



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

There will not be a Friday Notes issue published on June 30th in observance of the July 4th holiday.

The World Food Prize Foundation is offering a free virtual event, [Live with the Laureate](#), on June 27, 12 pm CST, featuring 2023 World Food Prize Laureate Heidi Kühn.

C-FARE is offering a free webinar on [Providing Safe & Accessible Food for a Healthy Life](#), June 30, 12 p.m. EST.

CAST College Corner

[Iowa State University](#) scientists lead the way for perennial cover crops tailored to conventional cropping systems.

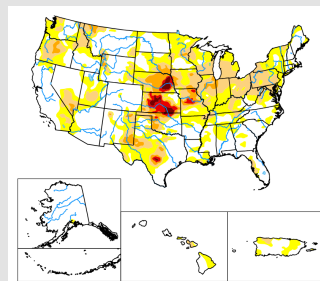
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June 23, 2023

Drought in Season

Over the last several years, farmers and ranchers across the country have faced extreme weather and drought conditions. This has caused farmers to change their practices and ranchers to [sell their cattle because of a shortage of forage feeds](#).



While 2023 has shown some relief in many parts of the central and western United States, farmers are still wary. It is predicted that [rain will continue to be sparse for the Midwest through the end of June and may increase as the growing season progresses](#).

The USDA Drought Report showed that [64% of the US corn crop is in a drought, and 57% of soybean crops are affected](#). However, the U.S. drought monitor is showing that recent weeks have held above-average precipitation and below-average temperatures, allowing crops to grow, and farmers to gain hope in a mild drought year than previously seen in recent years.

News and Views

USDA Updates: The USDA (1) has announced it will invest \$320 million in loans and grants to [strengthen food supply chains in 19 states](#); (2) recognizes [National Pollinator Week](#); and (3) invests [\\$262.5 million in higher education programs](#) to help the next generation of agricultural leaders.

A Positive Far Side of the Barn!

Transition: At just 26, [Zoe Kent](#) took the reins of her family farm, and is now



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

advocating for agriculture through social media.



CAST Updates

CAST Member Highlight: University of Missouri

Drawing on agricultural business development expertise at the University of Missouri and the Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority (MASBDA), the [Missouri Agriculture, Food and Forestry Innovation Center \(MAFFIC\)](#) has launched.



Thanks to a two-year, \$1.3 million grant from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA-RD), the center and its team of 13 advisers will serve agricultural producers by offering complimentary financial advice, assisting with the development of products using safe methods, providing marketing guidance, and much more. (Photo by iStock)

Zoonoses Six-Month Impact Report Available

[Impact data for each CAST publication](#) is tracked and reported at 6, 12, 18, and 24 months after the paper is released. At two years, the impact report is considered "final" and we no longer continue tracking unless there is a special request.

The 6-month report for "*Zoonotic Diseases in Animal Agriculture and Beyond: A One Health Perspective*" paper can be found [here](#).

Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

Pork: [U.S. pork producers brace for the lowest prices seen since 1998](#), forecasting tough times in the future.

Blister Beetle: [Blister beetles, attracted to blooming alfalfa](#), pose danger to livestock.

Grazing: [Western governors criticize new BLM rules](#) that would restrict grazing.



[JBS unveils plans for the world's largest lab grown meat plant.](#)

Food Science and Safety News

Stay Cool: Kansas State researchers [encourage farmers to stay cool and safe](#) as temperatures rise.

Food Choices: In a new study, researchers show that the global food system now makes up a [third of](#)

[man-made greenhouse gas emissions.](#)

Digital Shopping: Retailers are [targeting online shoppers](#) for last-minute or impulse produce purchases.



[Cell-cultured chicken gains final USDA approval](#) and is headed to consumers' plates in California.

Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

Rain Gardens: [Rain gardens help to keep pollutants out of groundwater](#), keeping communities and the environment safe.

Armyworm: [Iowa State entomologists released a pest alert for the armyworm](#), as damage is reported across several crop species.

Energy: EPA predicts [sustainable aviation fuel \(SAF\) production will reduce renewable diesel fuel production.](#)



New research deems [irrigation management an important part of climate change management](#) and future agricultural development.

International News

Ukraine: The [EU extends targeted bans on Ukrainian grain](#) until mid-September.

Brazil: Approximately [3,000 cattle die of hypothermia in Brazil](#), as confirmed by Brazilian veterinarians.

Asia: A [big backlog of beef in Asian importing markets](#) could take 3-6 months to clear.



[Iranians chase the last drops of water](#), as the country faces severe drought and tensions rise.

General Interest

Resources for Veterans: The [Military Veteran Agricultural Liaison \(MVAL\)](#) serves as a conduit between USDA services and veterans, connecting them to employment, education, and entrepreneurship on or beyond the farm.

Large Equipment Sales: Though the pandemic is still affecting low-horsepower tractor sales, [large equipment sales continued to increase in May](#), according to the Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM).



Researchers take a look at how [farm stressors affect mental health of adults and](#)

Soil: A farmer is using cattle to [improve soil health](#) in row crop production, and urges other farmers to do the same.

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- * American Farm Bureau Federation
- * American Meat Science Association
- * American Meteorological Society, Committee on Agricultural and Forest Meteorology
- * American Seed Trade Association
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- * American Society of Agronomy
- * American Society of Animal Science
- * American Society of Plant Biologists
- * American Veterinary Medical Association
- * Association of Equipment Manufacturers
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- * Bayer Crop Science
- * Corteva Agriscience
- * CropLife America
- * Crop Science Society of America
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- * 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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