



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 the CAST organization.

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Strawberry Full Moon



The full strawberry moon rises on June 9. [This site provides various insights](#) about the moon.

Global Pork Event

As the [World Pork Expo](#) wraps up, this site provides a list of activities and updates about the many opportunities the event offers.

National Teach Ag Day

The eighth annual National Teach Ag Day celebration will take place on September 21. The day is designed to encourage others to teach school-based agriculture and [recognize the important role that agriculture teachers play](#) in our schools and communities.

June 9, 2017

Finely Textured Court Case

Money, reputations, and legalities at issue

The defamation lawsuit brought by a South Dakota meat processor against ABC News began this week. Five years in the making, this [high-stakes case could last eight weeks](#) or more. The jury will have to decide if the network and its reporter defamed the product known within the meat industry as lean finely textured beef (LFTB) by repeatedly referring to it as "pink slime" in numerous reports.

Lean Beef Trimmings are Nutritious, Substantially Identical to 90% Lean Ground Beef

They are a good or excellent source of protein, iron, zinc and many B-vitamins

GET THE FACTS
Visit www.beefisbeef.com for more information

It's 100% beef and processed from beef trimmed from steaks and roasts	Bun — 2 oz • 50 mg (440 ppm*)
The process removes the fat from the meat, resulting in a 94-97% lean beef	Bacon — 1 oz • 16 mg (160 ppm)
Ammonium hydroxide is only one part of the robust food safety system	Condiments — 2 oz • 50 mg (400 ppm)
Ammonium hydroxide is found naturally in all proteins we eat — plant or animal — and one of its roles is to prohibit bacteria from forming	Cheese — 8 oz • 38 mg (813 ppm)
Ammonium hydroxide is widely used in everyday cooking from baking powder to cheese to chocolate	Beef — 1.6 oz • 20 mg (200 ppm)

To provide perspective, ammonium hydroxide-based compounds can be found in every component of a bacon cheeseburger (bun, bacon, cheese, condiments, and beef) between the naturally occurring levels and small amounts used to make food safer.
*ppm = parts per million of ammonium hydroxide

Money, reputation, and legal aspects will be important, but one general opinion seems to be surfacing. As this editorial states, [LFTB is safe to eat](#). The prosecution called on a Texas Tech University professor to provide research showing that the trimmings used in the production are safe. She said, "LFTB is [not a filler, not a gelatin](#), and not a pink slime." The defense countered, and the [latest courtroom sparring](#) is outlined in this report. And this blog provides [reflections and links about the controversy](#) from its inception in 2012.

News and Views

****Sugar and Trade:** The United States and Mexico announced a preliminary agreement about a new system to regulate [the flow of Mexican sugar into the U.S.](#), but many U.S. sugar refiners and farmers are not supporting the deal.

****Ag Espionage:** Agriculture is a high-tech business, and some take short cuts by stealing trade secrets that could unlock huge profits. The [FBI calls agricultural economic espionage](#) "a growing threat." For background and commentary, [check this blog: The Spy Who Came in from the Corn](#).



2017 marks the 10th Anniversary of the [International Plant Nutrition Institute](#). IPNI develops and promotes scientific information for the responsible management of plant nutrition--4R Nutrient Stewardship, nutrient education, improved fertilizer recommendations, closing yield gaps, and enhancing sustainability.

Animal Shelter Enterprise

The Cal Poly Animal Science Department and Woods Humane Society teamed up to [provide students with a hands-on learning](#) experience.

Food Evolution

Narrated by Neil deGrasse Tyson, this important new film explores the [controversies surrounding biotech foods](#)--watch for it in theaters on June 23rd.

CAST Social Media

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

****Bee Buzz (more pollinator news on page 2):** Second Lady Karen Pence and Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue are highlighting the importance of honey bees by unveiling a [beehive at the vice presidential residence](#) in Washington, D.C. Also, a research team developed an acoustic listening system using [data from small microphones in the field to observe bees in flight](#). The study shows how farmers could monitor pollination and increase food production. **Note:** June is [National Pollinator Month](#), and June 19-26 is Pollinator Week.

****Farmer Sustainability:** The U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance rolled out a [comprehensive report on farmer sustainability](#). This site provides a slideshow, infographs, and data about this issue.

News from the Far Side of the Barn

Bats Are Good--But...

