The Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) invites you to the rollout of our latest paper, "RNA Interference in Agriculture: Methods, Applications, and Governance," scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 11, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. EST at the North Carolina State University Plant Sciences Building.

This groundbreaking paper, led by Ana María Vélez Arango (Assistant Professor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln) and Kenneth Narva (Head of Entomology, GreenLight Biosciences, Inc.), delves into the innovative world of RNA interference (RNAi) technology. RNAi, a natural gene-silencing mechanism, has been identified as a potent tool for crop protection and enhancement, offering a greener alternative to traditional pesticides. Its precision in targeting specific messenger RNA in organisms ensures minimal unintended effects on non-target organisms, improving safety and efficacy in agriculture.

The event will feature a presentation of the paper, a Q&A session, and a panel discussion with authors and experts in the field, including Adrian Percy (North Carolina State University), William Moar (Bayer Crop Science), Amanda Pierce (Environmental Protection Agency) and Roma Gwynn (AgBioScout).

CAST invites researchers, policymakers, students, and all stakeholders in the agricultural sector to join this enlightening session. The event not only marks a significant step toward sustainable and effective agricultural solutions but also provides an excellent networking opportunity.

Join the Rollout of CAST's RNA Interference Paper in Raleigh, North Carolina, on Jan. 11
opportunity with a light lunch included.

Registration is open, and interested parties are encouraged to secure their spots. This is a unique opportunity for those in and around Raleigh, NC, to be at the forefront of agricultural innovation and to engage directly with leaders in the field.

**Event Details**

**What:** Paper Rollout of "RNAi Technology in Agriculture: Methods, Applications and Governance"

**When:** Thursday, Jan. 11, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. EST

**Where:** North Carolina State University Plant Sciences Building, 840 Oval Drive - Raleigh, NC

**Program:**
- 10:30 a.m.-noon (Presentation, Q&A, Panel Discussion)
- 12:00-1:30 p.m. (Light Lunch and Networking)

Register Now for the Third FIFRA/ESA Webinar on Tuesday, Jan. 9

Join us for the third session in our FIFRA/ESA Webinar Series, titled "Improving the Science Behind the Process: Implementing Better Data and Tools to Streamline the FIFRA/ESA Process," on Tuesday, Jan. 9, from 12-1 p.m. CST.

This webinar will focus on the critical aspects of the FIFRA/ESA consultation process, addressing the key challenges faced in implementation. We will explore how enhanced scientific understanding and better data can inform FIFRA/ESA assessments, aiming to make the process more streamlined and effective.

**Speakers**
- Valery Forbes (Florida Atlantic University)
- Richard Brain (Syngenta Crop Protection)
- Bernalyn McGaughey (Compliance Services International)
- Stanley Culpepper (University of Georgia)
- Tony Burd (Syngenta)
Announcements

Join the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach's inaugural Cybersecurity on the Farm Conference on Thursday, Jan. 11, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Ames, Iowa. Learn about cybersecurity in agriculture from experts like James Hoflen of CISA and Dr. Doug Jacobson from ISU's Center for Cybersecurity Innovation & Outreach.

Register Now!

News and Views

USDA: The USDA (1) is accepting applications for new members to serve on agricultural trade advisory committees, (2) releases a report showing avian flu’s impact on egg production and prices, and (3) announces January 2024 lending rates for agricultural producers.

Register Now!

Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

Rethinking Calcium Supplementation for Dairy Cows

Cornell researchers challenge traditional calcium bolus methods, unveiling the potential benefits of delayed supplementation for increased milk yield in certain cow parities.

Read More

UV Disinfection Device Reduces Antibiotic Dependence in Poultry

A new portable UV device promises to reduce the incidence of infectious diseases that require treatment with antibiotics.

Read More

California's Prop 12 Enacted: Comprehensive List of Compliant Producers Released

Over 1,250 producers and distributors registered as proposition 12 takes effect, amidst legal challenges and similar movements in Massachusetts.

Read More
Artificial Intelligence Steps into the Role of Taste Connoisseur for Crop Breeding

A University of Florida's groundbreaking research employs AI to identify optimal fruit flavors, promising a future where crops are bred for taste and nutritional value.

Read More

US Cheese Production Expected to Increase by 2% in 2024 as Demand Reaches Record High

Investments in processing capacity and increased milk production are driving the cheese industry's growth.

Read More

Strategies to Safeguard Against Sriracha Shortages

As Huy Fong faces supply challenges, competitors and experts share insights on diversifying supply chains and ensuring a steady sriracha supply.

Read More

Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

How Tomato Plants Use Their Roots to Ration Water During Drought

Researchers at the University of California, Davis
uncover the role of exodermal suberin in tomato plants, paving the way for more drought-tolerant agriculture.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Aims High: Growing Corn on Mars

SPACE² efforts merge space exploration and agricultural science, eyeing breakthroughs for earth and beyond.

Over 90% of US Major Crops Now Grown with Genetically Engineered Seeds

A USDA report highlights the dominance of GE traits in corn, cotton, and soybean production, impacting global trade dynamics.

International News

China Advances Toward Soy Self-Sufficiency, Reducing Dependence on Imports

Recent policy shifts are leading to a significant decrease in soybean meal usage for livestock feeds despite increased total feed output.
Pakistan's Ambitious Green Revolution Takes Shape

The military's significant stake in the Green Pakistan Initiative raises questions and hopes for transforming the farming landscape.

Read More

US Resumes Beef Imports from Paraguay, Igniting Rancher Backlash

Livestock producers express concerns over food safety and trade implications as the U.S. allows Paraguayan beef imports after 25 years.

Read More

General Interest

Iowa State University's Agrivoltaics Research Project Blends Crop and Energy Production

An innovative public-private partnership explores the coexistence of agriculture and solar power in the heart of the Midwest.

Read More

Ai-Powered NASA Harvest Project Advances Food Security in Hawaii

The collaborative effort between NASA and ag researchers is empowering Maui farmers and students and tackling agricultural challenges and high food costs.

Read More

US Farmers Maintain Steady Sentiment Amid Easing Inflation Concerns

A Purdue study reveals minor shifts in farmer perspectives. The focus shifts from inflation to lower crop prices and rising interest rates.
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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Visit our website

The "Ai-Powered NASA Harvest Project" story photo was retrieved from Alyssa Whitcraft via Arizona State University on January 4, 2024 | The "AI taste 'connoisseur'' story photo was retrieved from University of Florida on January 4, 2024 | "Tomato plants roots" story photo by TJ Ushing for the UC Davis College of Biological Sciences

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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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