

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 **Agrisafe** Network on November **15 at 11 AM CST** for a free suicide prevention training session. The training is designed for agricultural communities and is open to anyone interacting with individuals in the agricultural industry, including agribusiness and rural business employers and employees. Register now!

Join the **National Academy of Sciences** on December 19-20 for a workshop on Effective Communication with the General Public about Scientific Research that Requires the Care and Use of Animals. This virtual workshop will explore public views on the care and use of animals in research and how scientists can communicate effectively with members of the public.

Register now!

November 10, 2023

Native American Heritage Month

November is recognized as Native American
Heritage Month, a time to celebrate and honor the
rich heritage of Native American and tribal nations.
It is an opportunity for us to reflect on the significant
contributions made by Native peoples to shape our
country, including their many contributions to
agriculture and science throughout history.

Native practices have always prioritized a harmonious relationship with the earth, and these practices are now widely incorporated into regenerative agriculture. The National Farmers Union acknowledges the significance of intercropping, agroforestry, water management, and permaculture. These practices have greatly influenced regenerative agricultural research in North America.

In addition to guiding regenerative research, the USDA has launched the <u>Indigenous Food</u>
<u>Sovereignty Initiative</u> to support Native Heritage and promote healthy diets within Native communities.
This program encourages traditional diets through local gardens managed by indigenous practices. It also guides regenerative research to ensure sustainable practices for future generations.

News and Views

USDA: The USDA (1) is updating its <u>competition</u> and <u>innovation in seeds</u> initiative, (2) is investing over \$1.2 billion in loans and grants to <u>boost rural cooperatives</u>, and (3) is launching a new initiative to further support and increase the competitiveness of <u>U.S. specialty crops</u>.

Far Side of the Barn

CAST Social Media

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CAST welcomes ideas for future publications and projects.

Patterns: Researchers are revising Turing's theory on animal patterns with a new study on how diffusiophoresis creates sharp patterns.



CAST Updates



Successful 2023 CAST Annual Meeting in College Station, TX: A Collaborative Gathering

From November 6 to 9, the vibrant city of College Station, Texas, played host to the 2023 CAST Annual Meeting, a pivotal event for all three governing boards -Directors, Representatives, and Trustees. The gathering, held at the heart of the Texas A&M University campus, saw a collaborative effort between CAST and Texas A&M AgriLife, marking it as a noteworthy success.

The meeting was a platform for extensive discussions, planning, and decisionmaking. Additionally, it provided a unique chance for CAST board members and work groups to meet in person, have insightful discussions, propose recommendations, and plan for future publications and projects.

The event's highlights included tours of Texas A&M and private companies'

research and manufacturing facilities, which allowed attendees to see the latest innovations up close and fostered an environment of collaboration and knowledge exchange.

For those who could not attend, comprehensive coverage of the 2023 CAST Annual Meeting will be delivered on Tuesday via a special edition of CAST Updates.

Heartfelt appreciation goes out to all the sponsors whose generous support contributed to the success of the 2023 CAST Annual Meeting. Additionally, our sincere gratitude extends to Texas A&M AgriLife for their invaluable partnership, without which this collaborative gathering would not have been possible.





Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

Turkey: Wholesale prices for whole frozen turkeys are decreasing, reaching their lowest monthly average since July 2021.

Cattle: Texas A&M researchers are investigating whether an <u>individual's microbiome</u> could impact coronavirus transmission in humans and cattle in an international project.

Stress: Researchers are using an <u>innovative</u> <u>electrical device</u> to monitor the temperature of individual cows in real-time to better understand their behavior while stressed.



Dairy: U.S. dairy consumption has been steadily increasing, reaching over 11.5 million metric tons in 2022, a 15% increase from ten years ago.

Food Science and Safety News

Food Texture: The <u>texture of food</u> might be a determining factor for seconds and purchases, according to a Texas A&M study.

Farm-Free Food: Researchers are proposing the use of <u>synthesizing dietary fats</u> to reduce agriculture's adverse climate impacts on our food supply chain.

Food Waste: Europe can significantly reduce its demand for global food resources and associated GHG footprint by <u>reducing food waste by 50%</u> before 2030, according to recent calculations.



Peanuts: A "peanut patch" might become a safe and effective way to desensitize toddlers' allergy to peanuts by reducing the severity of allergic reactions due to accidental exposure.

Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

Water-hemp: A University of Illinois study finds that a <u>single gene controls water-hemp's</u> resistance to soil-applied herbicides.

Insecticides: The Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals has overturned the EPA's <u>ban on the use of the chlorpyrifos insecticide</u>.

Invasive plants: A new study uses <u>drone</u> <u>technology and artificial intelligence</u> to analyze the efficacy of dropping natural enemy insects on invasive plants.



Corn: Researchers are hunting for <u>hard-to-spot genetic links</u> to improve crop and livestock breeding.

International News

Canada: Canada is taking measures to <u>safeguard its pork industry</u> in the event of an outbreak of African swine fever.

Ukraine: Ukraine will get \$550 million from the World Bank to support agricultural producers' access to finance through concessional loans and grants.

Brazil: Brazil's agriculture ministry has extended the <u>national health emergency for 180 days</u> due to HPAI detection in wild birds.



China: China is expected to maintain high soybean imports through Q4, potentially breaking all-time records for 2023.

General Interest

Agricultural Perception: A new study quantifies perception gaps between North American farmers and consumers on sustainability, technology, and land usage.

Farm Economy: According to October's Ag Economy Barometer, <u>farmer sentiment improves</u> as financial conditions on their farms get better.

Farm Trade: Dozens of US ag representatives met with their Chinese counterparts in Beijing to bolster farm trade despite strained political ties.



Retro Machinery: More and more farmers are now opting to retrofit existing machinery instead of investing in new ones.

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Ethiopia photo courtesy of Curtis Youngs.

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- * 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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Agricultural, and Environmental Issues

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