

aving trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



*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](#)

[CAST Impact and Influencers--P. 2](#)

[Animal Agriculture News](#)

[Food Science and Safety News](#)

[Plant and Environment News](#)

[International News](#)

[General Interest News](#)

#### Lava Goes Wherever It Wants to Go



These photos show some of the scorching [devastation caused by the eruption](#) on the Big Island Hawaii.

#### Ag Job Market Looks Good for Grads

A new crop of ag majors has just graduated from universities, and this report says [job availability is high](#).

#### Farm Kids, Summer Jobs, and the Good Old Days



This blog takes us back to predigital days when teens "enjoyed" working "[dirty deeds done dirt cheap](#)."

#### Submit an Idea

We welcome suggestions for future CAST publications and projects.



May 11, 2018

## New Report Highlights Omega-3

Professor Beitz presents CAST paper at chemists' conference

On Tuesday, May 8, at the [American Oil Chemists' Society's](#) annual meeting in Minnesota, Dr. Don Beitz presented highlights of CAST's newest special publication--[Omega-3 Fatty Acids: Health Benefits and Dietary Recommendations](#). As CAST EVP Kent Schescke stated, "It was a great opportunity to present this important information about the omega-3 issue in front of a scientific society such as the American Oil Chemists' Society."



Those who were interested in this topic, but unable to attend the event, could [tune into the rollout through a live-stream video feed](#)--thanks to the efforts of AOCS's staff. Carol Gostele, CAST's Managing Scientific Editor, has been with the paper since the idea was generated. Having the ability to watch the presentation of the special publication in real-time made the topic come to life, and Gostele learned even more about the subject. She stated, "I was glad to be able to watch Dr. Beitz's presentation of the *Omega-3 Fatty Acids* publication through the AOCS live-streaming capability. This is quite an important topic to all of us, whether we realize it yet or not." [Click here to view the recorded presentation](#).

## News and Views

**Global Grain Overview:** The USDA is predicting production [declines this year for corn and soybeans](#), while the all-wheat harvest is expected to jump by 5%. The World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) is a monthly report [providing a global look at the markets](#) for key agricultural products.

[Click here to submit ideas.](#)

### Celebrate Beef in May!



Fire up your grill and throw on a juicy steak because research shows this wholesome product could play [a part in preventing Alzheimer's](#).

### Butterflies and Ag

Supported by a USDA grant, Iowa State scientists will advance the [understanding of monarch butterfly ecology and crop/livestock production](#) in the Midwest.

### Catch CAST Online!



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

**Deceptive Food Labels (video):** "[Peel Back the Label](#)" released a video highlighting the absurdity of deceptive food labels with a tongue-in-cheek take on [how far food companies are willing to go to confuse consumers](#) into buying their product.



**Ethanol and the Administration:** Some senators say the administration will [allow year-round sales of renewable fuel](#) with blends of 15% ethanol, but others think it is too soon to know [if the biofuels industry gained](#) from a recent White House RFS meeting.

**What the Farmer Gets:** For every dollar consumers spend on food, [the farmer receives just 14.8 cents](#), according to the USDA. This amount represents a 5% decrease from the previous year's data.

## News from the Far Side of the Barn

**Bald Eagle Rescue (video):** Thanks to veterinary intervention, this [bald eagle is able to fly again](#) after suffering from lead poisoning.



**In case you need [another reason not to take rattlesnake pills](#), check out this article.**

**Pop-up Pooch (video):** This hilarious pup hides from his owners to [avoid coming inside](#).

**Bringing Meals to "Life" (video):** [Dive into the menu of the future](#), as a new kind of food revolution is afoot.

## Cast--Impact and Influencers



It's been two weeks since the rollout of CAST's latest task force report--[Scientific, Ethical, and Economic Aspects of Farm Animal Welfare](#)--and CAST is pleased with the feedback we have received. With nearly three-hundred thousand headline impressions, the paper has generated quite a buzz on social media through various organizations, universities, and individuals--with download requests from all over the world. CAST's Communication and Social Media Specialist, Kylie Peterson, says, "We expect to see continued interest in this topic as the public and policymakers strive for a consensus on the scientific and ethical aspects of this subject."

Jayson Lusk (Purdue University and 2017 BCCA winner) also focused on animal welfare with his recent Tedx Talk about [animal welfare, prices, and agriculture practices](#). As he stated, "Recently there has been a strong push for better treatment," and he goes on to ask, "Is society ready to pay the price?"

Lusk also spoke at the April 24 announcement of the 2018 Borlaug CAST Communication Award winner--[Marty Matlock of the University of Arkansas](#). His presentation, *The Politicization of Food Consumption and Communication*, [is available here on YouTube](#).

### Mindy Brashears Picked for Food Safety Department

CAST has benefited from the involvement of many experts on its publication task force committees. For CAST Issue Paper #53--[Animal Feed vs. Human Food: Challenges and Opportunities in Sustaining Animal Agriculture Toward 2050](#)--Texas Tech's Mindy Brashears was one of the authors. Recently we learned that Professor Brashears has been selected to direct the government's highest food safety job as the USDA's [next Undersecretary for Food Safety](#). We congratulate her and thank her for the positive things she does for agriculture.



## Friday Notes News Categories

Photos courtesy of the Agricultural Research Service (top masthead); TopLatest News (globe at right). P. 1 beef month pic from kyfb.com, lava pic from newsnow.live, and the snake pic from gettyimages.com. P. 2 Brashears photo from texasfarmbureau.com. Animal Sec. horse pic from clovislivestockhorsesale.jpss. Food Sec. milk pic from knowyourmeme.com. Plant Sec. roof infographic from soilmatter.org. Inter. Sec. Japan pic from fukuleaks.org. Gen. Sec. juice box pic from acsh.org. Unless otherwise noted, photos courtesy of the USDA Agricultural Research Service.



