



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

Save the date for the **2023 AAAS-RMF Policy Breakfast and Roundtable** on

November 16, 8 a.m.-10 p.m. ET, featuring a panel discussion moderated by Cathie Woteki. Chris Boomsma, CAST CEO, will be among the panelists, along with Jason Hafemeister, Alan Tank, and Brandon Honeycutt.

Register now for the [online](#) or [in-person](#) sessions.

You're invited to the **2023 AAAS Charles Valentine Riley Memorial Lecture** on November 15, 5-6:30 p.m. ET. The lecture honors Charles Valentine Riley's legacy and vision for improving agriculture through scientific knowledge. Dr. Joe Cornelius, CEO of Gates Ag One, will deliver the keynote address.

Register now to attend the event [online](#) or [in](#)

November 3, 2023

Harvest Season 2023: Yield Reports, Climate Challenges, and Outlook for 2024

As the 2023 harvest season nears its conclusion, farmers and agricultural experts are taking stock of the year's progress and looking ahead to the 2024 season. Despite various challenges, the

[U.S. corn and soybean harvests](#) have managed to stay ahead of the five-year averages, showing resilience in the face of adverse weather conditions and economic uncertainties.



As of Oct. 30, the corn harvest is 71% complete, while soybean harvest is 85% complete. Winter wheat planting progress is at 84% completion. Though these numbers are slightly behind last year's progress, they still exceed the five-year average. According to the [USDA NASS](#), 47% of winter wheat is rated as good to excellent, showing a significant improvement from last year.

Reflecting on the 2023 season, several growers are expressing frustration over the August dry spell, which led to reduced yields after a promising start. According to [Reuters' Crop Watch](#), producers affirm that planting corn earlier than usual didn't pay off due to a subsequent cold spell.

Overall, sales for the 2023 crops have been mixed, with most producers maintaining normal marketing levels. Rotational corn-soybean farming remains the predominant practice, with few price-motivated changes to acreages planned for 2024.

However, potential threats loom on the horizon. Several producers are voicing concerns about

[person](#).

Join C-FARE for a webinar on "**Alternative Fuels and Policies to Lower their Carbon Intensity**" on November 9, 11 a.m. CST. The webinar will discuss policies to increase climate benefits of biofuels and sustainable aviation fuels and their impact on rural communities' economic viability.

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dryness, especially in Kansas, where the typically rainy El Nino weather pattern has failed to deliver widespread and sufficient rainfall to combat drought conditions. High input costs and price volatility concern farmers as they look ahead to the 2024 season. Adding to the uncertainty, interest rates have reached a 22-year high, and a backdrop of ongoing wars, economic instability, and inflation further complicates the outlook for agriculture in the coming year.

As the 2023 harvest season winds down, farmers are keeping a watchful eye on these factors, hoping for more favorable conditions in 2024.

News and Views

USDA: The USDA (1) announces the appointment of [21 new members and nine returning members](#) to the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods (NACMCF); (2) will provide more than [\\$3 billion to commodity and specialty crop producers](#) impacted by natural disaster events in 2022; and (3) is strengthening [animal welfare standards](#) for organic livestock.

Far Side of the Barn

Oregon: Redmond residents 'moo-ve' over for unexpected [backyard bovine invasion](#).



CAST Updates

CAST to Host a Series of Webinars on FIFRA and ESA

CAST invites you to participate in a series of six webinars that will shed light on the impact of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA) on agricultural resources and the environment. These webinars will be held in conjunction with the release of their corresponding paper. The full release of all six papers is expected in mid-April.

Webinar Schedule and Topics

All webinars will be from 12-1 p.m. CST (subject to change.) They will be hosted by Bernalyn McGaughey, President and CEO of Compliance Services International, and Stanley Culpepper, Professor of Crop and Soil Sciences at the University of Georgia, along with authors from the different essays.

1. November 28 - FIFRA and the Endangered Species Act: Finding a Balance Between Agricultural Efficiency, Environmental Sustainability, and Regulatory Stability

This webinar will cover the history and challenges of FIFRA and the ESA.

2. December 19 - *Improving the Science Behind the Process: Implementing Better Data and Tools to Streamline the FIFRA/ESA Process*

This webinar will cover the threat of pesticides on species listed on the ESA, how science can better inform FIFRA and ESA assessments, and how the FIFRA/ESA process can be streamlined.

