

week-long program for U.S. graduate students interested in developing an understanding of the challenges around global food security

Extra Job Training

This UC-Davis program is an example of how universities help provide additional [training for students as they aim for specific professions](#) and industries.



CAST Social Media

Click here for [links to CAST sites](#):
Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Pinterest, videos, and blogs.

and training as they develop [innovative and life-changing advancements in agriculture](#).

News from the Far Side of the Barn

Luke, I Am Your Farmer: In a shameless move to capitalize on the *Star Wars* craze, we offer this look at why Luke Skywalker is the [most famous farm boy in the galaxy](#). The article includes a performance from Darth Farmer.



Esther the pig has an [enthusiastic social media following](#).

Bull 2, Unfortunate Dude
0: This is why you should [never turn your back on a sinister bull](#).

Dogs in Snow: Good to see [someone likes the record cold and snow](#).

CAST New Year Updates

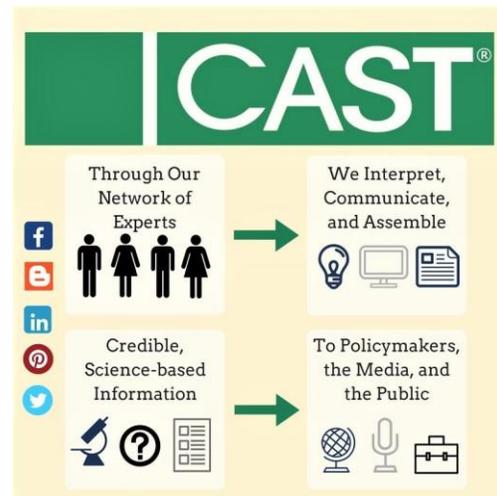
Announcements, links, and items keeping you tuned into some of the happenings and opportunities at CAST

Seaboard Foods has joined CAST, and it's worth noting that they not only strive to produce safe, quality food, they also have a [high school scholarship program](#) with a February 16 deadline. A CAST welcome to this vibrant company.

Nominations are open for the [2018 Borlaug CAST Communication Award](#), an honor that recognizes professionals actively working in agricultural, environmental, or food sectors while also promoting agricultural science in the public policy arena. Due date: February 5.

Speaking of the BCCA, this blog comes from 2017 winner Jayson Lusk: "[Year in Review](#)." And this blog from Kevin Folta, the 2016 winner, explains why [transparency and communication are so important](#).

Along with individuals, companies, universities, and organizations, societies have been a key pillar of CAST's effectiveness since 1972. Originally instituted as a "society of societies," CAST now has 22 society members.



Friday Notes News Categories

Photos courtesy of the Agricultural Research Service (top masthead); TopLatest News (globe at right). P. 1 eagle pic from youtube.com, gene-edit pic from osv.com, Farm Bill graphic from usda.com, and pig pic from reddit.com. Animal Sec. deer pic from foxnews.com. Food Sec. restaurant pic from newscastic.com. Plant Sec. water pic from linkingsustainability.jpg. Inter. Sec. rice field pic from art.jpg. Gen. Sec. collage from jennyschlecht.agweek. Unless otherwise noted, photos courtesy of the USDA Agricultural Research Service.



Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

USDA Projects Record Meat Consumption (video): For all the buzz about pea protein and lab-grown burgers, Americans are set to eat [more meat in 2018 than ever before](#).

Poultry Welfare (opinion): Alison Van Eenennaam looks at the California "[poultry welfare law](#)."

Playful Piglets: During a recent study, [researchers measured object recognition in piglets](#) by testing their reactions to new toys. Click here for the blog "[Pigs That Fly, Drink Beer, and Dig Toys](#)."

Grass-fed Beef and Nutrients: With insights from Texas A&M and the University of Nebraska, this article looks at the increasing demand for grass-fed beef and [dealing with grass nutrient problems](#).

Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices: The USDA announced it will [withdraw the proposed rule](#) regarding organic livestock and poultry practices. [Reactions are mixed](#).

Hog Housing: This National Hog Farmer study looks at how much floor space is needed for [sows that are group housed](#).

Buzzing Around: When honeybee colonies get larger, [common sense suggests it would be noisier with more bees buzzing around](#), but this study shows that is not the case.



Venison--deer meat--is turning up in both [exclusive restaurants and local food pantries](#).



Food Science and Safety News



We Are What We Eat (video-opinion): This UC-Davis information recommends a diet that--according to them--is [good for people and the planet](#).

Bad restaurant reviews sometimes [make interesting reading](#).

Jayson Lusk on Food Prices: Trends suggest we [can expect small increases in prices of food at home](#), but prices of food away from home may continue to rise at historical rates.

Most Nutritious Diet Plans (opinion): This panel of nutritionists, dietary consultants, and doctors provides [opinions about the best diets](#)--the Mediterranean Diet scored high.

When Older Means Tastier: [Modern technology has improved efficiency, but has it compromised flavor?](#) This recent study suggests the answer is "yes!"

Something Fishy: New research found that [children who eat fish at least once a week sleep better and have higher IQs](#) than those who don't.

Safer Food: A patent registration is pending for intervention [recipes that might successfully disinfect](#) avocados, mangoes, strawberries, chilies, tomatoes and coriander.



Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

Biotech Perspectives (opinion video): Although [no scientific evidence shows a problem](#) with GMOs in food, some organizations are ignoring the science and blocking innovation.

Glyphosate Classification: Glyphosate, the most widely used herbicide in the world, is [not likely to cause cancer](#) in humans, according to the EPA.

The Rise of the Soybean: Farmers in the U.S. grew [more soybeans in 2017 than ever before](#), and this article looks at how that surge has occurred.

Organic Fraud Watch: The USDA encourages legal organic operations and certifying agents to [be on guard for fraud](#).

Forage Grass Varieties: This article examines the benefits of growing [multiple types of forage grasses](#) for grazing animals.

Forages and Weather: This University of Arkansas article looks at why the state's [forages were hit hard](#) by the whims of 2017's weather cycles.

Martian Brew: Anheuser-Busch is pushing the boundaries of beer as they [prepare to study the germination of barley in space](#). Farmers, however, have other earthly concerns.



Iowa State University researchers have developed "plant tattoo sensors" to take real-time, [direct measurements of water use in crops](#).



International News

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 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
- * Aquatic Plant Management Society
- * BASF Corporation
- * Croplife America
- * 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

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)
Kylie Peterson (Communications and Social Media Specialist)
The Council for Agricultural Science and Technology
4420 West Lincoln Way
Ames, Iowa 50014-3447
Phone: 515-292-2125, ext. 222 (Dan) and 230 (Kylie)
E-mail: dgogerty@cast-science.org and kpeterson@cast-science.org



**** With assistance from Carol Gostele (Managing Scientific Editor)**