

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



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 the CAST organization.

In This Issue..... Click to Read

[Ag Story Masterpiece--P. 2](#)

[Animal Agriculture News](#)

[Food Science and Safety News](#)

[Plant and Environment News](#)

[International News](#)

[General Interest News](#)

Norse Beauty



This dazzling short film looks at [Norway's peaks and plateaus](#) across all four seasons.

National Ag Day

This Agriculture Council of America website provides helpful information about [National Ag Day](#)--March 21, 2017.

Exploring Ag's Past



Historical Agricultural News is a search tool site for exploring the [Library of Congress database](#) for information about the farming

February 10, 2017

Informing a Skeptical Public

More about the biotech food debate

In an effort to [promote facts over fear](#), scientists and food experts produce a steady flow of information to explain that food products made from biotech crops are safe, but the public is also influenced by those who distrust the use of genetically modified organisms. Case in point: [This site touts](#) what it calls the "dangerous side effects of consuming GMO foods."

Despite overwhelming [scientific evidence](#) that genetically modified foods are safe for human consumption, many Americans are distrustful of GMOs. However, the relative lack of outrage over the forthcoming release of nonbrowning [biotech apples could signal a change](#).

Note: The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is [requesting comments on the topic of genome editing](#) in the production of plants that would be eaten by both humans and animals.



CAST has published several science-based papers regarding biotech crops—including last year's [look at biotech trade approvals](#).

News and Views

****Global Grain Supplies:** Carryout stocks of corn, soybeans, and wheat continue to get larger both in the United States and around the globe, according to the USDA's latest [World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates](#).

****Voicing Preference:** Hundreds of agriculture organizations submitted a letter of [endorsement for Secretary of Agriculture](#) nominee Sonny Perdue.

****Delay on Rulings:** The effective date for a new Agriculture Department rule that sets standards of proof for market practices in the

organizations, technologies, and practices of America's past.

How to Succeed at Farming by Really Trying

Insightful interviews with women who are [big-time farm operators](#).

A Donkey with Spunk

The UC-Davis community recently [lost a much-loved member](#)--the 29-year-old donkey Action Jackson. With an outgoing personality and a love for attention, the animal entertained countless visitors--especially children. The gregarious donkey also found time to sire at least 500 donkeys and mules--no wonder he was called "Action."

International Livestock Congress

Check out this Texas A&M AgriLife Extension information about the [2017 International Livestock Congress](#), March 8-9 in Houston.



CAST Social Media

Click here for [links to CAST sites](#): Twitter,

Facebook,

Pinterest, LinkedIn, videos, and blogs.

livestock and poultry industry has been delayed two months. The [USDA is accepting public comment](#) on the rule until March 24. Also, the USDA is delaying the effective date of a new [rule on organic livestock and poultry practices](#) to comply with a Trump administration directive.

****Information Availability?** The [USDA recently removed public access](#) to tens of thousands of reports that document the numbers of animals kept by research labs, companies, zoos, circuses, and animal transporters--and information related to the Animal Welfare Act. Reaction to the move is mixed.

****What Makes Farmers Tick?** This recent ISU graduate has been traveling the United States for the Beck's [Why I Farm Roadtrip](#).

News from the Far Side of the Barn

Trapped on Thin Ice (video): Yes, plenty of good people walk this world. These folks worked to [save a moose trapped](#) in a frozen lake.



Moose On Ice--depending on the kindness of strangers.

BFG of the Sea (video): The larger species of manta ray often reaches 23 feet in width, and this snorkeler goes up close to [swim with the big friendly giant](#).

Throw Those Ragged Things Away (video): Farmer Derek Klingenberg creates a [parody of a Florida Georgia Line tune](#) to show off his "Holy Jeans."

Creating an Ag Masterpiece--One Colorful Story at a Time

ISU student and CAST intern Hannah Pagel explains how her interests combine into a passion for agriculture--and she invites you to add your colors, brush strokes, and perspectives

A Personal Story--Related to Agriculture

We've all heard the saying, "A picture is worth a thousand words." Each picture tells a story--a journey of one's life and trials. We all have a story that explains our passions, our interests, and our achievements. These elements create the story, and for many of us, that story relates to agriculture.

Combining Passions--and Painting the Story

My passion for agriculture runs deep, but I also have a love of painting. I have combined my passions to tell my story of agriculture. Each painting has its own creative way to tell the story of agriculture or one of my personal stories of the industry. For example, one painting tells the story of the first heifer I ever showed. [Click here to read the full version of my "Ag Story."](#)

I may use a brush to tell my story, but others tell theirs in different ways--some ride horses, some drive tractors, some fit cattle, some teach Ag classes, some plant a garden. There are many ways to tell the story of agriculture--you just have to start sharing. So tell me--what's your "Ag Story?"



Some of Hannah's ag stories, captured through art.

Send in Your Part of the Masterpiece

We would love to hear other "Ag Stories" and continue this masterpiece by adding in new colors and perspectives. If you would like to be featured on the CAST blog site, send a copy of your Ag Story to dgogerty@cast-science.org. Include a digital image and a brief bio also.