3. January 9 - *Developing and Adopting Economically Effective Mitigation Strategies: Critical to the Survival of Agriculture and Endangered Species*

This webinar will cover the intersection of pesticide registration and mitigation measures, the role of conservation programs in mitigation pesticide movement, as well as best practices for land management.

4. January 30 - *FIFRA, ESA and Pesticide Consultation: Understanding and Addressing the Complexities*

This webinar will cover the complexities and issues of pesticide use labeling, such as use in different geographies, what is practical for pesticide applicators, and lack of harmonization. Possible solutions to address these complexes will also be discussed.

5. February 20

This webinar will cover the role of states in the implementation and regulation of FIFRA. The exact content will be announced at a later date.

6. March 12

This webinar will explore the legal analysis of the FIFRA/ESA process over time. It will cover the legal aspects of both the ESA and FIFRA and the process that EPA has used to meet those obligations in the past, with a look at how that differs from its current proposal.

Register Now!



OUR NEW PAPER IS OUT!

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

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Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

Cattle: A new project led by Texas A&M aims to reduce reproductive and economic losses in the U.S. beef industry by using [omega-6 fatty acids](#) to manage early embryonic loss.

Stress: A four-year, \$1 million [multi-disciplinary project aims to predict stress](#) in cattle using artificial intelligence and sensor technologies.



Pork: A report shows the [pork industry is recovering](#) from productivity challenges in 2022-23, with some regions still facing disease pressure but observing improved overall herd health.

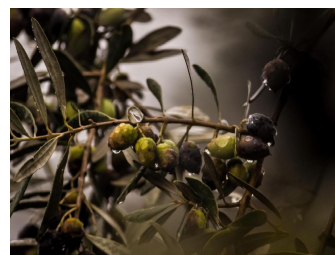
Cattle: Kansas State University leads a [global animal health effort](#) to estimate economic losses from foreign animal diseases.

Food Science and Safety News

Bioactives: Researchers find that [plant fiber has bioactive compounds](#) that can lower the risk of diabetes, heart disease, and cancer, and that isolated fiber can boost the nutrition of various foods.

Three-Ingredient Food: A project from the University of Urbana-Champaign aims to turn [air, water, and electricity](#) into safe, palatable, and nutritious food.

Additives: The FDA proposes to ban the use of [brominated vegetable oil](#) (BVO) in food due to potential health risks found in studies conducted with the NIH.



Olives: Scientists are studying whether the [waste from olive production](#) could be used to make biomethane, a clean-burning energy source.

Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

Cover Crops: [Cover crops can help the climate and environment](#), but most farmers refuse to use them due to concerns about losing income.

Soil: Scientists call for new methods of [delivering soil organic carbon](#) to increase crop yields in varying parts of the world.

Bacteria: A global [database of beneficial plant bacteria](#) helps scientists identify critical species that may be lost with changing climates.



Organics: For the second quarter in a row, [organic fresh produce](#) grew slightly in year-over-year sales and volume in the third quarter of 2023.

International News

Ukraine: Ukrainian Deputy PM Kubrakov denies reports that the [Black Sea export corridor](#) was suspended.

UK: New UK air pollution regulations [will save thousands from premature death](#) but do little to support ecosystems.

Tanzania: Scientists are developing cows that can [produce up to 20 times more milk](#) than local breeds to help subsistence farmers in Tanzania.



Ethiopia: An Iowa State University professor is being celebrated for his [efforts to improve milk production](#) in Ethiopia.

General Interest

Ag Tech: Mississippi State University opens the [Agricultural Autonomy Institute](#), the first interdisciplinary research center in America focused on autonomous technologies to enhance on-farm precision and efficiency.

Sustainability: A survey of 2,500 agri-food industry members and 26 leaders reveals a shared [commitment to building a sustainable food system](#).

Food Security: USAID invests [\\$79M to expand Feed the Future innovation labs](#) to strengthen small-scale farmers' resilience to climate change and other shocks.



PFAS: Farmers across the country are speaking out about the [impact of PFAS contamination](#) on their farms, urging lawmakers to pass protections and provide restitution to those affected.

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- * Society for Range Management
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- * Syngenta Crop Protection
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- * Western Society of Weed Science

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