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.

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.

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 squirrelly 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.

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.
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.

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**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.

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The International House of Pancakes *changed its name* and emphasized burgers on the menu. Other restaurant giants *look to Twitter to share their beef* with the recent change.
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.

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.
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.

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.

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* Entomological Society of America
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* Monsanto
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* 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.

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