Be a part of the Ag Story Masterpiece.

Friday Notes News Categories

Photos courtesy of the Agricultural Research Service (top masthead); TopLatest News (globe at right). P. 1 Norway pic from fjords.com, old truck pic from chong.zxq.net, and moose pic from dailymail.com. Animal Sec. boar pic from witn.jpg. Food Sec. Wonka pic from pinterest.com. Plant Sec. indoor garden pic from alaskadispatchnews.com. Inter. Sec. beef promo pic from feedstuffs.com. Gen. Sec. kayak pic from digg.com. Unless otherwise noted, photos courtesy of the USDA Agricultural Research Service.



Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

Goats in Too Many Places (video): These young farmers create a musical homage to life with goats by doing a parody of Garth Brooks' "[Friends in Low Places](#)."

Pig Pride (photo essay and audio): This hog farmer says the hours are long and the work is hard--but he takes [pride in a solid day's labor](#).

DNA To Track Wild Pigs: These [animals will eat anything](#), from rows of corn, to sea turtle eggs, to baby deer and goats. The feral pigs number 6 million in 35 states.

Analyzing Dairy Myths: A group of British experts--including Jude Capper--[debunk 13 myths about dairy cows](#). Note: [click here](#) to access the beef sustainability paper Dr. Capper chaired for CAST.

Milk Label Law? (opinion): The National Milk Producers Federation backs a legislative move for the [enforcement of dairy labeling](#) standards.

Against a Law (opinion--related to above): Soybean producers and the makers of soy food products are [fighting back against draft legislation](#) that would restrict the marketing of soy milk.

Homes for Horses: In South Dakota, volunteers are scrambling to find [homes for hundreds of wild horses](#) that were spared a possible trip to the slaughterhouse but are now suffering through a harsh winter.

Egg Plan: The American Egg Board released its 2017 "Export Marketing Programs Plan." The mission to [increase demand for U.S. eggs](#) will be executed in cooperation with the USA Poultry & Egg Export Council.

Beef Hearts: The USDA has made it okay to [use beef hearts in ground beef](#)--ending a 40-year prohibition on the use of hearts and tongues in ground beef.

Poultry in Court: Former chicken farmers in five states [filed a federal lawsuit](#) against several giant poultry processing companies. The National Chicken Council says they are frivolous, unwarranted lawsuits.



Three years ago, this North Carolina hunter bagged a big one.



Food Science and Safety News

Regulations and Food Safety: According to this article, federal food safety agencies do not plan on drafting many new regulations in 2017--and the government's policy is to [drop two regulations for each new one](#).

What Would Willy Wonka Say? [Craft chocolate](#)--like beer and coffee before it--is ready to go mainstream. But that doesn't mean it's ready to sell out.

Postprandial Somnolence: The "[food coma](#)" phenomenon refers to the sleepy feeling many experience after eating a big meal--the causes are based on different theories, some more plausible than others.

Killing Foodborne Pathogens: Cornell food scientists are putting the squeeze on the microorganisms that spoil food and make people sick, with the installation of a [new high-pressure food processor](#).

Flavored Tofu: This lowan is determined to bring [flavored tofu into the mainstream](#)--trying to make a savory food item into a popular sweet option.

Meat Day--and How It Gets Its Name: Butchers, supermarkets, and barbecue restaurants in Japan are gearing up for the national [meat trade's busiest day of the year](#)--dubbed "Meat Day"--on February 9.

Wrap It Up: Some researchers say there may be potentially [harmful chemicals in fast food wrappers](#).



You say "craft chocolate" like it's something new.

Miniature Food Rings: Last week we provided a link about the tiny food craze--seems [it can go even tinier and crazier](#).

Ending Global Hunger (opinion): This group is focused on [efforts to end hunger](#)--including a look at the effects of food waste.



Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

High-tech Farm Therapy: To [help disadvantaged teens and young adults land jobs](#), an Anchorage mental health provider is staking out ground in the high-tech farming fields of hydroponics and vertical gardening.

Organic Information: Using USDA information and other research, this article addresses some [misconceptions about organic farming practices](#).

Strong Start for Soybeans: These agronomists recommend three steps that will [help growers get a strong start](#) with soybeans this season.

A Perennial Wheat? These university researchers have developed a [cross between wheat and its wild cousin](#), wheat grass. It apparently grows back annually.

Precision Fertilizer: This Kansas State University study looks at [precision nitrogen management for wheat](#) when using optical sensor technology.

Wetland Study: This study evaluated the [impacts of wetlands on phosphorus reduction](#)--looking at the size and location.

New Varieties of Alfalfa: This seed company is promoting 45 [new varieties for the alfalfa seed market](#), including types developed for multiple pest resistance, forage quality, and yield.

Groundwater Research: [Increasing the water table](#) could help slow down global warming, boost crop yields, and preserve peat soils, according to a British study.



Using high-tech farming techniques to help young job seekers.