(video): The overwhelming majority of bats are friends of humanity--eating insects, pollinating crops, and spreading seeds. But that doesn't mean you want to [visit a cave full of vampire bats](#).



A tiny vampire bat flashes a smile.

Spiders, Lasers, and Cool

Eyes (video): Some [jumping spiders will chase laser pointers](#) like cats do. And it turns out that their eyes are complicated and fascinating.

What--Me Worry? A photo of a man in Canada--[mowing a lawn with a tornado swirling](#) behind him--caused a storm on social media. Even though the twister was moving away from him, his nonchalant attitude seemed amazingly cheeky.

Honey Bee Research and Prairie Pollinators

New Commentary and Rollout Events

At three presentations in Washington, D.C., on June 19th, the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology is releasing a CAST Commentary titled *Why Does Bee Health Matter? The Science Surrounding Honey Bee Health Concerns and What We Can Do About It*.

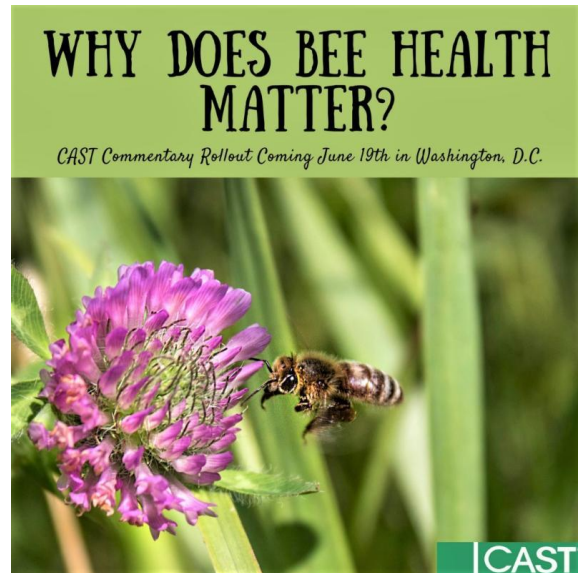
The presenter will be Dr. Marla Spivak, an entomologist and Distinguished McKnight University Professor at the University of Minnesota. [Check here for further information and details about signing up for the rollout events.](#)

Prairies and Pollinators

Prairies provide a fertile habitat for bees, butterflies, and various pollinators. As this article shows, North Dakota State University Dickinson Research Extension Center [welcomes visitors to the prairies](#)--students "engage the space, see the integration of soil, and meet Mother Nature."

The blog, [Time Travel in the Prairie Grass](#), takes us on a walk through a small prairie where "cell phones don't work and GPS systems are useless."

This blog entry--[Pollinators, Tribal Elders, and a Heritage Farm](#)--shows how the author uses artwork to explain the connections between a family farm and a prairie habitat.



Friday Notes News Categories

Photos courtesy of the Agricultural Research Service (top masthead); TopLatest News (globe at right). P. 1 moon pic from in5d.com, beef infographic from beefmagazine.com, and bat pic from usda.com. Animal Sec. cartoon from backyardpoultrymag.jpg. Plant Sec. hula hoop compilation from fotolia.com and agweb.com. Inter. Sec. raccoon pic from usatoday.com. Gen. Sec. map from pbs.twimg.com. Unless otherwise noted, photos courtesy of the USDA Agricultural Research Service.



Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

Traffic Jam with Hooves, Horns, and Spurs (video): Join with cowpokes on horseback as they herd 200 American Longhorn and Mexican Corriente [cattle along the streets of San Diego](#).

How the "Sausage" Is Made (video): The North American Meat Institute offers this clip that [takes us to the packing plant](#) for a transparent and informative look at meat production.

Protecting Farms: The National Pork Board, the USDA, and other ag organizations are working on a voluntary plan to [minimize business disruptions from foreign animal diseases](#).

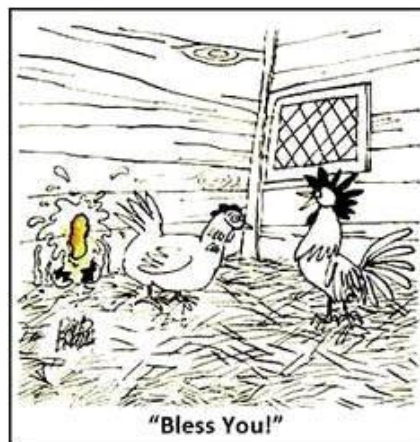
Sow Nutrition: The development of an advanced nutritional program indicates that [improved sow nutrition at key stages](#) in the breeding cycle will help increase birth weights and piglet vitality.

