CAST Releases New Paper on RNA Interference in Agriculture to a Full Room in Raleigh, NC

We are pleased to announce the successful rollout of our new issue paper, "RNA Interference in Agriculture: Methods, Applications, and Governance," on Thursday, Jan. 11, at the North Carolina State University Plant Science Initiative building in Raleigh, NC. We enjoyed an impressive turnout, filling the venue with a mix of faculty, experts, students, and professionals interested in the topic.

Our sincere thanks to the paper's chairs, Ana María Vélez Arango and Kenneth Narva, for their exceptional presentation. Their insights, combined with the engaging discussions led by our panelists, Adrian Percy, William Moar, Amanda Pierce, and Roma Gwynn, enriched the event, leaving attendees more educated on the topic.

Our gratitude also goes to the sponsors, North Carolina State University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, GreenLight BioSciences, Syngenta, and BASF. Their support was instrumental and appreciated.

Moreover, we thank all attendees for their insightful questions, contributing significantly to the success of the day.

The paper offers a deep dive into RNA interference (RNAi) technology and its transformative impact on modern agriculture. Discussing everything from biopesticides to targeted pest control, the publication represents a major leap in sustainable agriculture practices.
Register Now for the Webinar Release of "RNA Interference in Agriculture: Methods, Applications, and Governance"

Missed the in-person event? Don't worry!

We invite you to join us for the webinar release of the paper on **Wednesday, January 17**, noon-1 p.m. CST. This is a great opportunity for all professionals to explore the potential of RNAi in the future of agriculture.

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**Announcements**

- Join the CFARE January webinar for insights into the new USDA Regional Food Business Centers today, Jan. 12, noon-1:00 p.m. EST. Hear from key experts like Jane Kolodinsky, Lilian Brislen, Dawn Thilmany, Rockiell Woods, and Johanna Herron on how these centers will transform our food system and support underserved communities.

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**News and Views**

**USDA**: The USDA (1) announces an investment of $230m to expand export markets, (2) partners with Pennsylvania to award more than $26 million to strengthen food supply chain infrastructure, and (3) announces awards to increase access to clean, affordable domestic biofuels.

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**Animal Agriculture and Environmental News**

**Nearly 80 Million Birds Lost in U.S. to Rampant Bird Flu Outbreak**

USDA reports escalating avian influenza cases, with over 20 million birds culled last quarter amidst ongoing efforts to combat the nation's worst animal disease event.
Concrete vs. Dirt Flooring Impact on Cattle Heat Stress

State-of-the-art accelerometer tags and temperature devices are used to determine the impact of concrete and dirt surfaces on the health and well-being of cattle.

Hay Feeding May Help Reduce Cross-Sucking and Enhance Social Rearing

Incorporating hay into calves’ diet not only curbs negative behaviors like cross-sucking but also supports their social and nutritional development, as revealed in recent research from the University of Florida.

Food Science and Safety News

USDA Scientists Spearhead Year-Round High-Quality Potato Availability

USDA agricultural scientists employ cutting-edge techniques to combat seasonal limitations, guaranteeing a steady supply of nutrient-rich, superior-quality potatoes throughout the winter and all year round.
New Technique Uses Light to Measure Chemical Components in Spices

Japanese researchers use machine learning and fluorescence techniques to estimate vital chemical components in spices, revealing new insights into their nutritional and medicinal properties.

Read More

New Insights into Salmonella Resilience in Food Processing Environments

A USDA research examines the complex dynamics of biofilms in meat processing plants, providing new perspectives for preventing foodborne pathogens and improving public health safety.

Read More

Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

Drought Disparities in U.S. Crop Territories as Corn and Soybeans Face More Challenges Than Wheat

A USDA report highlights variable drought effects with a significant impact on corn and soybeans, while wheat shows resilience.

Read More
University of Illinois Study Reveals Varied Grain Storage Decisions Among Farmers

Research shows economic and farm-specific factors influence whether Illinois corn and soybean producers store or sell grain, with implications for market adaptability.

Read More

Scientists Challenge Organic Farming's Impact on Climate Change

A new study questions the effectiveness of organic agriculture in achieving climate and biodiversity goals, igniting debate over farming practices.

Read More

International News

Bird Flu Detected on Vaccinated Duck Farm in France

The Vendee region in France faces its first post-vaccination bird flu case, sparking new concerns over disease control.

Read More

Comparing Corn Production Costs in the U.S. and Brazil

Experts from the University of Illinois and Ohio State University dive into the rising costs and yield dynamics of corn farming in major agricultural hubs.

U.S. House Takes Action Against Mexico's Delay in Water Deliveries

A House resolution calls for Mexico's compliance with the 1944 water treaty amidst growing concerns for South Texas agriculture and communities.
EPA Reinstates Limited Use of Chlorpyrifos in Agriculture

Following the Federal Appeals Court ruling, the decision ignited mixed reactions among ag advocacy groups and environmentalists.

Hog Barn Transformed into Thriving Worm Farm by Nebraska Couple

Brent and Marykae Broberg transform traditional agriculture with sustainable vermiculture, cultivating organic growth and environmental stewardship in the heart of children.

University of Illinois Ag Economists Report Revised Crop Budgets

Projections suggest that Illinois farmers may face negative returns due to a decrease in corn and soybean prices.

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
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.