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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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### Meteor Shower



The Perseid meteor shower peaks this weekend. Here's [how to catch the spectacular show](#).



The Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR) [announced 17 inaugural recipients of the FFAR Fellow Award](#). As part of the program, graduate students from across the U.S. gathered at North Carolina State University for a week-long training course designed to [prepare them for successful careers in food and agriculture science](#).

### USDA Move

USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue announced [plans to move two sub-agencies out of the Washington, D.C., metro area](#)—the Economic Research Service and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture will be relocated.

August 10, 2018

## Our State Fair

*"Is a great state fair..."*

The iconic state fair appeared on stage and screen in Rogers and Hammerstein's classic--but in modern times, the event has become a diverse celebration of fun, food, and agriculture. Many states have their claim on the "best in the country" fair, and the public can enjoy local variations from coast to coast. For many, the event seems to be a type of summer comfort food--deep fried. No matter where, as the movie blurb said, the event draws "the young at heart and old romantics, too."



The Travel Channel provides one of many lists about "[best state fairs](#)," this organization suggests "[12 best state fairs for families](#)," and this site looks at the "[best fairs for food](#)." Opinions vary, but fairs are for fun, not friction. Here are a few more sites about what some see as the "best time of the year": (1) Eleven days of deep-fried fun kick off with the opening of the Iowa State Fair--[a user's guide](#). (2) From dipped scorpions to chocolate-covered bacon on a stick, [fair food can be fun and outrageous](#). (3) This commentator [takes us on a fun and goofy tour](#) of the Wisconsin State Fair. (4) Click here for Kylie's recent blog about [the fair from a personal perspective](#).

## News and Views

**Fire and No Rain:** [Wildfires rage](#) in parts of the country, and drought is a problem in several states. [Check this blog for links and an overview](#).

**Farm Bill Update:** Senate leaders think Congress [could send the final version of the 2018 Farm Bill](#) to President Trump in early September. Work requirements for SNAP recipients appear to be the crucial

## Ag-friendly Podcasts

Podcasts are a great outlet for sharing relevant information, ideas, and opinions. Luckily, they have transcended into the ag industry. [Check out this list of agriculture's best podcasts.](#)



## Goin' to the Market

The USDA declares August 5-11 as [National Farmers Market Week.](#)

## Daily Dose of Dairy

A new product made by three K-State food science graduate students [was awarded first place](#) in the National Dairy Council's annual New Product Competition.

## Submit an Idea

We welcome suggestions for future CAST publications and projects. [Click here to submit ideas.](#)



## Economic Concern

The latest "Ag Economy Barometer" from Purdue University [shows how concerned farmers are](#) about the economy.



## Catch CAST Online!

Follow us on [social media](#) to stay up to date on the latest ag trends and recent CAST news!

issue. Another debate could form around the "[Protect Interstate Commerce Act of 2018](#)" that was introduced to the House version.

**Pesticide Ruling:** A federal appeals court gave the Environmental Protection Agency 60 days to revoke all food tolerances and [cancel all registrations for chlorpyrifos](#), one of the most used conventional insecticides.

**The Borlaug Blog:** The World Food Prize organization recognizes the achievements of those who advance the quality, quantity, and availability of food in the world. Its [Borlaug Blog entries feature stories, research, and expert opinions](#) that stimulate dialogue about important global issues.

**Saying No to Aid:** The latest *Farm Journal Pulse* survey shows [less than 50% of farmers would sign up for the USDA's \\$12 billion tariff aid package](#) given, the information they have today.

## News from the Far Side of the Barn

### Nature's Way of Telling Us

**(video):** Three short clips involving a [road rage rhino](#), a [bothered bison](#), and a [swarm of sharks](#) remind us that there are times when animals are trying to tell us to back off.



Police received help corralling a suspect after a stolen car incident--[a herd of cows chased the culprit.](#)

### Off Road

**(video):** During a [sudden landslide](#), one person was injured, and one scooter driver was lucky to escape.

**Dog Sense (video):** Scientists tested these dogs to [see if they would help their owners](#)--maybe the experiment says more about human silliness than canine loyalty.