Inside Out: Not all livestock dwell indoors, but this farmer/blogger explains [why some farmers keep their animals inside](#).

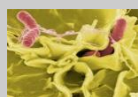
CDC Gives a Fowl Warning: More than a third of the 372 people infected with [Salmonella from backyard flocks](#) so far this year are children younger than 5 years old.

Making Use of Distiller "Waste": This study says that grass for grazing cattle becomes harder to digest as seasons progress. However, by [supplementing with dried distillers grains](#), this effect can be minimized.

Asking Your Horse To Lie on a Table: A new carbon fiber CT scanning table has been invented by a veterinarian technician at UC-Davis. This will help with the previously [laborious task of scanning a horse](#).



This short clip [addresses some misconceptions](#) about poultry.



Food Science and Safety News

Milkshake--Debate Gets Hotter: This study found that children who are consuming non-cow's milk tend to be a little bit shorter than children who consumed cow's milk. The findings are [sure to raise plenty of debate points](#).

Turning a Profit? Indoor farming is trendy, but many of those ventures have recently failed. This Silicon Valley start-up [might finally turn greens into green](#).

Food Revolution (opinion): The future of food traceability is in a revolutionary phase that will be about much more than merely keeping track of foods--intelligent [systems will transform the way we eat](#).

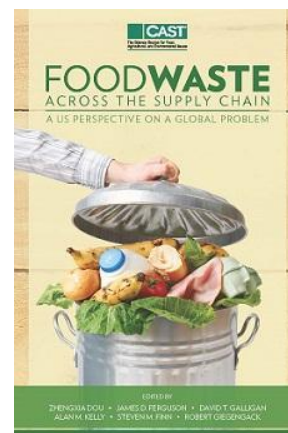
Allergies and Intolerances: This study says 3.6% of [Americans deal with food allergies](#)--the most common include shellfish, fruit, dairy, and peanuts.

Chosen as Best Bacon: Each slab of bacon is hand rubbed with a mixture of brown sugar, salt, and spices and [smoked over applewood chips](#). The curing process takes about two weeks.

What Gets Stolen from Restaurants: It's gone way beyond silver spoons; [just about anything is up for grabs](#) in dining rooms these days.

Judging Nutrients (opinion): These experts say the nutritional value of a food item [should be evaluated on the basis of the foodstuff as a whole](#)--and not as an effect of the individual nutrients.

Stay Chill about Good Fats: Researchers at The Ohio State University found that the benefits of consuming [good fats were negated in the face of stress](#).



This article provides [nine tips to lessen food waste](#), and this link provides access to the [CAST/UPenn book about food waste](#).



Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

Communication and Education: Jayson Lusk looks at ways to [educate consumers about biotech](#), and he recommends focusing on the perspectives of farmers and consumers who benefit from it.

DIY Soil "Testing": This site explains how to [discover the acidic or basic qualities of soil](#)--with your eyes, your hands, a little water, and a piece of pH litmus paper.

Microgreens: Chefs tout the taste, texture, color, and delicate appearance of microgreens. [Some pack more nutrients](#) in their leaves than full-grown plants do.

Plant Brains: A new study reveals a group of [cells that function as a "brain" for plant embryos](#)--capable of assessing environmental conditions and dictating when seeds will germinate.

Sniffing Nitrous Oxide While Raking Leaves? Decomposing [leaves are a surprising source of greenhouse gases](#), according to these Michigan State University scientists.

Crop Rotation Benefits (opinion): This article says yields and profits were equal to or higher than those for the [longer crop rotations compared to the standard](#) corn-soybean rotation, with a lower environmental impact.

Taking the Fun Out of Fungi: Kansas State researchers had a breakthrough when they [discovered two potentially damaging fungi](#)--*Fusarium thapsinum* and *Fusarium fujikoro*--are present in soybean seeds.



Hula hoops--a craze from the past--can help farmers [calculate soybean populations](#).



