

# Friday Notes



April 12, 2024

## Celebrating National Farm Animal Day and National Volunteer Month

April 10 marked **National Farm Animal Day**, a day to reflect on the billions of farm animals nationwide and the dedicated individuals who care for them. As we observe National Volunteer Month, it's a perfect time to highlight the invaluable contributions of volunteers in the animal agriculture sector. From working farms to animal rescue organizations, volunteers play a crucial role in ensuring the welfare of farm animals and supporting the operations that sustain our agricultural landscape.

The United States is a significant producer of animal-based products, including [226.364 billion pounds of milk](#), [12.29 million tons of beef](#), [40.6 billion pounds of pork](#), [21.1 million tons of chicken](#), and [109.526 billion eggs](#) in 2023 alone. Behind these staggering numbers are countless individuals, including volunteers, who commit their time and effort to maintain the health and well-being of these animals.

National Farm Animal Day is not just about appreciating the source of our food and other products but also about recognizing the importance of the humane treatment of livestock. As we celebrate National Volunteer Month, let's also acknowledge those who volunteer their time to advocate for better living conditions for farm animals and support the farms that uphold these standards. Learn more about humane handling and regulations from the [USDA](#), and consider how you can contribute to the welfare of farm animals through volunteer opportunities in your community.

The 2018 CAST paper, "[Scientific, Ethical, and Economic Aspects of Farm Animal Welfare](#)," examines animal welfare's complex ethical and practical dimensions in agriculture. It discusses the conflicting societal values regarding animal use, the distinct philosophical approaches of "animal welfare" and "animal rights," and the scientific and ethical considerations necessary for understanding and addressing current and emerging issues in agricultural animal care and use.

This week, as part of our celebration of **National Volunteer Month** and in recognition of **National Farm Animal Day**, we are highlighting the Animal Agriculture Alliance (AAA), a valued member of CAST that offers several opportunities for individuals to engage with the organization, providing avenues for advocacy, education, and community involvement.



### Animal Ag Alliance: Advocating for Sustainable Animal Agriculture

The [Animal Agriculture Alliance](#) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to securing the future of animal agriculture by facilitating communication between the farm and food communities. The organization engages key stakeholders, provides insights on emerging issues, and promotes consumer choice through a better understanding of modern animal agriculture.

During National Farm Animal Day, the Alliance emphasized that farm families take their ethical obligation to animal care seriously. Regardless of farm size or production practices, a common thread among farmers and ranchers is their commitment to animal welfare. The animal agriculture community follows animal care guidelines developed with experts, which are regularly updated based on evolving science.

The Alliance encourages involvement through various outreach programs:

- **Animal Ag Allies:** This program empowers farmers, ranchers, and veterinarians to advocate for agriculture in their communities and online. Participants in the program receive training and development opportunities to enhance their communication skills and issue expertise.
- **College Aggies Online (CAO):** CAO connects college students passionate about advocating for animal agriculture. Over nine weeks, participants engage with educational content and receive mentorship from industry professionals, developing their abilities to communicate effectively about agriculture.
- **[Stakeholders Summit](#):** The Alliance's annual conference brings together diverse decision-makers from the agricultural sector. The 2024 Summit, themed "Ready, Set, Solve! Advancing Animal Agriculture," will take place in Kansas City on May 8-9. It provides a great opportunity for volunteers to network, learn, and contribute to discussions on advancing animal agriculture.

By joining the Animal Agriculture Alliance or similar organizations, individuals can play a vital role in bridging the gap between farm and food communities and ensuring the welfare of farm animals.

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## Upcoming Events

### April 12

Join CFAR for the webinar, "[An Introduction to the 2022 Census of Agriculture](#)," today, April 12, from 12-1 PM EST. Experts will discuss the latest data on U.S. farms and ranches and explore how this information impacts the Food, Agriculture, and Resource Economics community.

### June 11-12

Join the [National Institute for Animal Agriculture](#) for an inaugural roundtable discussion on bone health and lameness in food animal species, featuring animal agriculture leaders at the Waldrip Hall on the Don Tyson Center for Agricultural Sciences & AgriPark campus in Fayetteville, AR.

