

Friday Notes



December 8, 2023

CAST to Release a New Issue Paper on RNA Interference in Agriculture on January 11



Save the date!

CAST will release a new paper titled "*RNA Interference in Agriculture: Methods, Applications, and Governance*" on **January 11, 2024**, at North Carolina State University.

The paper describes how RNAi functions, its current agriculture applications, and the regulatory views of RNAi-based pesticides. It concludes with a discussion of current challenges for the commercial application of this technology in agriculture. It is a resource for regulatory agencies, policy and lawmakers, private and public institutions, and the public to aid informed

regulatory, policy-making, and consumer choice.

The paper is chaired by **Ana Maria Vélez** from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and **Ken Narva** from GreenLight Biosciences, Inc. During the event, the chairs will give an overview of the paper followed by a Q&A and panel discussion.

What: Paper rollout of "*RNA Interference in Agriculture: Methods, Applications, and Governance*"

When: January 11, 2024

Where: North Carolina State University

More details about the paper rollout and webinar will be released in the upcoming weeks.

Announcements

- Join the International Dairy Foods Association for **Dairy Forum 2024** in Phoenix, Arizona, from January 21-24. It's the premier event for dairy industry leaders, bringing together over 1,000 professionals from across the supply chain to shape the industry's future.

[Register now!](#)

News and Views

USDA: The USDA (1) releases the November 2023 [Farm Income Forecast](#), (2) announces [\\$208 million to prevent foreclosures](#) for guaranteed borrowers, and (3) releases the Economic Research Service's (ERS) [Food Dollar Series](#).



Register Now for the Next FIFRA/ESA Webinar

The second webinar of our FIFRA/ESA series will provide a unique legal perspective on critical environmental and agricultural issues, enhancing your knowledge and contributing to a broader understanding of these complex topics.

Date and Time: December 19, 12-1 p.m. (CST)

Title: A Legal Discussion of the FIFRA/ESA Consultation Process Over Time

Focus: Dive into the legal intricacies of the ESA and FIFRA, exploring the EPA's historical approach to these obligations and contrasting it with its current proposals.

[Register Now!](#)



Open Nominations for the 2024 BCCA

The 2024 Borlaug CAST Communication Award (BCCA) nomination process is now open!

The annual award celebrates professionals in the agricultural, environmental, or food sectors who have significantly contributed to advancing science in the public policy domain.

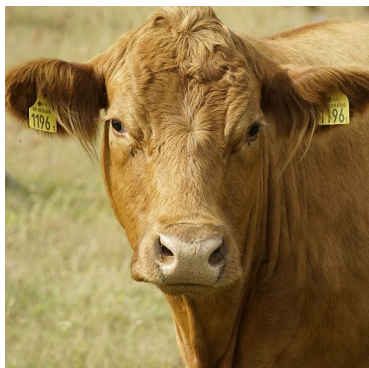
Nominees should be individuals who excel in promoting agriculture through various channels such as research, teaching, extension, or mass communication.

To nominate an individual, [visit the CAST website](#) to download the 2024 nomination packet.

The deadline for nominations is midnight on February 12, 2024.

[Read More](#)

Animal Agriculture and Environmental News



A New Case of Anthrax in Beef Cattle Has Been Confirmed in North Dakota

The 25th case in 2023 was discovered in Grant County. Approximately 170 cattle in the state have died this year from the virus.

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Producers Are Exploring New Ways to Farm Fish

Fish and shellfish farming emit less greenhouse gases than beef and other animal protein production, but still have environmental concerns.

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Research Assesses Variation in Dry Matter Intake in Feedlot Cattle

Scientists are examining methods for evaluating the dry matter intake and overall performance of feedlot cattle over time.

[Read More](#)

Food Science and Safety News



The Legal Challenges of Cultivated Meat Labeling

Package labeling rules could still create legal issues despite regulators agreeing on what to call the cultivated meat product in 2022.

[Read More](#)

CAST Paper Alert!

[Producing Food Products from Cultured Animal Tissues](#)

April, 2020

This paper discusses the development and challenges of cell-cultivated meat, focusing on technology advancement, safety, regulatory oversight, and the importance of consumer acceptance in determining its market success.

[Process Labeling of Food: Consumer Behavior, the Agricultural Sector, and Policy Recommendations](#)

October, 2015

This paper explores the impact of labeling on consumer choices, technology adoption in the food industry, and investment in research and product development.



New IFT Paper Explores How Processing Technology Can Help Enhance Food Sustainability and Nutrition

This white paper resulted from a roundtable focused on existing and novel processing technologies to preserve nutritional quality.

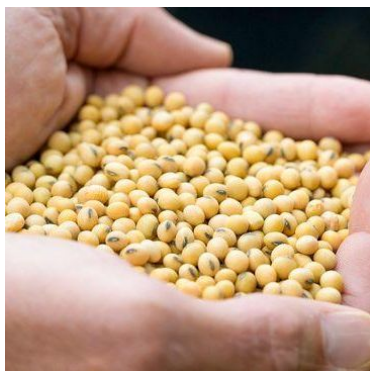
[Read More](#)

People Are Rediscovering the Taste of Dairy Products

More people are turning to dairy products due to their simplicity and nutritional benefits.

[Read More](#)

Plant Agriculture and Environmental News



Plant Scientists Have Discovered a Gene That Can Combat Soybean Cyst Nematode

The newly discovered gene starves nematodes that feed on soybean roots.

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Origins of Maize Have Been Identified

All modern maize descends from a 5000-year-old hybrid created in central Mexico long after the plant's domestication.



Study Shows Glyphosate's Efficacy Has Declined Over 25 Years

The unchecked use of glyphosate alone resulted in a significant and rapid loss of efficacy against the weeds it was intended to kill.

[Read More](#)[Read More](#)

International News



Report Shows Steep Growth in South American Grain and Oilseed Production

The report indicates that land has been the primary driver of South American production expansion since the mid-1990s, with yields growing at a faster pace than in the United States.

[Read More](#)

African Farmers Innovate as Climate Change Threatens Food Supply

Despite the efforts to improve agricultural productivity, small farmers receive very little financial support from donors and private investors.

[Read More](#)

Ukraine's Grain Dispute With the EU Has Extended to Sugar and Poultry Imports

Ukrainian exports to the EU are surging, but the European Commission warns of the risk of imports driving down prices and threatening local production of poultry, eggs, and sugar.

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General Interest



U.S. Agencies Plan To Cut Food Waste in Half by 2030

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the Draft National Strategy for Reducing Food Loss and Waste and Recycling Organics at COP28, the annual climate conference.

[Read More](#)



California To Face Decreased Water Supply in 2024

California water agencies serving 27 million people will get 10% of the water they requested from state supplies to start 2024 due to a relatively dry fall.

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Agtech Startups Still Attract Venture Firms Despite Cooling Investments

Venture capital firms are shifting their focus from vertical farming and plant-based foods to alternative fertilizers and artificial intelligence.

[Read More](#)

We'll soon be sending out a comprehensive survey to our members about Friday Notes. We value your opinion and would greatly appreciate your input on how we can improve the layout and content. But for now, we would like to ask you a simple question:

Do you find the new layout of the newsletter more appealing than the previous version?

[Yes](#)

[No](#)

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

Send your thoughts and stories for Friday Notes to fridaynotes@cast-science.org

New IFT Paper photo by IFT.

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