) to mitigate risk of wildfire on state, private, and tribal land across the country.



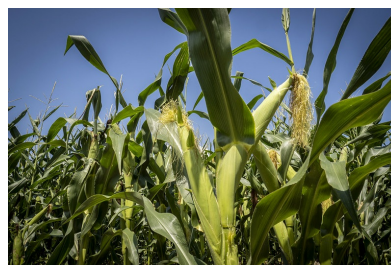
Martian soil may be able to [support rice crops](#), with a few small changes to combat toxic chemicals that have been found on the red planet.

International News

French Agriculture: French farmers have [increased their grain production](#) to make up for losses in Ukraine, which has had to reduce its agricultural exports since Russia's invasion in February 2022.

ASF in China: A surge in African swine fever infections in China is set to reduce hog output later this year, [pushing up prices](#) for the world's top pork consumer as demand recovers.

Importing Food: China is [importing more food products](#) such as avocados, cashews, sesame seeds, and chilli peppers from Africa, as agriculture emerges as the new focus of Beijing's engagement with the continent.



The University of Illinois reports that [Brazil has passed the U.S.](#) as the largest corn exporter and their planted acreage has doubled since 2003.

General Interest

Droughts and Floods: Global warming temperatures are [driving more intense droughts and floods](#), a NASA scientist says after studying satellite data.

Caterpillar Predators: Moderate levels of artificial light at night—like the fixture illuminating your backyard—[bring more caterpillar predators](#).

World Water Day: March 22 was [World Water Day](#) and its focus was about accelerating change to solve the water and sanitation crisis.



Artist Syd Carpenter uses clay to tell the stories of the [Black farmers and gardeners](#) who have shaped the course of agriculture in the United States.

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The Council for Agricultural Science and Technology
4420 West Lincoln Way
Ames, Iowa 50014-3447
Phone: 515-292-2125



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

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