## CAST Calls for Your Input

*Upcoming Friday Notes Redesign*

As CAST starts the beginning stages of our 2018 website redesign, refreshing the overall look and outreach of our brand is high on our list of priorities. With that being said, we feel it is the perfect opportunity to gather input from our members on the overall layout, design, and content of CAST *Friday Notes*.



It is important to note we will not be discontinuing our weekly newsletter editions but instead using your feedback to streamline the publication--improving readability and accessibility while refreshing the overall look.

We greatly appreciate your loyal membership and look forward to receiving your input.

Click here to participate in [CAST's 2018 Friday Notes Survey](#).

## Mason Jar Memories

With the ability to buy frozen corn in an extra-large bag or green beans in a #10 can from your local grocery store, some believe canning is a lost art. In this blog, CAST's social media and communications specialist embarks on past memories of tending her family's garden and the spices enhancing the taste of her Mom's homemade spaghetti sauce.



Click here to find out if [young adults still value the traditional practice of canning](#) garden-grown produce.

## Friday Notes News Categories

Photos courtesy of the Agricultural Research Service (top masthead); TopLatest News (globe at right). P. 1 podcast pic from mattpaulson.com, survey pic from google.com, meteor diagram from skyandtelescope.com, state fair collage from wstatefair.com and giesla.com, and cattle pic from premiumtimesnq.jpg. Animal Sec. cartoon from pbs.turing.com. Food Sec. honey pic from dirt-to-dinner.com. Plant Sec. space pic from cdn.cnn.com. Inter. Sec. watermelon pic from gstatic.com. Gen Sec. bar graphic from sciencemag.org. Unless otherwise noted, photos courtesy of the USDA Agricultural Research Service.



### *Animal Agriculture and Environmental News*

**Grain-free Dog Feed (video):** The FDA warns that grain-free dog food--with main ingredients like peas, lentils, or potatoes--[may be linked to unusual heart conditions in dogs](#).

**African Swine Flu:** U.S. veterinarians and officials are hoping to [keep a deadly foreign virus from infecting](#) the American hog industry (related links in International Section).

**RAGBRAI Return (video):** One year after a tragic accidental spinal cord injury, Gretchen rode in a weeklong bike ride across Iowa. She says the [lessons learned from pig farming helped her through her recovery](#).

**Full Circle:** The development of a national standardized [cattle ID and traceability system in the United States capable of tracking cattle back](#) to current and previous locations of residence is closer than ever before.

**Swine Odor Reduction:** A demonstration project performed by a Penn State researcher [on a full-scale swine-finishing operation found that an additive](#) demonstrated statistically significant swine odor reduction (related links in photo caption).

**Five Flock Factors:** Moving hens into [cage-free environments involves additional costs and new challenges](#), but research shows egg producers can address these in part by focusing on five factors.

**Ultimate Biofuel:** This microbiologist is on the hunt for [yeast that could be useful to humans in producing new products](#)--the best yeast hunters she's found so far turn out to be bees and wasps.

**Farm-to-Table:** Public audiences rarely get to interact with pigs and the people who raise them. To bridge that gap, this company [created an interactive map that explains the process of raising pigs from start to finish](#).



**Hog Verdict Brings Mixed Reactions:**  
A federal jury ruled that the world's largest pork producer should [pay millions of dollars](#) to neighbors of three North Carolina industrial-scale hog farms because of odors, flies, and truck noise. This representative of the National Pork Producers Council [disagrees with the decision](#).



***Food Science and Safety News***

**Meal Kit Trouble (video):** [Meal prep kits were supposed to make the supermarket obsolete](#), but the opposite has proven true. Some think companies may need to partner with grocery chains to survive.

**Cell-culture "Meat" Tech (opinions):** This writer gives her take on [the battle to define](#) "animal cell-cultured meat," and a beef organization member also [weighs in on the FDA/USDA tussle](#) over control of the issue.

**The Fruit and Veggie Hit Parade:** Grab a banana and read Jayson Lusk's blog about [which fruits and vegetables are most commonly consumed](#).

