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Announcements

The University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment will offer the 2023 Corn, Soybean and Tobacco Field Day on July 25.

The Nevada Small Agriculture Conference will be held Aug. 25-26 at the Santa Fe Station in Las Vegas.

CAST College Corner

North Carolina State University researchers use CRISPR to increase lignin in trees.

The Ohio State CFAES-hosted Dean’s Charity Steer Show, benefitting the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Ohio, is set for Aug. 1.

CAST Social Media

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July 14, 2023

Greener Cows for the Future

Sustainability is an important driver for the agricultural industry. Dr. Juan Tricarico, Senior Vice President of Environmental Research for Dairy Management Inc., knows better than most the challenges that come with shaping agriculture for a sustainable future.

Dairy Management Inc. focuses mainly on promoting milk as an important commodity. Most recently Tricarico has concentrated on enteric methane and greenhouse gas emissions in the dairy industry. This work has been important for capturing data and impacts of dairy nutrition on overall greenhouse gas emissions.

Working with the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR), Tricarico’s work has also lead to developing funding programs for future research. This included establishing the Greener Cattle Initiative, which is an industry collaborative created to support research that enables enteric methane mitigation. Tricarico sees opportunities to collaborate for future funding as an essential part of growing sustainability within the dairy industry.

News and Views

USDA Updates: The USDA (1) requests public comment on the Federal Strategy to Advance Greenhouse Gas Measurement and Monitoring for the Agriculture and Forest Sectors; (2) confirmed Xochitl Torres Small as Deputy Secretary; and (3) published its most recent World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) report.

Views: In this article, Cathy Burns, International Fresh Produce Association, and Andy LaVigne, American
CAST welcomes ideas for future publications and projects.

Seed Trade Association, share their opinion that the US, once a world leader in innovation, is now falling behind in this area.

Far Side of the Barn
(In Honor of Former Friday Notes Editor Dan Gogerty's Birthday!)

Naked Mole-Rats. A Cornell University study unlocks clues in the mystery of naked mole-rats’ exceptional fertility. (Photo courtesy of John Brighenti/Wikimedia Commons 2.0 Generic License.)

CAST Updates

CAST Member Highlights: National Pork Board

The National Pork Board recently announced a five-year initiative called “The Real Pork Trust Consortium.” In partnership with five universities, they will focus on consumer questions and concerns around the pork industry’s We Care® Ethical Principle.

University experts in science communication, animal science, animal welfare, veterinary medicine, meat sciences, product safety, nutrition, and more will focus on three key areas to build consumer trust. This includes research around consumer questions about pork and pork production; creating communications that consumers find relatable and easy to understand; and empowering people to share research-based information about the pork industry.

Universities involved in the initiative include Iowa State University, the University of Georgia, North Carolina State University, the North Carolina A&T State University, and the University of Minnesota. More information on the consortium’s plans and approach will be available sometime this fall through porkcheckoff.org. (Image provided by the National Pork Board.)

Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

PASTEUR Act: A Biotechnology Innovation Organization member explains why the PASTEUR Act is needed to fight Antimicrobial superbugs.

Understanding ASF Spread: NCSU researchers used a computer model to understand how African swine fever (ASF) might spread among swine farms in the southeastern US.

Pinkeye in Cattle: Pinkeye in cattle can lead to blindness if left untreated, according to K-State veterinarians.

New research shows that carriers of bluetongue virus stay active all year round.

Food Science and Safety News

Food Labels: Food labels may offer consumer choices but also confusion around animal welfare, notes Purdue University professor. Check out the CAST paper, "Process Labeling of Food: Consumer Behavior, the Agricultural Sector, and Policy Recommendations," published October 2015.

Empty office buildings are being converted into vertical farms.

Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

New Species: University researchers have discovered a new species of wasp that might prove beneficial to managing soybean gall midge.

Trees: Genetically modified trees could mean more sustainable wood in the future.

Plant Cells: Penn State researchers identify protein that creates cellulose in plants.

A massive deposit of phosphate rock has been discovered in Norway, containing enough minerals to meet global demand for the next 50 years.

International News

Russia: Russia's threat to halt Ukraine grain exports raises fears about global food security.

Nigeria: A Cornell University Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow works to pioneer innovative solutions that address rural poverty and food loss through Nigerian tomato farmers.

Asia: Experts raise concern as South Asia struggles to address hunger as inflation increases.

The UN FAO releases the first Soil Atlas of Asia, hoping to encourage education and discussion about the region.

General Interest

Earthworms: An invasive jumping earthworm has been spotted in the Midwest.

Listen (audio): A discussion recorded at the 2023 ADSA Annual Meeting looks at lessons learned from the 2022 infant formula crisis.
Watermelon Crop: Florida watermelon growers sold a bumper crop this year and lead the nation in production, according to the University of Florida experts.

Plants cry out for help when feeling stressed, according to a recent study (video).

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