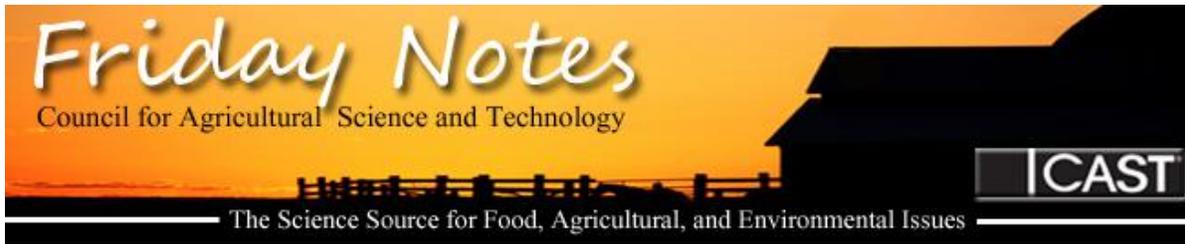


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Friday Notes is designed to enhance communication among various agricultural sectors, educators, students, and the public who are interested in a variety of plant, animal, food, and environmental issues. *Friday Notes* advocates the pursuit of credible, unbiased, science-based information. Material contained in linked articles is from the original authors and does not necessarily reflect the views of CAST.

In This Issue..... [Click to Read](#)

[Capitalizing on the Joys of County Fair Season--P. 2](#)

[Animal Agriculture News](#)

[Food Science and Safety News](#)

[Plant and Environment News](#)

[International News](#)

[General Interest News](#)



National Moth Week

In celebration of National Moth Week, these [facts show surprising ways moths impact our lives](#).

Influencing STEM

Here is [a list of the top influencers, brands, and publications](#) driving the most engagement on social media around the topic of STEM in 2018.

Tackling Food Security

Two Mississippi State grad students were among only 40 selected for a training and leadership program [focused on global food security](#).

IFIC Food Conference

The International Food Information Council will host the "[Food Innovation Summit](#)" on September 21 in Washington, D.C.

Shark Week

July 27, 2018

EU Rules on Genome Editing

Scientists react to the decision



The European Court of Justice ruled that altering living things using the relatively new [technique of genome editing counts as genetic engineering](#). It would mean any novel food developed with the help of gene editing would need to be labeled as GM. The ruling would also apply to developments in the treatment of genetic disease in humans and genetically altered animals.

Many scientists had hoped that organisms created using precise gene-editing technologies such as CRISPR-Cas9 would be exempted from existing European law that has limited the planting and sale of GM crops--[but that did not happen](#). As one German expert said, "While good news for opponents of such products, it is a [setback for genetic research on the continent](#)."

CAST published a significant issue paper about this topic earlier in July--[Gene Editing in Agriculture: Methods, Applications, and Governance](#). The organization benefits from experts who do research and publish insights about biotech. The following three [BCCA winners](#) maintain Twitter accounts that cover science and ag issues, including the genome editing debate: [Alison Van Eenennaam](#), [C. S. Prakash](#), and [Kevin Folta](#).

News and Views

Trade Aid: Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue announced a [\\$12 billion short-term relief program to aid farmers](#) who are currently bearing the repercussions of trade disputes. According to Perdue, the funds will be paid out through three programs administered [under the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act](#). Check here to see how members of the agriculture industry [took to social media to express their reactions](#).

Trade Relief? President Trump reports progress in [trade negotiations with the European Union](#). He says the two sides plan to work toward zero tariffs and barriers.



In celebration of Shark Week, [a team of scientists and researchers created a new interactive map](#)

with animated shark tracks and commercial fishing activity along the East Coast.

Endangered Species

According to an Ohio State University report, most Americans [support the Endangered Species Act](#) despite efforts to curtail it.

Submit an Idea

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



Discovery Demonstration

Teams of college students from the U.S., Canada, and China will compete at the 2018 ASABE Annual International meeting to [build robots that mechanize farm work.](#)



Catch CAST Online!

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

Institute for Antimicrobial Resistance Research and Education:

Iowa State University will lead a new [research center into antibiotic-resistant bacteria](#)--partnering with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Iowa, and the Mayo Clinic.

Free-range Poultry Paper: CAST's influential [issue paper--Impact of Free-range Poultry Production Systems on Animal Health, Human Health, Productivity, Environment, Food Safety, and Animal Welfare Issues](#)--has been featured in the media and [downloaded from the website](#) many times. Also, check out a related blog from Jayson Lusk regarding the [alignment of animal welfare and profits.](#)

News from the Far Side of the Barn

The Great Escape

(video): So that's how [the chicken crossed the road.](#)

If at First You Don't Succeed

(video): This [newborn giraffe](#) has a tough time taking his first steps.

Golden Gathering

(video): More than [360 golden retrievers gathered](#) in Scotland to celebrate a special anniversary.



