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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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#### Oyster or Mushroom?



The USDA and ARS are providing an ongoing series of high-resolution [images depicting science in action](#).

#### Summer Off The Farm

This blog explains why [taking advantage of summer internships](#) is so important.

#### Food Safety Kit

USDA agencies will provide the [Summer Meals Food Safety Kit](#) as an essential tool to help ensure the safety of summer meals.

#### Nuisance Weeds Workshop

The University of Nevada [is hosting a workshop to teach attendees](#) identification techniques and control methods for a variety of common nuisance weeds.

[Submit an Idea](#)

June 15, 2018

## Veterinarians and Food Safety

*A shortage of veterinarians raises concerns*

Most people think of veterinarians as the people who treat our pets, but they also keep livestock healthy, shape public policy, and conduct groundbreaking research. As this article points out, the United States faces a severe shortage of veterinarians--especially ones who specialize in livestock. Federal officials are taking [some steps to close this gap](#).



This [young veterinarian is the first line of defense against diseases](#) that can spread from animals to humans--a role she describes as promoting the health of cattle, but also protecting the public.

The USDA reports that only 5 to 8% of graduating veterinarians join private practices with an emphasis on food animals. Some hope that a [bipartisan Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program Enhancement Act](#) could help with the problem.

Many of the universities in CAST's [Education Program](#) have veterinary schools ranking in the top 25 of the country, including UC-Davis, Cornell, Texas A&M, Ohio State, Iowa State, Kansas State, Mississippi State, and Florida. NC-State is also a top-ranked veterinary school, and, as this article explains, [the university recently expanded its equine program](#).

## News and Views

**Tariff Maneuvers Continue:** China [says it will respond if](#) the United States imposes new tariffs on \$50 billion worth of Chinese imports.

**Farm Bill Takes Another Step:** The [Senate Agriculture Committee passed its version](#) of the Farm Bill on a 20-1 vote.

**Biofuels Overview (video):** From corn to manure, biofuel use can provide [efficiency gains and emission benefits](#)--but the industry also faces challenges.

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



### Youth on the Farm

While young people aren't replacing the exact number of farmers retiring on an annual basis, there has been a [significant growth in the number of young farmers.](#)

### Keeping Kansas Informed

Kansas offers four educational opportunities in the month of June: (1) veterinarians have an opportunity [to gain useful information](#) at this event; (2) pecan growers [will have a chance to learn](#) from K-State's top field expert; (3) beef producers can attend this [two-day conference](#) to explore a wide range of topics; and (4) Kansans can learn about [minimizing food waste](#) at these three upcoming workshops.



### Catch CAST Online!

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

**Who Cares if Science Is on Your Side?** The food system has [made enormous progress effectively engaging consumers](#)--however, much work remains.

**Adesina on Africa:** World Food Prize Laureate and President of the African Development Bank Akinwumi Adesina writes about an [important investment initiative for Africa](#). Dr. Adesina was also the [2010 Borlaug CAST Communication Award](#) recipient.

## News from the Far Side of the Barn

### Farm Girl's Got Talent

**(video):** This 11-year-old amazed the judges with [her spot-on barnyard impersonations.](#)

### Not Your Average Thief

**(video):** A squirrely shoplifter [stealing from a store at Disney World](#) was caught on camera.

### Beating the Heat

**(video):** These [dog owners thought their pup ran away](#), but you'll never believe the "cool" situation they found him in.

**Snake Bite (video):** This Texan [discovered snakes can still attack](#) even an hour after they've been beheaded.



This bear may be huge, but [it is still a kid at heart](#). See what happens when this child starts jumping.

## Congratulations Dr. Juan Tricarico

*Voted CAST President-Elect for 2018-2019*



In a recent election at the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology, Juan Tricarico--Vice President of Sustainability Research at the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy--was chosen as the President-Elect for 2018-2019. Tricarico has been involved with CAST since 2014 as the board representative for the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy. He also performs other important duties such as the chair for the Animal Agriculture and Environmental Issues Work Group and lead for the Communications Strategic Plan Committee.

