



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 [Coalition for Responsible Gene Editing in Agriculture's](#)

Framework Oversight Committee (FOC) invites technology developers, researchers, farmers, food system stakeholders, and the general public to provide feedback on the Framework for Responsible Use. The public comment period is April 1 through April 30.

CAST College Corner

[University of Missouri](#) researchers are tracking the invasive longhorned tick, which causes weight loss and lost pregnancies in cattle.

CAST Social Media

Visit our website



CAST [welcomes ideas](#) for

April 7, 2023

Invasive Plant Pest and Disease Awareness Month

The USDA has designated April 2023 [Invasive Plant Pest and Disease Awareness month](#). The outreach month is designed to help bring awareness to the impact invasive species can have on plant systems within the United States. The USDA is asking for the public's help to protect plants by [looking for invasive pests in April](#).



Invasive species can disrupt food systems and destroy local ecosystems. The global food system has created many avenues for the spread of new invasive species in vulnerable conditions. It is easy to unintentionally spread non-native invasive species to new locations.

The USDA urges Americans to learn more about which invasive species are common in each region and how to prevent the spread and impact of the species on local crop systems. The USDA [Hungry Pests website](#) offers information on common invasive species in landscaping and agriculture.

News and Views

USDA Updates: USDA 1) appointed new members to the [Food Safety Advisory Committee](#), 2) announced \$1 billion in grants for [renewable energy system programs](#), and 3) awarded 31 new projects through its [Conservation Innovation Grant](#) program.

Far Side of the Barn

15,000 Egg Omelet: A small French town is preparing for its [annual 15,000 egg omelet](#).

future publications and projects.

Plant Sounds: Scientists recorded the popping noises that [plants make in response](#) to stresses like dehydration or a cut.



CAST Updates

Thank You, CAST Members!



The first few months of a new year are always an exciting time of renewal here at CAST. Many of our members—from companies, nonprofits, and societies, to universities, libraries, and individuals—choose to continue their crucial support of CAST's mission, work, and activities through their annual membership contribution. We are proud to share here a list of our [sustaining members](#), some of which have been a part of CAST's work since its inception in 1972!

Still Time to Renew

If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2023, please do so now! Simply [click here](#) or contact Colleen, Membership Specialist, at chamilton@cast-science.org, for assistance. We hope you'll continue being a part of all that CAST is doing to serve and support you, your family, and the agricultural community!

Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

Methane Suppressant: Dairy cows could be fed a [methane suppressant](#) in a bid to reduce greenhouse gasses.

Wild Hogs: Minnesota is faced with the [invasion of Canadian feral pigs](#), which risks billions of dollars in damages, as already experienced by many other states.

Cattle Vaccines: The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) released a statement in regard to [false information circulating](#) on social media about the use of mRNA vaccines in cattle.



This article discusses why [animal disease traceability matters](#) to cattle producers.

Food Science and Safety News

Food Hubs: The Hawaii Department of Agriculture launched a new grant program aimed at supporting the establishment and [expansion of food hubs in the state](#).

Food Stamp Crisis: A massive state-funded food shipment is expected to [bring only temporary relief](#) amid Alaska's ongoing food stamp crisis.



Lower beef production in 2023 is expected to more than

Chickpea Supply: The threat of [lower chickpea supplies](#) looms again this year, according to a leader in the global pulse industry.

[offset higher pork, broiler, and turkey output](#), resulting in lower total red meat and poultry production for the first time in nine years.

Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

Thawing Permafrost: Researchers unlocked a [new environmental risk](#) as studies showed the thawing of arctic permafrost could lead to the release of industrial contaminants.

Salt Marshes: A new study found that most of the world's [salt marshes could be underwater by 2100](#). Salt marshes play an important role in nitrogen cycling, carbon sinking, and diverse ecosystems.

EPA's Endangered Species Act: The Weed Science Society of America is [encouraging growers to understand the impact](#) of the EPA's Endangered Species Act compliance initiatives.



Iowa State University has developed a how-to webpage that provides resources to help [build habitats for monarch butterflies](#).

International News

Indian El Nino: El Nino conditions in India may cause [complications for farmers](#), as heavy rains meet unusual seasonal high temperatures.

Guinea: With its fertile soils, favorable climate, and ample rainfall, [Guinea should be one of Africa's](#) biggest food-producing nations. But it isn't—at least not yet.

Chile: Chile reported its [first case of human avian influenza](#). This is the second one in South America, after a case was reported in Ecuador in December.



Europe's battle with the worst [cost-of-living crisis](#) in a generation is far from over, and food is the latest focal point.

General Interest

Solar Farm: This small, pop-up solar farm is intended to [provide energy independence](#) and profit potential and answer the question of: "Can farmers make their own fertilizer, fuel, and electricity from the sun?"

Autonomous Equipment: Here are five areas of law that need to be updated to [pave the way for autonomous farm equipment](#).

CAST Issue Paper: Check out the CAST Issue Paper, [Ground and Aerial Robots for Agricultural Production: Opportunities and Challenges](#), released



The Office of Budget and Management will release a new list of metropolitan and nonmetropolitan counties based on data from the 2020

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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
- * Global Teach Ag Network
- * 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
- * University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture
- * University of California-Davis
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- * University of Kentucky
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- * University of Nebraska Agricultural Research Division

* The Ohio State University
* Tuskegee University

* University of Nevada-Reno College of Agriculture,
Biotechnology and Natural Resources

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The Science Source for Food,
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