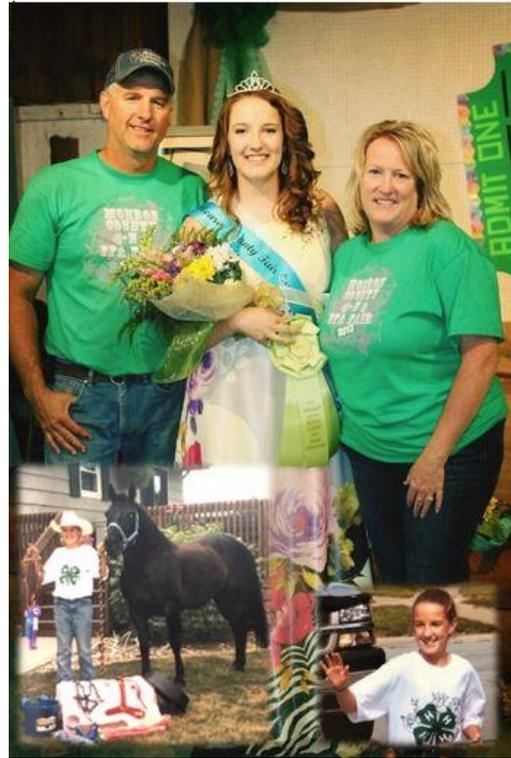
A Cut Above the Rest: This man set a new Guinness World Record for [slicing watermelons on his stomach.](#) Needless to say, don't try this at home.

Capitalizing on County Fair Season *Through the Evolving Eyes of an Exhibitor*

Ever since Kylie Peterson--CAST's Communications and Social Media Specialist--was a little girl not yet old enough to exhibit animals of her own, the county fair was a highly anticipated time of year. Although she still looks forward to this season every summer, her involvement and experiences have changed tremendously throughout the past 23 years.

As those years passed by, she became more involved and the fair quickly developed a different meaning. What was once just a fun day at the fair became the event of the summer, in her eyes. After working hard throughout the year, the fair was the ultimate reward. She was proud of what her family did for a living and the fair was always a way to showcase their passion and hard work. It was a chance to grow--and grow up.

Regardless of your involvement, Kylie is sure you have memories filed away from your time at the fair. Now that she is a 4-H has-been, Kylie spends a great deal of time thinking back on the memories made, friendships created, and lessons learned. She now lives vicariously through her youngest sister and celebrates in her successes. As she said, "It's gratifying to see individuals display the fruits of their labor and watch the agriculturalists of tomorrow prosper and grow through their experiences at the fair. That feeling of accomplishment, passed down from one generation to the next, instills confidence in the future of agriculture."



Kylie with her parents and at the fair.

During this year's local and state fair season, Kylie encourages all of you to step outside the grandstands or midway and instead open your eyes to the best American agriculture has to offer. Ask questions, learn something new, or find ways to get involved. [Click here to read more](#) about Kylie's memories from county fair season.

Friday Notes News Categories

Photos courtesy of the Agricultural Research Service (top masthead); TopLatest News (globe at right). P. 1 moth pic from edupic.net, watermelon contest pic from cbsnews.com, and shark pic from vallartatribune.blogspot. Animal Sec. horse pic from featureshoot.com. Plant Sec. beet jokes pic from gemmacorrell.com. Inter. Sec. light bulb pic from drovers.com. General Sec. family photo from flywheel.net. Unless otherwise noted, photos courtesy of the USDA Agricultural Research Service.



Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

Myth Busters (video): This video provides an overview and busts the myth that the [monitoring of animal welfare in meat plants is inadequate](#).

The Scoop on Poop (video): Dairy farmers share the scoop on [how they manage valuable resources responsibly](#) to protect the environment.

Wild Horses: A University of Nevada-Reno researcher looks at [ecosystems and wild horses on the rangeland](#).

Slat Gap Study: This project was used to [determine the most effective concrete flooring for pigs](#) to balance sow comfort, manure management, and air quality.

Beating the Heat: Kansas State researchers are making progress on a study that will help define how [water intake relates to a cow's ability to adapt to heat stress](#).

Antibiotics, Sick Animals, and Regs: This article looks at what happens to animals that are being [raised without antibiotics](#)--or ones raised under the USDA Certified Organic guidelines--when they get sick.

Fast as Sharks: The [fastest shark in the world can swim 60 miles per hour](#). Humans are much slower, but researchers at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln are looking to close the gap.

Milking Your Camel: Some [tout camel milk as a new super food](#), but others ask if it is legal, safe, and nutritious.

Betting on Pig Power: One of the largest U.S. utility companies has begun [generating power using "renewable" natural gas created by capturing methane](#) from the waste produced by 62,000 hogs.



This photographer has a commitment to capturing the [beauty of horses in the wild](#). See link at left for related material.



Food Science and Safety News

The Value of School Meals (video): Researchers show [school meals do not contribute to obesity](#). Learn more from this Ohio pediatrician and professor.



Click here to access this previous CAST

Challenging Common Beliefs

(video): A recent study shows that consuming dairy products such as milk and cheese [could cut the risk of heart disease and strokes](#). [paper for recent research about omega-3 fatty acids.](#)

Food Health Having a Bad Year? According to these officials, this has been a [bad year for foodborne illnesses](#)--but why?

Going Local: The University of Kentucky looks at the [strong demand for local foods](#) in the rural areas of the state.

