



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 and **IFT** will release a new Issue Paper, "**Food Traceability: Current Status and Future Opportunities**," in three in-person sessions **Thursday, Sept. 28, in Washington, D.C.** Dr. Robert Gravani will be the presenter, followed by a Q&A session. [RSVP now!](#)

Join the **National Academy of Sciences** for Dr. Rayvon Fouché's "**Embracing the Social in Social Science**" lecture **Oct. 12, from 5-6 p.m. ET.** Attend in person or virtually. [Register now!](#)

CAST Social Media

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September 22, 2023

September is Food Safety Education Month

September is [Food Safety Education Month](#), dedicated to raising awareness about **food safety's importance** and reminding individuals and communities to prioritize

safe food-handling practices. With the alarming statistics of approximately **48 million cases of foodborne illness** each year in the U.S., affecting roughly **1 in 6 Americans**, the need for vigilance in preventing "food poisoning" cannot be overstated. These illnesses lead to a staggering **128,000 hospitalizations** and **3,000 avoidable deaths** annually.



In honor of Food Safety Education Month, the **USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)** has released the findings of a comprehensive five-year study to understand **how consumers prepare meals** and the [importance of safe food handling practices](#). The study highlights crucial food safety behaviors, including using thermometers when cooking ground pork sausage, handwashing practices, and cleaning and sanitizing food preparation surfaces. The USDA study, spanning half a decade, observed thousands of participants in their homes and kitchens, providing valuable insights into consumer habits regarding food safety.

Moreover, as part of the broader initiative to enhance food safety, the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (**CAST**) and the Institute of Food Technologists (**IFT**) are set to release a joint paper titled "[Food Traceability: Current Status and Future Opportunities](#)" **Sept. 28** during a series of presentations in **Washington, DC.** The



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

paper aims to improve food safety, source transparency and consumer confidence by enhancing **food traceability**. It will explore the technological infrastructure supporting food traceability platforms, discuss the history of such systems, assess the current state of technology, and provide insights into ongoing U.S. food traceability regulatory initiatives. The paper will also address infrastructure limitations, including challenges related to rural broadband access that may impact the implementation of traceability technologies. As the world increasingly focuses on the safety and transparency of the food supply chain, this paper serves as a valuable resource for industry professionals, policymakers, and consumers alike.

[RSVP](#) for the paper rollout of "**Food Traceability: Current Status and Future Opportunities**" Thursday, Sept. 28, in Washington, D.C.

News and Views

USDA: The USDA (1) predicts a decrease of 10 million bushels in [U.S. hard red winter wheat](#) exports this month to 155 million bushels, the lowest level since 1973/74, (2) announces an [additional \\$25 million investment](#) to expand efforts to prevent and reduce food loss and waste and (3) is investing [\\$455 million to strengthen global food security](#) and international capacity-building efforts.

Far Side of the Barn

Steer: A 13-year-old Brown Swiss steer from Massachusetts, standing at 6 feet, 1 inch, breaks the record for being the [tallest living steer](#).



CAST Updates



Webinar Release of CAST's New Paper, "Food Traceability: Current Status and Future Opportunities."

The Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (**CAST**), in collaboration with the Institute of Food Technologists (**IFT**), is pleased to invite participants to a webinar release of our latest paper, "**Food Traceability: Current Status and Future Opportunities**," presented by **Dr. Robert Gravani**, the Publication Task Force Chair, **Thursday, Oct. 5, noon-1 p.m. (CDT)**.

Presentation Objectives:

- Investigate and discuss the development and use of various technologies to enable the traceability of food products and thus enhance food safety, source transparency and consumer confidence.
- Deep dive into the technological infrastructure underlying food traceability platforms and discuss the history of such platforms, the current state of the technology, ongoing U.S. food traceability regulatory initiatives and the likelihood of commercial-scale deployment.
- Address current infrastructure limitations that may slow technology implementation.

Participation in this webinar is free, but registration is required. Secure your spot today by clicking the link below:

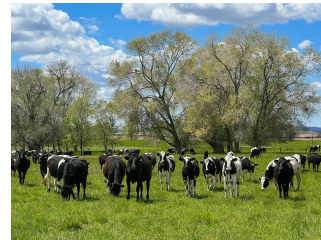
REGISTER NOW!

Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

FDA: The FDA is [modernizing its evaluation process](#) for animal and veterinary products to increase regulatory efficiency and flexibility.

Pork: The pork industry prepares as [genetically engineered, PRRS-resistant pigs](#) are likely to be commercialized in coming years.

Cattle: Ranchers in the south are concerned about [prussic acid toxicity in the grass](#) after a long, hot summer.



Pastures: Scientists explore [new grass varieties](#) for better nutrition and pasture management in Columbian highlands.

Food Science and Safety News

Milk: Scientists have found [pasteurization-resistant spoilage microbes](#) can pass into milk during microfiltration if equipment is not cleaned correctly.

Yogurt: Plain whole milk yogurt prevents almost all the volatile compounds responsible for [garlic's pungent scent](#) from escaping into the air.



Organics: Researchers are working on [new technology to control Listeria biofilms](#) on food-contact surfaces and equipment, improving organic produce sanitation.

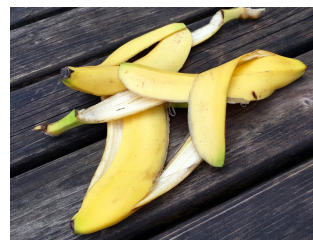
Vertical Farms: A new study shows that [vertical farming along the ocean](#) can produce both food and fresh water.

Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

Biofertilizers: Researchers show the [importance of biofertilizers](#) in developing a sustainable crop system for the future of agriculture.

Fertilizers: [Fertilizer prices in Illinois have decreased](#) since Q2 2022 and are projected to return to the historical average as a percentage of corn revenue.

Carbon: University of Florida researchers are studying [using plants to store carbon](#) in clay soil.



Bananas: A new study explores the [potential uses of banana peels](#) for skincare, water treatment, textile dyeing and papermaking.

International News

Ukraine: Poland, Slovakia, and Hungary are [restricting grain imports from Ukraine](#) following the European Commission's decision not to extend the import ban to Ukraine's five EU neighbors.

India: India's recent export ban raises questions about the [world's reliance on rice and its impacts](#) on global economies and the environment.

Norway: The Norwegian fish industry explores [pathways for protein transition](#) as alternative seafood hits the market.



Spain and Italy: Farmers in Spain and Italy are using traditional and modern methods to [safeguard the production of olive oil and prosecco](#) from the effects of climate change.

General Interest

Technology: [Plant growth and development](#) achieved in a simulated field environment are found to be similar to those observed in the natural field.

Soil: Iowa State University researchers will train farmers to [measure soil carbon levels](#) for carbon credit farming.

Education: Farm groups nationwide are [developing education programs](#) for classroom instruction, bridging the gap with consumers.



Intercropping: Researchers discover new possibilities for [sustainable cropping systems](#) by intercropping corn and potatoes.

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Contact CAST:
cast@cast-science.org

The Council for Agricultural Science and Technology

4420 West Lincoln Way

Ames, Iowa 50014-3447

Phone: 515-292-2125



The Science Source for Food,
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Council for Agricultural Science and Technology

www.cast-science.org



Council for Agricultural Science and Technology | 4420 West Lincoln Way, Ames, IA 50014

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