



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 American Society of Agronomy announces the [Sustainable Agronomy Conference](#), to be held virtually throughout July.

The Ag Media Summit will be held in Palm Springs July 29-August 4. [Register here!](#)

The Exploring Linkages between Soil Health and Human Health [Public Meeting is on July 10th.](#)

## CAST College Corner

[University of Missouri](#) researchers share their findings at field days across the state.

## CAST Social Media

Visit our website

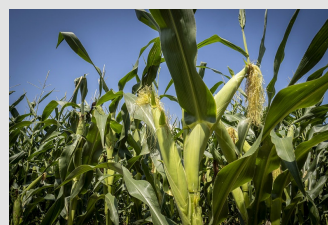


CAST [welcomes ideas](#) for

**July 7, 2023**

## Weather Impacts on Crops

The climate impacts a multitude of conditions vital for the success of crops. This year in the Midwest, we have seen heavy rains, and dry hot days. Both impact the future outcomes of this year's vital crops.



In the United States, farmers in the Midwest are irrigating where they can. The latest USDA-NASS release shows [corn and soybean conditions the worst they have been since 1988](#). This comes after recent rains in the Midwest did little to impact the drought status of much of the region's corn. The latest drought trackers show that [70% of the US corn is currently impacted by drought](#).

Researchers across the world are looking at the impacts of severe climate conditions on the global food system. New research predicts that if even one of the major [crop producing regions suffers from low yields](#), it could lead to higher food prices and overall increase in food insecurity.

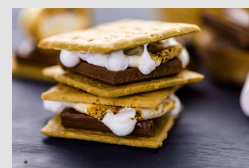
## News and Views

**USDA Updates:** The USDA (1) is [partnering with agricultural producers](#) to promote competition and strengthen food supply chain and rural economics; (2) is [providing APHIS with \\$502 million](#) to prepare for potential additional detections of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI); and (3) encourages urban producers and the public to [virtually attend a meeting of the Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production on Aug. 1](#).

**Far Side of the Barn**

future publications and projects.

**S'mores:** Scientists give their tips and tricks to [make the perfect s'more this summer](#).



## CAST Updates

### CAST Transitions



#### Kent's Retirement Reception

As most of you know, Kent Schescke, our EVP/CEO, is now just weeks away from his retirement this fall! We are excited for Kent, and looking forward to welcoming our new EVP/CEO, Chris Boomsma, on August 1.

To honor Kent, and welcome Chris, we are pleased to announce a CAST reception on Thursday, Aug. 3, 2-4 pm, in the CAST office here in Ames, Iowa. You are invited to send Kent your best wishes by emailing notes, letters, or video messages to Colleen at [chamilton@cast-science.org](mailto:chamilton@cast-science.org), or by mail to CAST, 4420 Lincoln Way, Ames, Iowa 50014.

And if you live in the central Iowa area, plan to join us in person! To help us with planning the event, please RSVP by July 24 to [chamilton@cast-science.org](mailto:chamilton@cast-science.org) if you can attend.

#### Hiring New Communications Specialist

Dylana Luett, our communications and social media specialist from May 2020 to June 2023, left to join the Soil Health Institute. We wish her all the best as she continues to hold a full-time position, while growing her cattle operation. (Check out two of her calves, pictured here, and learn more in her [updated blog!](#))



We are now in the process of interviewing candidates for Dylana's position. A special shout out to our awesome intern and communications project coordinator, [Charlotte Brockman](#), for stepping up in the interim!

We appreciate your continued support and engagement as we move CAST forward!

## Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

**Air Quality:** [Wildfire smoke from Canada](#) impacts the health of pets, livestock, and humans in the Midwest.

**Dairy Data:** New research analyses [100 years of data sovereignty in the American Dairy Industry](#).

**Animal Food:** The American Feed Industry Association [releases a report on the impact](#) of the animal food industry in the United States.



**New research examines how policy makers might [factor animal welfare into future decisions](#).**

# Food Science and Safety News

**Food Price Outlook:** The USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) [Food Price Outlook \(FPO\)](#) provides data on food prices.

**Processed Food:** Experts dive into how industrialized [food processing can impact human health](#).

**Meat:** A debate heats up as [meat consumption in Germany declines](#).



The National Agricultural Law Center will host a webinar on [USDA Meat and Labeling on July 12th](#).

## Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

**Soil:** The Soil Science Society of America dives into [what makes up soil pores](#) and their importance in our world.

**BioFuels:** USDA plans to invest over \$500 million in [biofuels to invest in rural America](#).

**GMO Seed:** [Prices of GMO seed have risen at a much faster rate than non-GMO seed](#), leaving producers with a difficult choice.



Agronomists analyze how [wildfire smoke is impacting crops](#) in the Midwest.

## International News

**Croatia:** [Croatia reports a case of African Swine Flu in domestic pigs](#), as the Ministry of Agriculture works to control the disease.

**Mexico:** Florida tomato growers [push to end the Mexico tomato trade suspension](#).

**India:** As rice yields are threatened in India, [consumers prepare for heightened rice prices](#).



[The EU seeks to revise GMO rules](#) and loosen curbs on gene-edited crops.

## General Interest

**Fertilizer:** A new technology will allow [farmers to produce their own fertilizer](#).

**Trees:** The University of Missouri Extension staff addresses concerns as [large trees suffer through drought](#).

**High-tech Farm Hand:** A University of Nebraska-Lincoln research project aims to use [agricultural](#)



Georgia peach growers



[robots for autonomous planting.](#)

[examine crop \*\*after\*\*  
catastrophic failure.](#)

**Related to Above:** Check out the CAST paper,  
[Ground and Aerial Robots for Agricultural  
Production: Opportunities and Challenges](#), released  
November 2020.

## Photo Credits

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- \* American Farm Bureau Federation
- \* American Meat Science Association
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- \* 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
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- \* 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
- \* 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
- \* U.S. Poultry and Egg Association
- \* Weed Science Society of America
- \* Western Society of Weed Science

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The Science Source for Food,  
Agricultural, and Environmental Issues

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