**Importance of Accuracy:** Cornell food scientists have created a new predictive model that examines spore-formulating bacteria that could [make dates featured on milk cartons more meaningful and accurate](#).

**My Tongue Is on Fire:** [Can spicy food ruin your taste buds?](#) This hot sauce fanatic went to an expert for answers.

**"Real" Milk Recall:** More than 140,000 half-gallon cartons of Vanilla Almond Breeze were [recalled due to the fact that they contained dairy](#)--an allergen not listed on the label.

**Happy, Lactating Nuts (video):** This [quirky satire goes over the top](#) to explain how farmers "milk" almonds.



This article serves as [a great source for all things honey](#). In a related commentary, researchers work to answer the question, [Why Does Bee Health Matter?](#)



## *Plant Agriculture and Environmental News*

**Blueberry University (video):** NC-State breeders [developed and introduced more than 40 blueberry varieties](#) since the program began in the 1940s.

**Bad Blooms (video):** Ohio State University partnered with others to help lead [a statewide effort in combating harmful algal blooms](#).

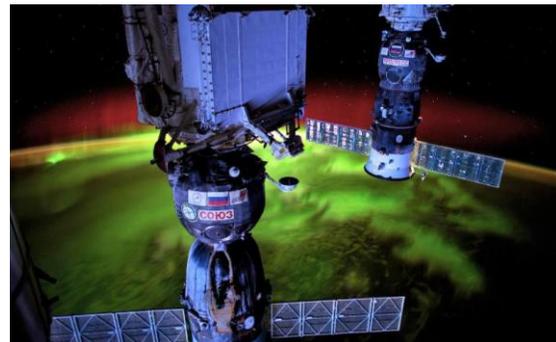
**Harmful Algae (related to above):** Kansas State toxicologists warn that [health problems can arise when animals and people](#) come into contact with toxins produced by blue-green algae.

**Flood-prone Land:** Iowa State researchers have received a grant to [study how well perennial grasses perform in low-lying areas](#) of agricultural fields that are prone to flooding.

**Can Plants Tell Time?** A new study has [discovered that plants adjust their daily circadian rhythm](#) to the cycle of day and night by measuring the amount of sugars in their cells.

**Organic Weed Control:** A team from the USDA [analyzed 18 years of weather data to determine the impact of meteorological and management facts](#) on weed abundance at a Maryland project farm.

**The Soil above Us:** Part of the forest's diversity includes "canopy soils"--myriad [organisms living above ground such as plants, insects, lichens, and bacteria](#).



A University of Florida scientist will use the International Space Station to see if algae can help recycle carbon dioxide and eventually be [used to develop plastics, resins, and even food](#).



## *International News*

**One Step Closer:** Scientists in the United Kingdom are [making a more efficient and cheaper vaccine to combat infectious bronchitis virus](#).

**Breaking (Bad) News:** The [first case of African swine fever](#) in China has been reported. This [highly contagious and often fatal disease](#) is extremely resistant and can persist in refrigerated meat.

**Sweet Cane and Farming Drones:** Many sugarcane fields in El Salvador are [now being tended by drones](#).

**Thinking Outside the Bird:** Canadian researchers [tested a new approach in avian influenza surveillance](#) by going beyond wild bird sampling and focusing on wetland sediments.

**Charged in Conspiracy:** Two agricultural researchers from China were charged in connection with a 2013 [attempt to steal U.S. rice technology for use in the medical field](#).

**Origin Labels:** Spanish officials warned regulators that a [mandatory requirement to label the origin of milk](#) in dairy products could complicate the Spanish market and hinder competition.

**Conserving Natural Habitats:** This international team of scientists found that natural habitat surrounding farm fields is [not always an effective pest-control tool for farmers worldwide](#).



Only \$200? Can't I Pay More?!  
[Square watermelons in Japan are rare, expensive, and usually purchased for ornamental or prestige purposes.](#)



## *General Interest News*

**Farm-to-School Success:** This [award-winning program involves FFA and vocational ag students](#) who raise, harvest, and deliver thousands of pounds of produce a year to their school lunch program.

