



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

The Minor Use Foundation is hosting the fourth **Global Minor Use Summit** in Madrid, Spain, Feb. 5-9, 2024.

The summit aims to guide growers, researchers, and regulators on minor use crop production, discuss global pesticide regulation challenges, and lay the groundwork for future research collaborations.

[Register now!](#)

Join the Mississippi State University community on Oct. 26, 10 a.m.-noon, for the grand opening of the **Agricultural Autonomy Institute**, the first institute in the U.S. dedicated to autonomous ag systems research and development. Send an email to [RSVP now!](#)

The National Institute for Animal Agriculture will host the **13th Annual Antibiotics Symposium** in Atlanta, Georgia, Nov.

October 20, 2023

National Pumpkin Day Celebrates the Versatile Gourd in Culture and Science

As National Pumpkin Day approaches on Oct. 26, it's time to celebrate the vibrant and versatile gourd that has carved its place into our culture, traditions, and even the realm of science. With their rich history, pumpkins not only take center stage on Halloween but also play an integral role in scientific research.



Pumpkins have been the subject of recent research for their potential use in various applications. Studies have investigated the [functional food potential](#) of pumpkin seeds, the bioactive elements present in [cold-pressed oil](#) from different pumpkin varieties, and the purification, structure, and biological activity of [pumpkin polysaccharides](#). In addition, recent research has explored the use of pumpkins in fields such as [medicine](#) and [biodegradable materials](#).

On National Pumpkin Day, let's enjoy the aesthetic charm of pumpkins in our holiday decorations and pumpkin-flavored treats and appreciate their growing role in scientific advancements. Pumpkins continue to prove their versatility, from enriching our cultural traditions to contributing to our understanding of health and nutrition.

Whether you're carving a pumpkin for Halloween, savoring a pumpkin-spiced latte, or exploring the latest research articles, the pumpkin remains a captivating and multi-faceted symbol of autumn.

7-9, 2023. This year's theme for the Symposium is Thriving in a Changing Landscape.

[Register now!](#)

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News and Views

USDA: The USDA (1) partners with farmers to increase [innovative domestic fertilizer production](#); (2) commits more than \$1.77 billion to U.S. producers to [support climate-smart agriculture](#); (3) and issues a Crop Production report with a lower September [corn and soybean production forecast](#).

Far Side of the Barn

Pun King: This year's heaviest pumpkin weighs [2,749 pounds](#) and could be used to make almost 700 pies.



CAST Updates

2023 Borlaug CAST Communication Award to Honor Dr. Alison Bentley



The 2023 Borlaug CAST Communication Award (BCCA) will be presented to Dr. Alison Bentley, Plant Geneticist and Bayer Visiting Scholar in the Plant Breeding Center at the University of Minnesota, in recognition of her outstanding contributions to wheat research and her exceptional dedication to science communication. The award ceremony will take place Oct. 25, 7-8:30 a.m., during a breakfast side event at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines, Iowa, as part of the World Food Prize's Borlaug Dialogue.

Dr. Bentley's remarkable career in research has made her a revered figure in the agricultural science community. Her groundbreaking contributions to the field have advanced our understanding of wheat and significantly impacted global agriculture, food security, and nutrition.

Beyond her scientific achievements, Dr. Bentley is celebrated for her exceptional mentorship and advocacy efforts. During her career, Dr. Bentley has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to nurturing the next generation of researchers. Her ability to communicate complex scientific concepts to diverse audiences while considering their unique backgrounds and interests has been pivotal in raising awareness and garnering support for vital agricultural research. Dr. Bentley's media prowess and dedication have been instrumental in advancing the cause of agricultural science, particularly in the critical areas of food and nutrition security.

What: 2023 Borlaug CAST Communication Award Presentation to Dr. Alison Bentley

When: Oct. 25, 2023, 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

Where: Iowa Events Center, Des Moines, Iowa

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A NEW ISSUE PAPER BY **CAST** AND **IFT**
EXAMINES **FOOD TRACEABILITY**
TECHNOLOGIES TO ENHANCE **FOOD SAFETY,**
SOURCE TRANSPARENCY, AND CONSUMER
CONFIDENCE.

Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

Gene Editing: Scientists work with [gene editing in chickens](#) in an attempt to lessen the risk of spreading bird flu and disrupting food supplies.

Feed: The innovation of conversion technologies leads to discoveries in turning [food waste into livestock feed](#).

HPAI: Minnesota has reported its first case of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) this fall in a [commercial turkey flock](#) of 140,000 birds located in Meeker County.



Milk: Milled [rapeseeds and oats](#) can reportedly decrease milk-saturated fatty acids and dairy cow methane production.

Food Science and Safety News

Genetics: Scientists have identified genetic markers that allow the use of [Omega-3 and Omega-6](#) fatty acids to unlock health benefits.

Carbohydrate Shortage: A [shortage of carbohydrates](#) such as wheat, bread, pasta, and cereal within the UK's food system may trigger civil unrest.

Food Trends: The first-ever "[Consumer Curiosity Report](#)" measured 700 food-forward consumers on their interest in culinary, nutrition, and sustainability topics.



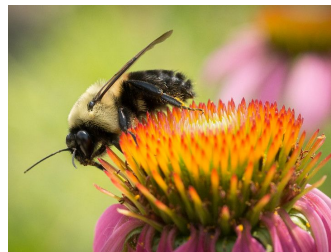
Salmonella: A new study examines the risks and outcomes of possible [antimicrobial-resistant](#) strains of salmonella.

Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

Fertilizer: A study suggests global fertilizer consumption could be reduced while maintaining crop production if [nitrogen fertilizer](#) was used more uniformly across croplands.

Harvest: Researchers explore the evolution of [horticultural harvesting tools](#) to track technological growth over the years.

Nutrient Management: An Iowa State University study examines factors influencing farmers' use of [nutrient management practices](#).



Pollinators: Due to [declining pollinator numbers](#), important crops such as coffee, cocoa, and watermelon may be at risk.

International News

EU: European Union governments failed to decide on extending EU approval for [glyphosate](#) by 10 years.

Russia & China: Russia and China signed a [\\$25.7 billion export deal](#) for 70 million tons of grains, legumes, and oilseeds.

China: China approves [GM corn and soybean](#) seeds for planting to boost production and reduce reliance on foreign supplies.



Poland: Researchers examine [African swine fever](#) transmission risks between domestic and wild pigs.

General Interest

Food Security: According to USDA's International Food Security Assessment (IFSA), [global food security](#) is expected to improve in 2023.

Crops: A study finds that crop responses to higher seeding or [nitrogen application](#) rates vary significantly yearly, with weather being the most unpredictable factor.

Chemicals: The [crop protection chemicals](#) market is projected to exceed \$132.4 billion by 2032.



Cattle: According to an Oklahoma State agricultural economist, [cattle prices](#) will remain high for several years.

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- * American Association of Bovine Practitioners
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- * 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
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- * 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
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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
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- * Society for Range Management
- * Soil Science Society of America
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- * University of Nevada-Reno
- * U.S. Poultry and Egg Association
- * Weed Science Society of America
- * Western Society of Weed Science

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