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## News and Views

**USDA:** The USDA (1) releases a report tracking [fertilizer's share of corn](#) production costs, (2) announces \$1.5 billion available for [partner-driven conservation solution programs](#), and (3) announces [finalized science-driven updates](#) to foods provided through The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

**CAST News**

**Save the Date!**

Join us for the rollout of CAST's latest issue paper, "**Soil Health and the Hydrologic Cycle**," on **May 15** at the **Pivot Bio** building at the Iowa State University Research Park in Ames, IA.

This event will not only spotlight the significance of soil health in the hydrologic cycle but also serve as the stage for the much-anticipated announcement of the **2024 Borlaug CAST Communication Award (BCCA)** recipient.

More details will be announced soon!



PAPER RELEASE  
**FIFRA, ESA, and Pesticide Consultation:  
Understanding and Addressing the  
Complexities**

📅 Wednesday, April 17, 2024  
🕒 1 PM – 2:30 PM EST  
📍 CropLife & RISE Regulatory Conference - Washington, DC

[REGISTER NOW](#)

CAST SERIES  
**FIFRA AND ESA**

## Register Now for the Paper Rollout of "FIFRA, ESA, and Pesticide Consultation: Understanding and Addressing the Complexities"

CAST announces the release of a compilation paper, "**FIFRA, ESA, and Pesticide Consultation: Understanding and Addressing the Complexities**," during the CropLife & RISE Regulatory Conference in Washington, DC, on **April 17**.

Join us **from 1-2:30 PM EST** for the paper release and panel discussion with Bernalyn McGaughey (Compliance Services International), Stanley Culpepper (University of Georgia), Ashlea Frank (Compliance Services International), Michael Aerts (Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association), Leah Duzy (Compliance Services International), and Austin Gellings (Association of Equipment Manufacturers).

[Register Now](#)

### Upcoming Paper Releases

**April 17** [In-person rollout in Washington, DC]  
*Full release of all six papers in the FIFRA-ESA series*

**May 15** [In-person rollout in Ames, IA]  
*Soil Health and the Hydrologic Cycle*

## Animal Agriculture and Environmental News



### Study Presents Imaging Technology for Poultry Quality Control

A new imaging-based method offers a non-destructive, objective solution for detecting muscle myopathy in poultry, paving the way for improved quality control and cost savings in the industry.

[Read More](#)



## Vaccine Significantly Reduces Bovine Tuberculosis Transmission in Cattle

A Penn State-led study shows potential for global control of bovine tuberculosis, reducing economic losses and human health risks.

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## Michigan Initiates Study to Vaccinate Wild Deer Against Bovine Tuberculosis

A research collaboration aims to protect both wildlife and cattle from infectious diseases, reducing the risk to humans.

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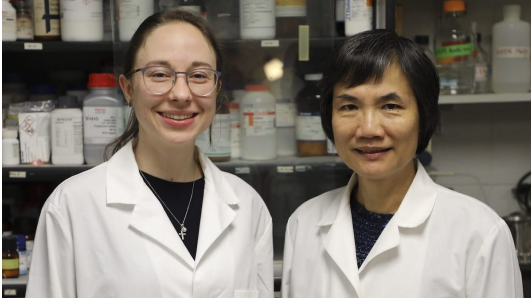
## Food Science and Safety News



## Mizzou Researcher Wins NSF Award to Fight Global Hidden Hunger

Kiruba Krishnaswamy's innovative FEAST framework aims to develop a sustainable food system addressing micronutrient deficiencies.

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## Researchers Look to Rice for "Clean Label" Ingredients

Naturally occurring polyphenols and proteins from pigmented waxy rice may help starch ingredients improve texture without any chemical modification.

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## Study Uncovers Inadequacies in Pork Labeling for Informed Consumer Choices

Research from Oxford and Cambridge calls for better labeling to accurately represent sustainability and animal welfare in pig farming systems.