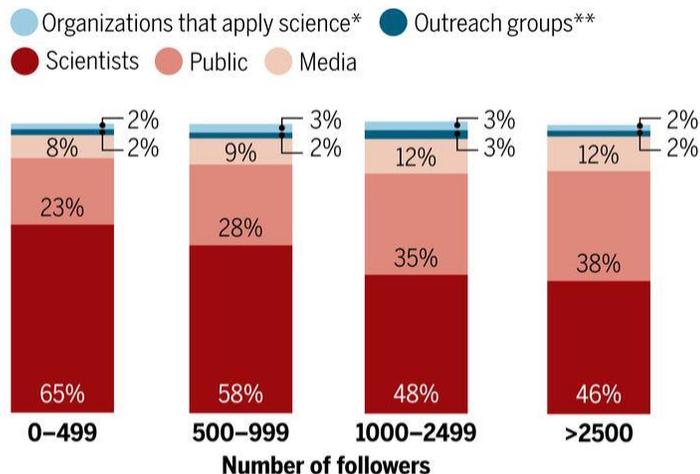
**EvolvR:** Scientists have concocted another creative application for CRISPR that lets them [shake up the DNA letter in their gene of choice](#) until they find the variation that is just right.

**ATVs, Farming, and Risks:** As all-terrain vehicles replace horses and pickup trucks, they do come with the risk of serious injury. OSHA statistics show [three of five occupational ATV fatalities happen in the agriculture sector](#).

**Oh Deer:** Research from the Mississippi State University Deer Lab shows that [deers' antlers offer great insight into their habitat](#).

**Controlling Pests:** A University of Kentucky research team discovered a protein that plays a [critical role in the effectiveness of RNA interference](#) in beetles.

#### Who follows scientists on Twitter



\*Nonprofit conservation groups, management agencies, etc.;

\*\*Museums, zoos, science educators; Note: Percentages are rounded.

CREDITS: (GRAPHIC) N. DESAI AND C. SMITH/SCIENCE; (DATA) I. CÔTÉ AND E. DARLING

**Taking to Twitter:** Some [scientists have created Twitter accounts](#) to share their findings with the public, but does this form of outreach work?

## CAST Information

Check out CAST's page at the [YouTube site](#) to view highly regarded ag-science videos about probiotics, food safety, and water issues--or the latest video dealing with proposed mandatory labeling of GMO food items.



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- \* American Bar Association, Section of Environment, Energy, & Resources-Agricultural Management
- \* American Dairy Science Association
- \* American Farm Bureau Federation
- \* American Meat Science Association
- \* American Meteorological Society, Committee on Agricultural and Forest Meteorology
- \* American Seed Trade Association
- \* American Society for Nutrition Nutritional Sciences Council
- \* American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers
- \* American Society of Agronomy
- \* American Society of Animal Science



- \* American Society of Plant Biologists
- \* American Veterinary Medical Association
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- \* BASF Corporation
- \* Corteva Agriscience, Agriculture Division of DowDuPont
- \* Croplife America
- \* Crop Science Society of America
- \* Entomological Society of America
- \* Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy
- \* Land O'Lakes
- \* Monsanto
- \* National Corn Growers Association/Iowa Corn Promotion Board

- \* National Milk Producers Federation
- \* National Pork Board
- \* North Carolina Biotechnology Center
- \* North Central Weed Science Society
- \* Northeastern Weed Science Society
- \* Poultry Science Association
- \* Society for In Vitro Biology
- \* Soil Science Society of America
- \* Syngenta Crop Protection
- \* The Fertilizer Institute
- \* Tyson Foods
- \* United Soybean Board
- \* Weed Science Society of America
- \* Western Society of Weed Science

*CAST assembles, interprets, and communicates credible, science-based information regionally, nationally, and internationally to legislators, regulators, policymakers, the media, the private sector, and the public.*

## Members of CAST's Education Program

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- \* North Carolina State University
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- \* The Ohio State University
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- \* University of Kentucky
- \* University of Nebraska Agricultural Research Division
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