



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.

In This Issue....

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Announcements

Join the **National Agri-Marketing Association (NAMA)** in **Clayton, MO**, **Oct. 9-11** for the **2023 Fall Conference**. The event will provide informative and educational sessions, networking opportunities to build lasting connections, dynamic keynoters, thought-provoking breakouts, and a tour of local farms. [Register now!](#)

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September 29, 2023

Navigating the Aisles: Clarity Coming to Food Labeling

A simple trip to the grocery store can become confusing when you get into the specifics of food labeling. Every day, consumers are bombarded with new labels on the shelves, increasing opportunities for miscommunication. This is especially true with new and upcoming products such as cell-based proteins. However, efforts are being made to address this issue and provide clarity for shoppers.



In partnership with the USDA and the FDA, the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) recently introduced a [resolution to prevent consumer confusion](#) when cell-based proteins become available in stores. This resolution aims to establish clear labeling guidelines that promote transparency and help consumers make informed choices about the products they purchase.

But the changes continue. On Sept. 26, the FDA announced an [updated draft guidance to assist food facilities](#) in complying with current good manufacturing practices (CGMPs) and preventive controls for human food. This update includes a new chapter dedicated to food allergens, outlining ways to protect against allergen cross-contact and ensuring accurate labeling. The goal is to improve food safety and allergen labeling practices, providing critical information for consumers, especially those with food allergies.

Additionally, pet owners will see significant improvements in pet food labeling. The Association

WEBINAR RELEASE

**FOOD TRACEABILITY:
CURRENT STATUS AND
FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES**

**OCT. 5, 2023
12-1 PM (CDT)**

REGISTER NOW >

PRESENTER
BOB GRAVANI
TASK FORCE CHAIR



CAST **IFT** Food Traceability:
Current Status and
Future Opportunities

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

of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) recently approved [new labeling regulations for pet food](#), including specialty treats and supplements. After nearly eight years of industry collaboration, these changes will bring pet food labeling closer to human food products. The updated labels will provide standardized nutrition information, clear ingredient statements, and storage and handling instructions, offering pet owners the transparency they need to make informed choices.

A 2015 CAST paper, "[Process Labeling of Food: Consumer Behavior, the Agricultural Sector, and Policy Recommendations](#)," analyzes how labeling affects consumer choices, technology adoption, and research and product development spending. Legislators, regulatory officials, and consumers can benefit from this Issue Paper's thoughtful and science-based information.

Graphic Designer Behind Iconic Nutrition Labels Passes Away

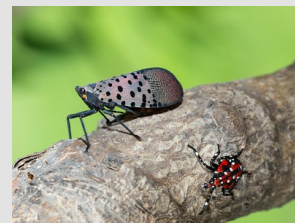
Burkey Belser, the [graphic designer known for creating the iconic nutrition labels](#) found on packaged food, died at 76 in Bethesda, Maryland, reportedly from bladder cancer Sept. 25. Belser's legacy lives on through the clarity he brought to food labeling, enabling consumers to make informed choices about the products they purchase.

News and Views

USDA: The USDA (1) sees a [record demand to advance clean energy](#), (2) expands access to school [breakfast and lunch programs](#), and (3) begins distributing \$1.75 billion to producers through the [Critical Emergency Relief Program](#).

Far Side of the Barn

Invasive Species: The Illinois Department of Agriculture confirms the presence of the [Spotted Lightening Fly](#) in the state.



CAST Updates



Successful Presentations Unveil New Issue Paper on Food Traceability in Washington, D.C.

The Issue Paper "**Food Traceability: Current Status and Future Opportunities**," a collaborative effort between CAST and IFT, was released to an engaged audience of professionals from food science, agriculture, and policymakers in three in-person presentations held Thursday, Sept. 28, in Washington, D.C. The rollout occurred at two sessions hosted by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) and one session held at the Capital Visitor Center.

Dr. Robert Gravani, the Publication Task Force Chair and Professor Emeritus of Food Science at Cornell University, took center stage to present the current state of food traceability and the roadmap for future developments in the field. Each presentation was prefaced with introductions by Kent Schescke, emeritus Executive Vice President and CEO for CAST.

CAST and IFT would like to express their gratitude to the authors, liaisons, and reviewers who contributed to the paper and the professional and policymaker community who engaged in these presentations.

CAST and IFT will hold a webinar rollout on October 5 from 12-1 p.m. CDT to continue the discussion on the paper.

[REGISTER NOW!](#)

Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

Birds: Teaching [migratory birds to adjust to climate change](#) may increase the survival rates of chicks.

Livestock Toxicity: A study comprises a [list of toxic plants](#) and their effects on livestock for researchers and producers.



Veterinarian Shortage: Purdue University has been granted [\\$3.2 million to help solve the shortage of veterinarians](#) in public health, food, and rural animal practice.

Cattle: The USDA reports a [5% decline in cattle placements in US feedlots](#) during August to 2.003 million head.

Food Science and Safety News

Alternative Protein: Scientists use microgels to unlock the secret to a [juicier alternative protein product](#).

Gut Health: New experiments show a [decrease in gut bacterium](#) associated with metabolic syndrome using a compound derived from hops.

Food Waste: Researchers discover a new use for food waste, utilizing cultured bacteria and yeast to create a [marketable nanocellulose](#).



Olive Oil: [Olive oil prices surge](#) among drought conditions and market shifts, impacting consumers at the grocery store.

Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

Pest Control: Scientists explore [new pest control methods](#) using plant virus nanoparticles to limit root-eating nematodes.

Genetics: A new discovery identifies the gene that [controls plant root hair growth](#), an important structure for plant nutrient and water uptake.

AI: Researchers experiment with AI to process large quantities of data and increase data processing efficiency in [plant observation studies](#).



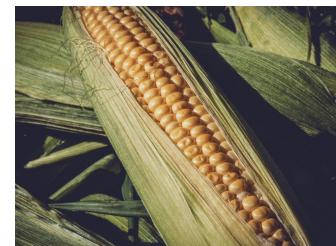
Microbes: A new study shows important factors in [rebuilding soil microbe populations](#) after wildfires.

International News

Ireland: Research from Trinity College Dublin finds a range of [pesticides and other chemicals in bee pollen](#).

Hunger: The latest U.N. Numbers estimate that there are [745 million more hungry people than in 2015](#), leading experts to examine U.N. goals for food security.

Amazonians: Researchers now believe that ancient Amazonians created a [rich 'dark earth' to improve soil](#).



Mexico: Experts aim to examine the roots of the [Mexico-US corn dispute](#) and the future of GMO corn in Mexico.

General Interest

Farm Safety: The National Farm Medicine

Center releases “[Tools of the Trade](#)” informational videos to help rural community first responders.

Digital Agriculture: K-State launches an [interdisciplinary institute](#) focused on digital agriculture and advanced analytics.

Restoring Salmon: President Biden plans to take action to restore [wild salmon and steelhead](#) populations in the Columbia Basin.



Pork: Market experts speculate on the [pork industry's future](#), which will be shaped by competition and disease.

Photo Credits

Spotted Lanternfly a courtesy USDA-ARS, Photo by Stephen Ausmus.

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- * Society for Range Management
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- * Western Society of Weed Science

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