[Read More](#)



### CAST Paper Alert!

The 2015 CAST paper, "[Process Labeling of Food: Consumer Behavior, the Agricultural Sector, and Policy Recommendations](#)," explores the complex effects of labeling on the food industry, examining how labels influence consumer choices, the adoption of technology, and investment in research and product development.

## FOOD TRACEABILITY:

## CURRENT STATUS AND FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

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## Plant Agriculture and Environmental News



## Iowa State Researchers Shed Light on AI's Role in Crop Improvement

A new publication offers insights and examples for harnessing artificial intelligence to revolutionize agricultural practices and address global challenges.

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## Prolonging Vitality in Grasslands with New Leaf Senescence Strategies

A recent study reveals new approaches to enhance the sustainability and performance of forage and turf grasses by delaying natural leaf aging.

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## Study on California Strawberries Unveils Insights into Fruit Yield and Size

Common cultivation practices may not significantly impact day-neutral strawberry varieties, offering fresh perspectives for growers.

[Read More](#)

PAPER RELEASE

## PREVENTING THE NEXT PLANT INVASION: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

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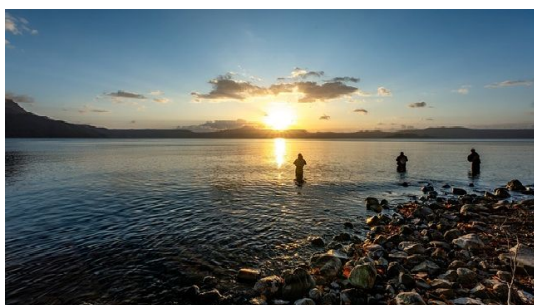
## International News



### Brazil Poised for Major Agricultural Expansion: Analysts Predict 35% Increase in Cropland

Converting degraded pastureland and intensifying second-crop corn production could add 70 million acres to Brazil's agricultural footprint, bolstering its position as a global farming powerhouse.

[Read More](#)



## West Africa's Fish Stocks Face Triple Threat from Climate Change, Illegal Trawlers, and Overfishing

A comprehensive study unveils the impact of climate change, unregulated Chinese trawling, and the surge in artisanal fishing on fish populations along the Gulf of Guinea, threatening the livelihoods of traditional fishing communities.

[Read More](#)

## Senate Blocks Biden's Paraguayan Beef Import Rule in Bipartisan Vote

The resolution, led by Senators Jon Tester and Mike Rounds, aims to protect U.S. beef producers from potential risks of foot-and-mouth disease.

[Read More](#)



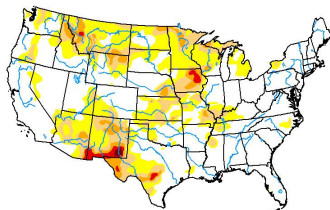
**NEW CAST PAPER**  
: RNA INTERFERENCE IN AGRICULTURE:  
METHODS, APPLICATIONS, AND GOVERNANCE

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The banner features a dark blue background with orange and light blue text. On the right, there is a blue vertical bar with white text and a red circular logo containing a white DNA helix and chemical structures.

## General Interest



## Drought Conditions Threaten Corn Planting in 16 Major States as 2024 Season Kicks Off

Early reports show moisture stress in key corn-producing regions, raising concerns for the upcoming growing season.

[Read More](#)



## USDA Confirms Bird Flu in 12th Dairy Herd Amid Expanding Outbreak



## U.S. Pet Industry Soars to \$147 Billion in 2023, Forecasts Continued Growth

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) has been detected in multiple states; Texas egg farms face the largest U.S. outbreak in months, with biosecurity measures intensified nationwide.

[Read More](#)

The American Pet Products Association reveals robust spending and key trends at the Global Pet Expo, with pet care leading consumer goods and Gen Z shaping future market dynamics.

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## Send Your Ideas

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

Send your thoughts and stories for Friday Notes to [fridaynotes@cast-science.org](mailto:fridaynotes@cast-science.org)

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## Purpose

*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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## Council for Agricultural Science and Technology

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