International News

No Twinkies on the Beach? This South Pacific island province will [ban foreign snack food](#) to ward off the "infiltration of junk."

Turning Off the Oil Spigot? Ireland is set to become the world's first country to fully [divest money from fossil fuels](#).

"Party for U.S. Beef": The U.S. Meat Export Federation held events in Taiwan to showcase American-style beef--[hoping to attract a younger generation](#) of consumers with slogans and events.

Food Safety in Africa: North Carolina State scientists and USDA experts are working to [make corn and peanuts in Africa safer](#).

Unwanted Visitors: The Bolivian government declared a state of emergency in a vast agricultural area [affected by a plague of locusts](#).



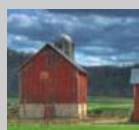
"Live Your Passion--Let's Party for Beef"

Containing Livestock Disease: South Korea raised its [foot-and-mouth disease alert](#) status to the highest level as a second strain of the disease was confirmed three days after a first outbreak was reported.

Mountain Whales (related to link in Animal Sec. above): Wild boars in Japan were once called "mountain whales," a euphemism coined to rationalize meat eating in a Buddhist vegetarian society. Three years ago, [wild boars attacked 8 citizens](#) in a rural area.

Stopping a Scourge: Scientists are calling for urgent action to [halt the spread of a pest](#) that is destroying maize crops and spreading rapidly across Africa.

Biotech Solutions for Food Insecurity? This scientist from Nigeria has identified [food insecurity as a major cause](#) of some of the greatest challenges in the country.



General Interest News

Lighting Up the Night (video): This [thrill seeker paddles a kayak](#) down the White Salmon River in the pitch dark.

Designing His Own Drone: This [farmer uses his drone to](#) check plant health, look for pests, and count the number of trees that need to be ordered for replanting.

Crashed Ice in a Farm Setting (video): This Minnesota farmer took five years to create a mini-replica of a "[crashed ice training course](#)," and participants love to speed on its jumps and icy paths.



A wild kayak ride in the dark.

The Many Costs of Food Waste: This *National Geographic* report looks at the social, economic, and moral [implications of food waste](#).

Food Waste Across the Supply Chain (related to above): For further insights about this topic, check out this UPenn/CAST publication, [Food Waste Across the Supply Chain: A U.S. Perspective on a Global Problem](#).

Ag in Paradise (opinion): This article says Hawaii agriculture has advantages and disadvantages that make it a [good place to experiment](#) with ag technology and innovations.

An Ironical Slowdown: As the climate warms, there is [actually a slower snowmelt](#)--both in timing and rates--according to this University of Nevada-Reno study.

Just Say No to Crack? A rapidly advancing [crack in Antarctica's fourth-largest ice shelf](#) has scientists concerned that it is getting close to a full break.

Cats and Dogs Join Forces: This University of Florida researcher says cats and dogs may be longtime enemies, but when teamed up, [they keep rodents away](#).

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.



If you have a good idea for a CAST publication, contact us by [clicking HERE for the "Proposal Format](#) and Background Information Form."

CAST provides Friday Notes as a benefit to its members. Please do not forward, edit, copy, or distribute the Notes in any form to nonmembers without the express permission of the CAST Executive Vice President Kent Schescke (kschescke@cast-science.org). Instead, please encourage your colleagues to join CAST and thereby become eligible for all membership benefits.

Contact Colleen Hamilton at 515-292-2125, ext. 224 or [chamilton@cast-science.org](#), or [CLICK HERE](#) for CAST membership information.

Societies, Companies, and Nonprofit Organizations Serving on the CAST Board of Representatives

- * American Association of Avian Pathologists
- * American Association of Bovine Practitioners
- * 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 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
- * Aquatic Plant Management Society
- * California Dairy Research Foundation
- * Council of Entomology Department Administrators
- * Croplife America
- * Crop Science Society of America
- * DuPont
- * Elanco Animal Health
- * Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy
- * Monsanto
- * National Corn Growers

- * 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
- * United Soybean Board
- * Weed Science Society of America
- * Western Society of Weed Science
- * WinField, a Land O'Lakes Company

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

- * Cal Poly
- * Cornell University
- * Iowa State University
- * Kansas State University
- * Mississippi State University
- * North Carolina State University
- * Texas A&M University College of Ag & Life Sciences
- * The Ohio State University
- * University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture
- * University of California-Davis
- * University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences
- * University of Kentucky
- * University of Nebraska Agricultural Research Division
- * University of Nevada



Note: WinField Solutions (Land O'Lakes) provides sponsorship for the distribution of *Friday Notes* to the National Association of Agricultural Educators.

Dan Gogerty (Managing Communications Editor)
The Council for Agricultural Science and Technology
4420 West Lincoln Way
Ames, Iowa 50014-3347
Phone: 515-292-2125, ext. 222; Fax: 515-292-4512; E-mail: dgogerty@cast-science.org



**** With assistance from Carol Gostele (Managing Scientific Editor), Hannah Pagel (Student Administrative Assistant), and Mikayla Dolch (Student Administrative Assistant)**