Beef Meal Kits: [Fresh beef meal kits are available in 1,500 grocery stores](#) across the country--the result of a partnership between the American Foods Group and the Beef Checkoff program.

Evidence in Infants: The benefits of omega-3 fatty acids were highlighted again in a Norwegian study that demonstrates the positive effects a maternal [diet rich in oil can have on a child's problem-solving abilities](#).

Got Milk? According to the results of a recent poll, experts say the FDA's move to enforce [the agency's definition of milk could be happening too late](#) to impact consumer behavior.

Online Shopping: A new survey found that [Americans over the age of 50 do not shop for their groceries online](#), but lowering a few hurdles could sway those odds.



Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

Breeding Better Blueberries (video): Do you love blueberries? If so, then [feast your eyes on NC State's blueberry breeding program](#)--one of only a few in the country.

Busting Corn Myths (video): This video [sets the record straight on common corn myths](#).

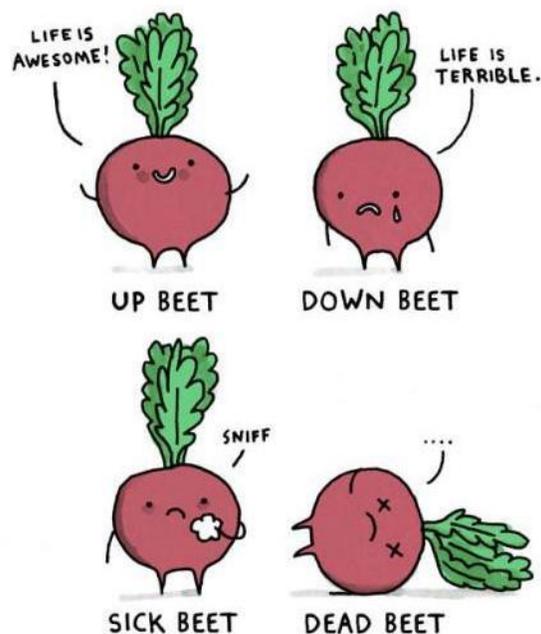
Designer Seeds: Experts are developing seeds with desirable traits, and this company is [customizing seeds to grow best in the soil and weather](#) at the specific farms where they'll be planted.

In Deep Water with Rice Research: A team of Cornell and Japanese researchers has [discovered a new genetic mechanism that allows certain rice plants to survive months-long floods](#).

Century-old Change: 115 years of data gathered by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln has revealed an [extended average growing season and buildup of yield-stifling heat](#) due to climate change.

Soy's Hidden Feed Value: Soybeans have traditionally been valued for their protein, but some [researchers say their amino acid by-product is worth more](#).

Saving What's Left: Desperate times call for desperate measures, and these drought stricken farmers are [abandoning their grain crops and bailing them for cattle feed instead](#).



These university researchers share their professional opinions on whether [plants are as unconscious and insensitive as we all instinctively assume](#).



International News

Falling in Love with Ramen (video): Once considered a cheap food for students, [good ramen has become an obsession](#).

Paving the Way for Poultry: Sixty million female commercial chicks will be produced annually from the [world's largest layer hatchery recently opened in China](#).

Farmers, Where Are Your Cows? Cattle producers are using [satellite tracking devices](#) in various countries to keep an eye on their herds.

Food on the Move: Vietnam is likely to earn 4.7 billion U.S. dollars from [exporting vegetables and fruits this year](#).

Storage and Food Security: This maize study in Uganda looks at [improved storage technology](#) and whether or not it promotes modern input use and food security.

"Porkpreneurs": Good-quality, commercially fed [pork could hold the key to future success in Africa](#).

Fueling Antibiotic Resistance: A UN report [found that most countries are still administering antibiotics](#) to make animals grow faster when they should only be used for human treatment.

The Age of Digital Epidemiology: [African swine fever is a concern for the pig industry](#) with new cases emerging in Europe weekly.



This UK company is [going beyond today's green energy movement](#) and harnessing power solely from solar, wind, and wave sources.



General Interest News

Finding a Place for Plastic (video): [Old silage bags are getting new life](#) thanks to a plastic recycler based in Arkansas.

Generation Z (video): Millennials make a lot of headlines, but studies show [a bigger and younger generation is waiting in the wings](#) to take on their role in agriculture.

On Eagle's Wings: This team of veterinarians from the University of Florida [helped America's symbol soar again](#).

Agribots: From picking to pollinating, [agribots are pushing farming into the future](#).

Evolution Explanation: Elephants have beaten the odds and [evolved powerful strategies to keep cancer at bay](#). This rarity may help scientists explain cancer in humans.

Monarch Migration: After five years and nearly 15,000 tagged butterflies, [scientists have more information on the 500-mile monarch migration](#) in late summer.



From rotation and contouring to cover crops and no-till, this farm family tries to combine new and old [techniques to preserve and build the soil](#).

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 Farm Bureau Federation
- * American Meat Science Association
- * American Meteorological Society, Committee on Agricultural and Forest Meteorology
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- * American Society of Plant Biologists
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- * 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

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