International News

Pets in Asian Cafes (video): Entrepreneurs in Tokyo, Taipei, Hong Kong, and Seoul have opened up animal cafes--city dwellers in tight quarters can have a coffee and work on laptops, [surrounded by furry, four-legged friends](#).

Global Milk Focus: Check the [highlights from World Milk Day](#)--celebrated globally on June 1--with companies, individuals, retailers, and organizations all promoting milk.

Fried, Scrambled, Boiled--Any Method Seems to Help: An egg a day might [help undernourished young children](#) grow to a healthy height, according to a six-month study in Ecuador.

From Paddock to Patient: Australian cattle are proving to be a key ingredient in a medical technology that is [saving the lives of heart patients](#)--they are used to create heart valves.



Cat or dog cafes? That might work. [Raccoons? Now that's crazy.](#)

Water Testing and More: Scientists are enabling citizens to [collect data and upload it to the cloud](#) with the aim of pushing stakeholders--government agencies, corporations, and citizens--toward change.



General Interest News

Biotech Divide (video): This farmer--also known as the Farm Babe--[challenges the views of Vandana Shiva](#) after the well-known activist's anti-biotech lecture.

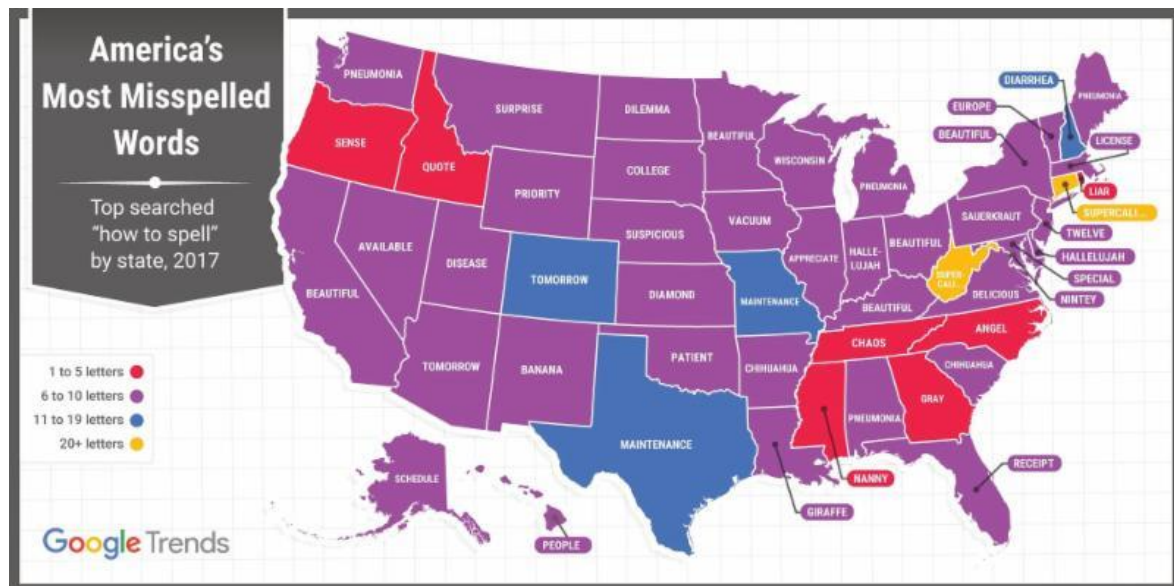
Farm Fresh for the Beltway: Amish family farms supply vegetables, fruits, herbs, and other [goods to more than 50 of the best restaurants](#) in Washington, D.C.

Foreign Workers on U.S. Farms: This article says a growing number of people from outside U.S. borders are coming to America [looking for work in agriculture](#)--many using a variety of nonimmigrant visa programs.

Ten Major Concerns for Young Farmers: Common themes seem to bubble to the surface when [young and beginning farmers share stories](#) and concerns.

Slow and Steady, But Will It Win the Race? Researchers have [decoded the Mojave Desert tortoise's genome](#), and they hope that helps conserve this threatened species.

Hot and Cold Handwashing: These researchers advocate soap and thorough handwashing for at least 10 seconds to kill germs. But they say water temperature has no bearing on the process.



Did I Misspell Misspell? At Least I'm Not from Wes Consin: Google shared America's most misspelled words with a color map showing [what residents of each state struggle with the most](#).

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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- * 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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