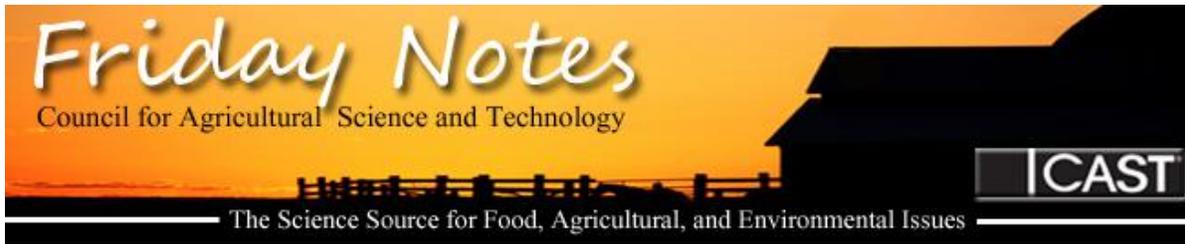


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Friday Notes is designed to enhance communication among various agricultural sectors, educators, students, and the public who are interested in a variety of plant, animal, food, and environmental issues. *Friday Notes* advocates the pursuit of credible, 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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[Animal Agriculture News](#)

[Food Science and Safety News](#)

[Plant and Environment News](#)

[International News](#)

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Super Blood Blue



In case you missed the show, [check out these photos](#) from the lunar event seen around the world.

Farm Bill Info

In February and March, economists from the universities of Kansas State and Nebraska will bring the [latest information about the new Farm Bill](#) to various conference centers.



[Click here to submit an idea](#) for a CAST publication.

Pesticide Safety

[National Pesticide Safety Education Month](#) reinforces core principles of

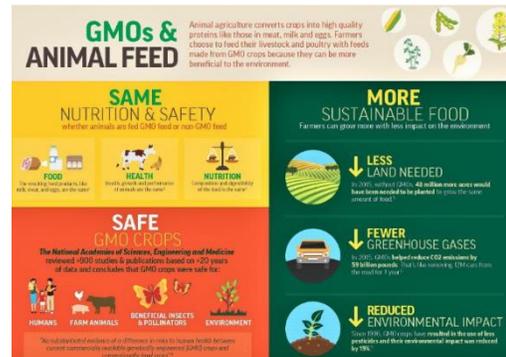
February 2, 2018

Biotech Food

Debates and science-based information

The documentary [Food Evolution](#) has raised the bar on the GMO debate--media sources are filled with opinions from various angles, and now scientists are speaking up more in an effort to use facts and research in the conversation. Some groups advocate alternatives to biotech foods (Non-GMO

Project) and some oppose biotech innovations (GMWatch). But many other sites, blogs, and reports promote a science-based look at the situation. The [GMO Answers site](#) says its mission is to dispel misconceptions about GMOs and animal feed. They add [top studies and news stories about GMOs](#) to the website every day in an effort to increase the variety of resources available to site visitors. For related information regarding biotech food labels, scroll down to page two.



News and Views

USDA and FDA Collaboration: The [two federal agencies tasked with enforcing the nation's food safety laws](#) agreed to collaborate better, update biotechnology regulations, and implement new safety inspections on produce farms.

Ag Issues: Jayson Lusk looks at some of the food issues that could have the [biggest impacts on agriculture, business, and politics](#).

Rural Broadband Access: The [Precision Agriculture Connectivity Act of 2018](#) would require the Federal Communications Commission to form a task force to address gaps in broadband access.

Fixing the Food System: This food commentator says [the food movement gets some things right, but](#) she does not think small, local organic farms are the key to fixing our food system.

safe pesticide use and raises awareness of and support for land-grant university Pesticide Safety Education Programs.

Classroom Resources

The Renewable Fuels Association has developed an "[Ethanol in the Classroom](#)" course--an interactive way for students to learn about the renewable fuel.

CAST Social Media



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

Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Pinterest, videos, and blogs.

News from the Far Side of the Barn

Downhill Drone (video): This mountain scenery from a drone's eye view [turns hypnotic about 60 seconds into the video](#), as it provides the adrenaline rush of a skier floating down the slope.



Cute but deadly-- story at left.

Happy Birthday--and Don't Kill Me (video): Fiona--the world's most famous hippopotamus--turned one, and handlers remind us that [hippos are dangerous](#).

A Different O.J. Chase Scene: How not to move [8,000 pounds of stolen oranges](#).

CAST Connections

Labels and Biotech Food

According to this article by former U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, so-called "absence claims" labels--those that arbitrarily tell a consumer what isn't in a product, rather than what is--represent an emerging [labeling trend that is harmful](#) both to the consumers who purchase the products and the industry that supplies them. This report also features references to CAST research and an issue paper chaired by Kent Messer--[Process Labeling of Food: Consumer Behavior, the Agricultural Sector, and Policy Recommendations](#). An earlier issue paper from CAST explains the controversy surrounding [another basic labeling topic: The Potential Impacts of Mandatory Labeling for Genetically Engineered Food in the United States](#).



CAST Blogs--Communicating about Ag Issues

In this guest entry, a farmer gives her opinion about dealing with [misleading and slanted news items: How to Use Critical Thinking Skills without a Science Background](#).

CAST's Communication Specialist, Kylie Peterson, uses this blog to examine some of the latest research about [consumer trust and transparency in the food system](#).