**Juan Tricarico wants to keep CAST focused on the important challenge of solving "the growing disconnect between public perception of food and the agricultural community that feeds us all."**

Dr. Tricarico wants to build on the rich legacy and strong mission of communicating the latest scientific research on food and agricultural issues to nonscientists. "My vision is for CAST to be the number one go-to organization for decision makers, media, the private sector, and the public seeking reliable and truthful scientific information on food, agriculture, and environmental issues."

Tricarico will officially assume his responsibilities as President-Elect at the conclusion of CAST's fall board meeting in October. In 2019-2020, he will become the 47th president of CAST.

[Click here to read the entire press release about Juan Tricarico](#), 2018-2019 CAST President-Elect.

## Emphasizing the Importance of Credible Information



CAST EVP Kent Schescke spoke to 230 attendees at the 4-R Nutrient Summit hosted by [The Fertilizer Institute](#) where he provided an update on CAST and its efforts to improve communication about the ag/science-based information that goes to the public and policymakers.

As Schescke pointed out, CAST uses social media, blogs, a website, video, and a weekly newsletter to disseminate information--but a major effort comes in the form of research-based publications. CAST's recent special publication about [omega-3 fatty acids](#) has garnered thousands of headline impressions, news release openings, and full-paper downloads. Its Issue Paper #60 about [genome editing](#) will roll out on July 9, and Issue Paper #61 regarding the [impact of free-range poultry production](#) will be released on July 18.

## Friday Notes News Categories

Photos courtesy of the Agricultural Research Service (top masthead); TopLatest News (globe at right). P. 1 Kansas pic from [legendsofkansas.com](#), mushroom pic from [usda/ars.com](#), veterinarian photo from [publicbroadcasting.net](#), and bear pic from [abcnews.com](#). Animal Sec. salmon pic from [nytimes.com](#). Food Sec. IHOb pic from [npr.org](#). Plant Sec. plant pic from [phys.com](#). Inter. Sec. vertical farm pic from [abc.net](#). Gen. Sec. longhorn pic from [rockingolonghorns.com](#). Unless otherwise noted, photos courtesy of the USDA Agricultural Research Service.



## *Animal Agriculture and Environmental News*

### Virtual Reality Ranch Tours

(video): *Beef. It's What's For Dinner* is [bringing cattle to consumers in three new 360-degree videos](#) touring a cow-calf operation, a feedyard, and a public land ranch.

**These Little Piggies (video):** USFRA took MOMables vlogger Laura Fuentes [to a pig farm to learn about modern farming practices.](#)

**Poultry Pathogen App:** A team of scientists developed a molecular test and smartphone app that, when used together, [can detect six key pathogens in poultry.](#)

**Prepping for Disease:** Many hog experts were pleased that 2018 Farm Bill language establishes a vaccine bank to deal with a [potentially devastating outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease.](#)

**Livestock Biosecurity:** Research shows that pathogens affecting pigs are readily transferred by people, so these experts work at [managing movement within and between facilities.](#)

**Milking a Tariff Issue:** This article provides one expert's overview regarding [the complicated issue of dairy trade and tariffs](#) between the United States and Canada.



The [first genetically modified animal for human consumption](#) could be arriving soon--biotech salmon grows fast, but some controversy surrounds the process. This CAST Commentary gives [background about the biotech animal issue.](#)



## Food Science and Safety News

**Vegan and Omnivore Comparison (video):** This food expert explains how a vegan diet and an omnivore diet compare [regarding their environmental carbon footprints.](#)

**Where's Your Go-to Place?** This article asks chefs, novelists, activists, comedians, NBA players, and more about the [trusted haunts they go to again and again for food.](#)

**She Has the "Million-dollar Palate":** This food expert works with companies to create flavors, develop products, and market them. She is a [professional food designer, skilled in building flavors and textures.](#)

**Consumer Perception:** As both [a food-loving and food-phobic society](#), recent IFIC research shows Americans have grown accustomed to obsessing over certain food and diet trends.

**Baking with Bacteria:** NC-State researchers say [your kitchen towel may harbor a number of bacteria](#), but does that mean it can actually make you sick?

**Can You Eat Cut-up Melon?** This food safety specialist [provides helpful tips to keep you safe](#) during the recent melon *Salmonella* outbreak.



