



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.

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Announcements

CAST is Hiring!

CAST is currently seeking a Communications Manager. For more information, please visit [our website](#).

CAST College Corner

[Mississippi State University](#) researchers study the benefits of melatonin to cattle.

CAST Social Media

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

June 16, 2023

Reducing Food Waste Through Technology

Food waste poses one of the most complex challenges for a sustainable future. Though many countries around the world have implemented regulations, reducing waste in the future will rely heavily on innovative technology and human practices.



This includes using [AI technology to weigh food in restaurants and waste facilities](#), helping the food industry adjust their food purchases, save money, and prevent potential waste. At home, consumers can choose to [compost food waste which helps reduce landfill waste](#). This ultimately breaks food waste down into organic products that can be used in gardens or flower beds.

Some companies are also investing in new [equipment that tackles food waste with microbes](#). Anaerobic digesters help quickly break down food waste into organic matter, reducing its environmental impact and producing a product that can be used in gardens.

These are just a few ways that technology and science can be used to reduce food waste. See CAST paper, "[Food Loss and Waste](#)," published September 2018, for information on reducing food loss and waste as a key strategy to combating hunger and increasing sustainability.

News and Views

USDA Updates: (1) The USDA released its [World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates \(WASDE\)](#) Report this week. (2) [Efforts to strengthen substantiation of animal-raising claims](#) has been

launched. (3) The USDA [outlines priorities in helping communities affected by wildfires](#).

Far Side of the Barn

Lobster: Rare one-clawed orange lobster, a [one-in-30 million catch](#), was caught off the coast of Maine this week.



CAST Updates

AEM Board of Representative Update:

Congratulations, Anita, and Welcome, Nick!

Since the [Association of Equipment Manufacturers \(AEM\)](#) joined CAST as a board-level nonprofit in July 2021, Anita Sennett, senior director of agriculture, and Austin Gellings, manager of agricultural services, have been serving on the CAST Board of Representatives (BOR). Anita has been actively involved in the Plant Agriculture and Environmental Issues Work Group, and Austin is engaged with the Animal Agriculture and Environmental Issues Work Group.



Now Anita is excited to announce her retirement from AEM as of June 30. To take her seat, AEM has appointed Nick Tindall (pictured at right), senior director of regulatory affairs and ag policy. Austin will continue to represent AEM on the Animal Agriculture and Environmental Issues Work Group.

"I have really enjoyed my time with CAST and do talk about it and the great work you all do whenever the opportunity arises," Anita says. "It is an impressive group with a great mission that you continue to achieve."

Adds Nick, "Ignorance is agriculture's greatest threat. Common misconceptions are seeds that grow into harmful policies. CAST plays a critical role in providing sound science, helping to keep weeds from crowding out the conversation."

We want to thank Anita for her many contributions to CAST, and offer a warm and sincere welcome to Nick!

Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

Ranchers: [Western ranchers return to life on the range](#), with increased losses due to increasing wolf populations.

Forage: [Farmers focus on testing forage](#), as the focus on animal nutrition increases through drought years.

Livestock Nutrition: Researchers find that food



[Drought conditions bring](#)

waste can be used as a [staple in livestock diets](#).

[tough culling decisions](#) for ranchers, as forage shortages continue.

Food Science and Safety News

Shopper's Choice: New research shows that when it comes down to it, [consumers will choose price over healthier foods](#).

Food Prices: [Food prices in Europe continue to rise](#); Italians call for a pasta protest.

Food Safety: [FSA targets risk-based food standards](#) to keep consumers safe and help producers out of compliance.



New partnership leads to [AI technology being used to accelerate the development of cell-cultivated foods](#).

Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

Water Safety: [Farm water safety](#) becomes more important as temperatures across the United States rise.

Plastics: Delegates from [180 nations came together to make strides toward regulating plastics](#) in the future.

Soil Health: Soil health is often referred to in agriculture as the foundation of many systems. [Agriculturalists dive into the definition of soil health](#).



Researchers find that using [wheat germ oil on wheat fields can be used to camouflage](#) and deter pests from growing fields.

International News

Ukraine: A week after the destruction of the Nova Kakhovka dam, [lasting and widespread consequences are expected](#).

Afghanistan: Amid one of the worst food crisis in the country's history, [Afghan crops have been destroyed by locusts](#).

Mexico: [Mexican officials use satellite technology to track illegal logging](#) in an attempt to slow deforestation.



[Bunge is to buy Viterra](#), creating a global agricultural powerhouse in grains and other commodities.

General Interest

Ancient Remains: [Researchers using ancient](#)

[remains](#) discover that agriculture was introduced to North West Africa by Neolithic Europeans more than 7,000 years ago.

Bees: New research finds that [humans can affect communication between bees](#), adding stress to existing colonies.

Related to Above: See CAST paper, "[Why Does Bee Health Matter? The Science Surrounding Honey Bee Health Concerns and What We Can Do About It](#)," published June 2017.

High Speed Internet: The Administration announced a [\\$700 million investment to connect rural communities to high speed internet](#).



[New app allows pork producers to predict heat stress in their animals](#), potentially saving producers millions of dollars.

Photo Credits

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- * 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
- * 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,
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