Friday Notes News Categories

Photos courtesy of the Agricultural Research Service (top masthead); TopLatest News (globe at right). P. 1 moon pic from AJGreen.jpg, Fiona pic from pinterest.com, and gmo graphic from gallery.mailchimp.com. Animal Sec. pig pic from pbstwing.com. Food Sec. tuna pic from youtube.com. Plant Sec. soil pic from nationofchange.org. Inter. Sec. sign pic from travelforwildlife.com. Gen. Sec. millipede pic from vtnews.vt.edu. Unless otherwise noted, photos courtesy of the USDA Agricultural Research Service.





Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

Smart Farming (video): This farm was named the [2018 Innovative Dairy Farm of the Year](#)--tying in soil health, manure use, and other beneficial practices.

Underwater Finds (video): Scientists recently made two discoveries--a [shark species that prefers feasting on a plant-based diet](#) and [fossilized barnacles that reveal information about ancient whale migrations](#).

Cattle Up-cyclers: This Texas A&M bovine nutritionist discussed his analysis of cattle as "the original up-cyclers"--[efficiency and sustainability in food production](#).

Robotic Implants: A Canadian scientist constructed [robotic implants that can stimulate the growth of tissue](#) inside a living organism. His test subject--pigs.

Turkey Roots: Researchers uncovered the origins of the [earliest domesticated turkeys](#) in ancient Mexico--the Mayans and Aztecs used them for meat and cultural rituals.

Sexed Semen: A battle is brewing in the United States about [new technologies designed to make sure only milk-producing cows are born](#) into the dairy industry.

Poultry Innovation: In a bid to improve the income of the poultry industry, scientists have developed a [DNA-based technology for determining the sex of zero-day chicks](#).



This pig farmer explains why [scientific techniques could bring better disease resistance](#) for his herd, saving baby pigs and potentially millions of dollars for the pork industry.



Food Science and Safety News

A Penalty-free Super Bowl: These tips from the Centers for Disease Control might help provide a [food poisoning-free Super Bowl LII](#).

Wingin' It: Projections indicate that [Americans will eat 1.35 billion chicken wings](#) during the Super Bowl frenzy.

Soy-based Foods: Researchers from the University of Illinois found that [the more soy-based foods a person eats, the less likely](#) they are to get prostate cancer.

Food, Nutrition, and Class: This study documents the disturbing [extent of nutritional inequality in America](#)--pointing out that differences have more to do with class than location.

Raw Milk Revisited: As an update to the raw milk issue, this article explains a state bill in progress and the [heated debate about the controversy](#).



You can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish--however, as this video shows, you can [expertly butcher one](#).

Food Industry Shifts: This article covers some of the [big shifts the food industry faces](#) in 2018.



Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

Bionic Leaf: This postdoctoral fellow is exploring how to use sun to [enrich soil with an artificial leaf and engineered bacteria](#).

Nitrogen Use and Big Data: Cornell University's Adapt-N tool provides [precise nitrogen fertilizer recommendations](#) that account for the effects of seasonal conditions. This article looks further at the [methods used to harness the power of data and innovative modeling](#) to help farmers deal with nitrogen use.

Smog from the Soil? A [previously unrecognized source of nitrogen oxide](#) is contributing up to about 40% of the NOx emissions in California, according to a study led by UC-Davis.

Finger on the Pulse: The pulse crop industry in Nebraska, specifically field peas, has [been growing steadily since 2011](#).

When Blooms Are Harmful: Iowa State researchers have received an EPA [grant to study harmful algal blooms](#) in Iowa lakes.

Soil Studies: This new row-crop product [creates a house-like environment for soil microbes](#) that help corn, soybeans, and many crops thrive.

Cotton and Corn: Cotton following corn in rotation resulted in [substantial yield increases](#) compared to continuous cotton in a 12-year study at Mississippi State University.



The combination of bacteria and fungi is [known as the soil microbiome](#).



International News

Februdairy: A British initiative is aiming to flood social media with [positive messages about milk production](#) during February.

Dairy Info (related to above): This interview with ag expert Jude Capper provides [more insight regarding Februdairy](#).

Fighting Livestock Diseases: A charity founded by Microsoft billionaire Bill Gates is funding a [fight against the global spread of livestock diseases](#).

Salmonella and Powdered Milk: The French dairy group admits that some of its [products may have been tainted over more than a decade](#).

Global "Unhealth" (opinion): According to this site, malnutrition--a blanket term covering conditions such as wasting, stunting, obesity, and lack of adequate vitamins and minerals--is the [world's biggest health problem](#).



A [kangaroo takes out a cyclist](#) in Australia--no serious injuries, but a new-found respect for bouncing marsupials.



General Interest News

Poo Eating Pooch: This survey finds that [lots of dogs eat feces](#) and researchers suggest there may be an ancient answer.

Better Biosecurity: As we withstand winter, [biosecurity should be at the forefront of everyone's mind](#).

A hypoallergenic peanut? This North Carolina food scientist is pioneering a [process for engineering safer peanuts](#) that prevent deadly reactions.

Feeding the World: The Global Agricultural Productivity Report noted that, for the fourth straight year, [agricultural productivity growth is not accelerating fast enough](#) to sustainably feed the world in 2050.

The Holy Grail of Dinosaurs: Scientists say that fossils unearthed in Egypt will help [fill in important gaps about how dinosaurs evolved](#).



This newly discovered invertebrate comes in more color combinations than any other millipede, but [only one flavor--cyanide](#).

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."

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

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- * Crop Science Society of America
- * DuPont
- * Elanco Animal Health
- * 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

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