



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

The 2022 CAST Annual Report [can be viewed here](#)

Thank you for supporting CAST and helping us mark this important milestone of 50 years as the science source for food, agricultural, and environmental issues!

The Minor Use Foundation will be joining The California Specialty Crops Council at the [California Specialty Crops Pesticide Maximum Residue Limit \(MRL\) International Harmonization Conference](#) on May 23-24.

CAST College Corner

A [NC State University](#) plant sciences initiative has launched an extension agent network.

CAST Social Media

Visit our website



May 19, 2023

Right to Repair

Because of the many technological advancements in modern farm equipment, a farmer's right to repair has been a highly disputed topic for many years. As machinery has become more technologically advanced, operators have had to pay more often to fix simple problems.



[Colorado became the first state to pass "right to repair" legislation this week](#), which aims to allow farmers more freedom in repairing equipment on the farm. The bill will go into effect next year and ultimately seeks [to save farmers money by allowing them more opportunities to make repairs on the farm](#), instead of taking the machinery to a dealer or mechanic.

[This year Colorado and 10 other states have considered similar legislation](#), which ensures a producer's right to repair as technology continues to develop.

News and Views

USDA Updates: USDA has 1) released the latest World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates ([WASDE](#)) [report](#) and 2) announced availability of \$500 million for an improved regional conservation partnership program to [better support partners and producers](#). The [USDA NAREEE's Advisory Board](#) is still open for applications.

Far Side of the Barn

Rare Seal: An unexpected visitor spotted sunbathing on a beach in the Israeli city of Tel Aviv is turning heads and causing a media buzz. The seal cow is named Yulia, who's an

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

[endangered Mediterranean monk seal](#).



CAST Updates

CAST Spring BOD Meeting in Washington, D.C.

The CAST Board of Directors held their 2023 Spring Meeting in Washington, D.C. May 9-11. In addition to the business, budget, and executive transition discussions—and the [2023 Borlaug CAST Communication Award announcement](#)—CAST Board members met with several key stakeholders in the D.C. area to share information about CAST and gain important agricultural perspectives from each group.

Stakeholders visited include in part: Representative Glenn “GT” Thompson, Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture; Clare Sierawski and Shawn Arner, USDA Rural Development; David Gagner, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; Monique Perron, Anita Pease, Dana Vogel, and Elissa Reaves, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Beth Ellikidis, Biotechnology Innovation Organization; and Ted McKinney and Josie Montoney-Crawford, National Association of State Departments of Agriculture.

CAST President Sally Flis and EVP/CEO Kent Schescke were also very pleased to present the CAST President’s Award to USDA Acting Deputy Secretary Kevin Shea, recognizing him for his many years of supporting CAST’s work and mission, and the furthering of agriculture, science, and technology.

CAST appreciates all those who helped make its spring Board of Directors meeting a very productive and successful event!

[More photos from the week can be found on our blog.](#)



CAST BOD members and staff who attended the Spring Meeting include (l-r): Anne Owens, Gary Thompson, Chris Boomsma, Sally Flis, Anna Dilger, Dirk Drost, Kent Schescke, Julia Herman, Alex Thomasson, and Brandon Neuschaefer (background).



Kent Schescke presenting the CAST President’s Award to USDA Acting Deputy Secretary Kevin Shea.

Controlling Animal Diseases: USDA increases efforts to control animal diseases including [CWD](#), [bird flu](#), and [FMD](#) in the upcoming farm bill.

CAST Publication (related to above): Check out the CAST Special Publication, [Zoonotic Diseases in Animal Agriculture and Beyond: A One Health Perspective](#), released in November 2022.

E. Coli: Researchers are [tracking antimicrobial resistance](#) in *E. coli* isolated from swine.



[A recent ruling on California Prop 12](#) leaves the pork industry wondering what's next.

Food Science and Safety News

Expiration Dates: [Lack of national standards](#) on food expirations leads to waste and consumer confusion.

Beef Passport: The New York Beef Passport program [encourages people to visit the featured locations](#) where they can purchase beef items and earn points toward prizes offered by the New York Beef Council.

Raw Flour: The University of Georgia reports that several foodborne outbreaks have been associated with [consuming raw flour](#) in recent years.



Despite opposition from groups, raw, unpasteurized milk can now be sold by [farmers directly to consumers](#) in Iowa.

Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

Water: [Researchers focus on the future of water for food security](#), with their eyes on the Ogallala Aquifer.

CAST Issue Paper (related to above): Check out the CAST Issue Paper, [Aquifer Depletion and Potential Impacts on Long-term Irrigated Agricultural Productivity](#), released February 2019.

Carbon Credits: The American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America have issued a white paper, [What Makes a Quality Carbon Credit?](#)



The University of Illinois has found that waterhemp is now [resistant to herbicides](#) from at least seven herbicide modes of action, despite the advantages of tank-mixtures.

International News

Agreement: Russia has agreed to extend the Ukraine grain deal in a [boost for global food security](#).

UK: Calls for the UK government to work with farmers to [develop a set of core environmental](#) and animal welfare standards have been made.



The National Corn Growers

Pathogens: Deep in the Amazon, scientists are racing against time to identify unknown pathogen and learn more as [bat habitats are being deforested](#).

Association reports that [U.S. corn farmers](#) may be called on to fill the void left by the war in Ukraine.

General Interest

Mental Health: States in the Heartland are offering suicide prevention training to clergy—a crucial, [trusted presence in rural America](#).

Farm Size: New university research shows the number of [farms globally will shrink in half](#) as the size of the average existing farm doubles by the end of the 21st century, posing significant risks to the world's food systems.

CAST Issue Paper (related to right): Check out the CAST Issue Paper, [Ground and Aerial Robots for Agricultural Production: Opportunities and Challenges](#), released November 2020.



Criminals are deploying drones to [scout for equipment to steal](#), while animal rights activists are using them to record dairy and ranch practices.

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
- * 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
- * Nutrients
- * 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

- * Global Teach Ag Network
- * Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy
- * Iowa State University

- * 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
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- * Kansas State University
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- * North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University
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- * Penn State University
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- * Texas A&M University College of Ag & Life Sciences
- * The Ohio State University
- * Tuskegee University

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- * University of Nebraska Agricultural Research Division
- * University of Nevada-Reno College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources

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

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