The International House of Pancakes [changed its name](#) and emphasized burgers on the menu. Other restaurant giants [took to Twitter to share their beef](#) with the recent change.



## Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

**One and Done (video):** A new University of Florida bug discovery supports the idea that [female insect fertility and mating habits should be more seriously considered](#) when developing pest management practices.

**Outstanding Youth:** This 12-year-old published a scientific paper that [promises a faster, cheaper, and more environmentally friendly way](#) to make pharmaceutical drugs and pesticides.

**Mother Knows Best:** New research has delved into [the genetic memory systems through which plants pass seasonal information down to their seeds](#) to give them the best chance of reproductive success.

**Disease-detecting Dogs:** These three canines have been [trained to detect laurel wilt-diseased trees](#). Early detection is instrumental in deterring a widespread infection.

**Patterns in the Noise:** An ISU agronomist has identified clear patterns in [how plants react to different environments](#) that could lead to new ways of predicting crop performance.

**Save the Grapes:** Researchers at UC-Davis have identified a set of molecular markers that influence a deadly plant disease--[gaining a better understanding of how it affects grapevines](#).



A team of researchers has developed a [biodegradable agent that keeps pests at bay](#) without poisoning them.



## International News

**Waste Not:** This Ghanaian chef is on a mission to [feed his nation on the excesses the food industry creates](#). He redistributes food to orphanages, hospitals, schools, and other places.

**A Biotech Revolution?** Farmers in India are using social media to promote and [advocate for the use of genetically modified seeds](#).

**Nordic Is the New Mediterranean?**

**(opinion):** The [Nordic diet focuses on](#) a plant-based way of eating with an emphasis on fatty fish, berries, vegetables, nuts, legumes, low-fat dairy, and whole grains.

**Ag All Around:** This special report [addresses some of the challenges facing modern farming](#) around the world.



Two Australians behind a hi-tech invention for [growing green produce in industrial settings](#) are taking their vertical farm system to the world. They use an organic germination accelerant and a "climate cell."

**French Labeling Laws:** An amendment has recently passed, requiring [all food placed on the market in France be labeled](#) if GMOs were used in its production.

**Pork Squeeze Down Under:** Pig farmers across Australia say they are at a [crisis point as pork prices plummet](#) to the "worst in living memory" due to oversupply and lower consumption rates.



## General Interest News

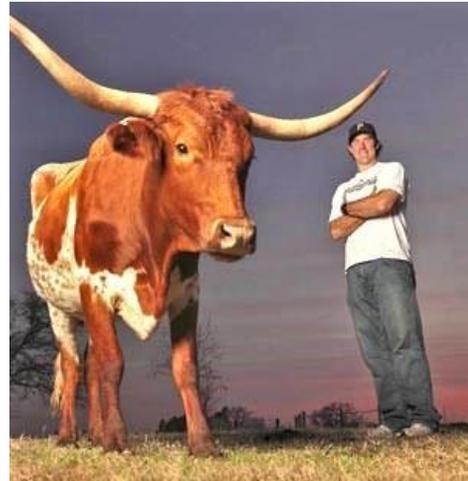
**Beer-slinging Bot (video):** As [we continuously pawn more jobs off on robots](#), there are a few you'd think we'd keep for ourselves--like beer tasters.

**Papaya and Lava Don't Mix (video):** The Hawaii Farm Bureau's latest estimate is that nearly 80% of all papaya grown in the state comes from an area [devastated by lava flow on the Big Island](#).

**Plastic Bans Are Complicated:** While there is a global focus on plastic pollution, bans on single-use plastics are [complicated due to several factors](#).

**Access to Skilled Labor:** For the first time in U.S. history there are more jobs available than individuals looking for employment--[leaving many in agriculture struggling to find good labor](#).

**Blockchain and Food:** Blockchain may have started life as the technology underlying cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin, but it is quietly starting to [revolutionize the world of food and drink](#).



This professional baseball pitcher gets joy out of [throwing fastballs and raising Longhorn cattle](#).

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

- \* Agricultural & Applied Economics Association
- \* 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
- \* 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

- \* Cal Poly
- \* Cornell University
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- \* 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
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- \* University of Kentucky
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- \* University of Nevada-Reno College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources



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