



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

Join the **American Seed Trade Association (ASTA)** and over 2,000 seed industry professionals from more than 30 countries for the Field Crop Seed Convention in its new home city of Orlando from Dec. 5-8. [Register now!](#)

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

October 13, 2023

World Food Day Sheds Light on the Global Water-Food Nexus

On Oct. 16, the world celebrates [World Food Day](#), an annual event that marks the anniversary of the Food and Agriculture Organization and is celebrated as one of the United Nations'



most significant observances. This year's theme, "Water is life, water is food. Leave no one behind," emphasizes the critical link between water resources and food security, spotlighting the challenges faced by 2.4 billion people in water-stressed countries and the 600 million individuals dependent on aquatic food systems.

World Food Day serves as a global call to action, mobilizing governments, businesses, civil society organizations, and the public to address the pressing hunger issues and the profound impact of responsible water management within our agrifood systems.

The 2023 celebration will span more than 150 countries and feature approximately 500 activities, demonstrating the widespread commitment to combating food insecurity and the interlinked challenges of water scarcity, pollution, ecosystem degradation, and climate change. These activities will reach millions through television, radio, and social media broadcasts.

World Food Day is a testament to the global community's resolve to transform our agrifood systems for the better, ensuring that no one is left behind in the quest for a more equitable and food-secure world.

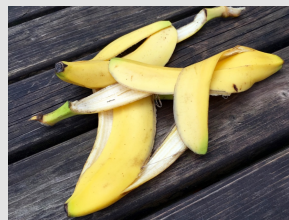


News and Views

USDA: The USDA (1) announces [key staff appointments](#); (2) makes \$60 million available for [school lunch programs](#); and (3) reports that 23% of [U.S. corn](#) has been harvested, and 82% of the crop is mature, both ahead of average.

Far Side of the Barn

Bananas: Bananas serve an [a-peeling purpose](#) in Uganda.



CAST Updates

CAST and IFT celebrate the webinar release of food traceability paper

CAST and the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) thank all the participants and panelists of the "Food Traceability: Current Status and Future Opportunities" webinar on October 5, 2023, for their active involvement. The presentation drew an enthusiastic audience of industry professionals, academics, and experts in food traceability, and the audience's engagement and thoughtful questions made the presentation truly enlightening.

The event, which featured a presentation by Dr. Robert Gravani, Professor

Emeritus of Food Science at Cornell University and Publication Task Force Chair, explored the development and use of technologies that enable the traceability of food products. It also delved into the technological infrastructure behind food traceability platforms, discussed the history and current state of the technology, and examined ongoing U.S. food traceability regulatory initiatives.

The webinar video recording is now available for those who missed the live event or wish to revisit the presentation and discussions. You can access it [here](#) or click on the image above.

For more information and to stay updated on future events and publications, please visit www.cast-science.org.



2023 BORLAUG CAST COMMUNICATION AWARD

Dr. Alison Bentley

REGISTER NOW!

October 25, 2023

7:00 am - 8:30 am

World Food Prize
Iowa Events Center
Des Moines

Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

Bird Flu: Scientists are using [CRISPR gene-editing technology](#) to fight against bird flu.

Wild Pigs: Conservation efforts by the University of Georgia led to a [70% reduction in the wild pig population](#) and a 99% decrease in environmental rooting damage.

Cattle: The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) is celebrating the reauthorization of the [Animal Drug User Fee Act](#) (ADUFA), which keeps the legislation in effect for another five years.



HPAI: The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has reported the [first commercial case](#) of highly pathogenic avian influenza in South Dakota.

Food Science and Safety News

Traceability: New research uses [blockchain technology](#) to trace crop production from seed to consumption.

Beverages: Most consumers still prefer [brand-name beverages](#) over store-brand or generic ones, even when a discount is offered, according to Purdue University's September 2023 Consumer Food Insights Report.

Turkey: The U.S. turkey population has recovered, and avian flu cases have dropped, possibly [lowering Thanksgiving turkey costs](#).



Honey: Scientists are creating a low-cost, compact, and easy-to-manufacture [sensor that can detect water adulteration in](#)

Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

Soybean: A University of Illinois-led team is [sequencing 400 soybean genomes](#) to capture all the useful diversity in the genome for a more resilient crop.

Corn: Scientists have successfully mapped the [complete genome of corn](#), offering invaluable insights into crop health, resilience, and productivity.

Crops: The USDA releases a report on the adoption of [genetically engineered crops](#) in the U.S.



Grass: Grasses may use [genetic information](#) from neighbors to shortcut evolution.

International News

Argentina: Argentina's core agricultural farmland may suffer massive losses in [wheat yields](#) due to another drought.

France: The USDA has imposed trade restrictions on [poultry imports from France](#) and other EU countries following France's decision to vaccinate commercial meat ducks against Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI).

Switzerland: The first case of [epizootic hemorrhagic disease](#) has been detected in Switzerland, raising alarm for the country's cattle industry.



Mediterranean: Shrub clearing and livestock grazing are being researched to [enhance ecosystems](#) in degraded Mediterranean mountains.

General Interest

Plastic: Researchers urge the agricultural community to [reduce plastic use](#) to increase sustainability.

Soybean: The soybean industry contributes [\\$124 billion \(0.6% of the GDP\)](#) annually to the U.S. economy, according to a National Oilseed Processors Association (NOPA) and United Soybean Board (USB) study.

Food Security: The world needs to [increase agricultural productivity faster](#) to provide food for the projected population of nearly 10 billion by 2050.



Tractors: According to the Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM), [tractor sales in the U.S.](#) were down 4% in Sept. 2023 compared to the same month last year.

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- * American Society of Animal Science
- * American Society of Plant Biologists
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- * Crop Science Society of America
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- * Iowa State University
- * Minor Use Foundation, Inc.
- * Mississippi State University
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- * 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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Council for Agricultural Science and Technology

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