### *Animal Agriculture and Environmental News*

**An Egg's Journey (video):** From farm to plate, this video follows the journey of your eggs and provides you with an [in-depth look into each step of modern-day egg production](#).

**Antimicrobial Resistance in Beef:** Researchers say the normal [use of antibiotics in cattle has minimal to no impact](#) on the levels of antimicrobial resistance in beef.

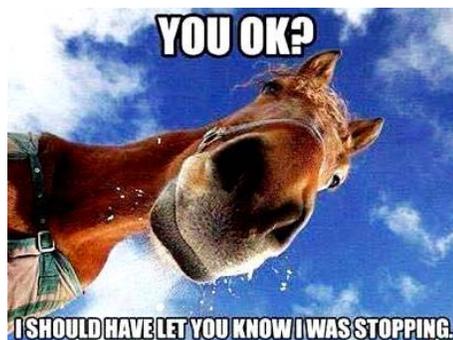
**Biotech Animals (opinion):** The FDA has approved a genetically engineered animal (salmon) for human consumption. This writer says six [other bioengineered animals should have made it](#) to market by now.

**Fire in Cattle Country:** Nearly 350,000 acres in northwest Oklahoma burned in two wildfires, causing an estimated \$26 million in [damages for cattle producers](#).

**Pig Poo into Fertilizer:** A large global pork company is teaming up with a nutrients start-up to [convert hog manure into fertilizer](#).

**PRRS Procedure:** This recently completed study [may be a great tool for managers and swine producers](#) in identifying opportunities to reduce the vulnerability of their swine operations to PRRS.

**Science Down on the Farm (includes podcast):** Beef cattle ranchers are [getting wise to the science of genetics](#)--including a new, predictive DNA technology.



The beef industry continues to evolve technologically, [but the ranch horse maintains its usefulness](#) on many operations.



### *Food Science and Safety News*

**Frozen Foods Feel the Heat (video):** Frozen food [sales have flattened or dropped](#) for the past few years. Note: the link includes a cool video of the "culinary appeal" of the old three-course TV dinner from the 1960s.

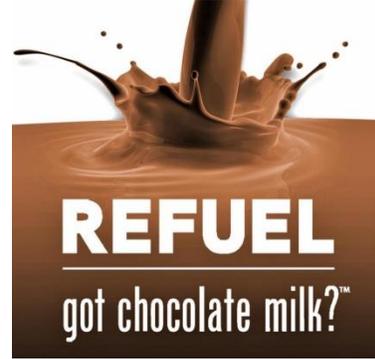
**A Farmer's Food Dollar:** This article looks at how [changes in consumer cooking, buying, and eating habits](#) have impacted the profitability of farmers.

**Latest on Biotech Food Labels:** This concise update indicates that the [United States will label GMO foods](#) (now called "BE" or "bioengineered") with smiley faces and sunshine. And the USDA says consumers don't need to know if food has been modified using CRISPR.

**Mandatory Menu Update:** As of Monday, May 7, food outlets with 20 or more sites [are required to list calorie counts on menus](#)--one of the final rules enacted by the 2010 Affordable Care Act.

**Studying Safe Food Storage:** This Cal Poly professor will be [studying the effects of storage conditions](#) on fresh-cut salad ingredients.

**A Taxing Situation (opinions):** This writer says [a soda tax involves](#) nutrition science, economic policy, human behavior, and the government's role in the lives of its citizens. And [this editorial discourages the practice](#).



This writer proudly proclaims the [attributes of chocolate milk](#) as a "recovery drink." And the USDA allows [schools to offer 1% flavored milk](#) in meal programs.



## *Plant Agriculture and Environmental News*

**Indoor Agriculture (video):** This video explains [how plants are grown indoors](#) and why it is so important for the future of the planet.

**Soybean Sustainability (podcast):** U.S. soybean farmers and their checkoff [are working to not only improve sustainability](#) on American soybean farms, but they offer sustainability for customers worldwide.

**Fighting Those Hungry, Hungry Caterpillars (podcast):** Apparently, [plants can sense animal attacks coming](#)--for example, tomato plants detect snail slime in soil near them and mount a preemptive defense.

**Saving Citrus:** A resilient bug--smaller than a grain of rice--is destroying citrus crops, but Florida University [scientists are working on a cure](#).

**Potato Research:** The Univ. of Nevada-Reno was awarded a \$1.37M grant by the National Science Foundation to [investigate the molecular genetics that underlies potato crop losses](#) during tuber storage.

**Plants on the Fast Track:** A group of scientists is essentially keeping the sun's light on as part of a [method to "speed breed" plants](#).



Rooftops filled with vegetation are [designed to alleviate some common problems in urban areas](#) such as elevated air temperatures, flooding, and air pollution.



## *International News*

**I, Robot Milker:** Labor shortages and low productivity were threatening the future of this dairy farm in Japan--until [robots came to the rescue](#).

**Liquid Nanoclay for the Desert:** A Norwegian scientist patented a process to mix nano particles of clay with water and bind them to [sand particles to condition desert soil](#).

**Pigs in Spain:** This Spanish professor looks at [how to reduce the use of antibiotics](#) on pig farms.

**Aussie Organic Exports:** The Australian organic industry [reports a large increase in exports](#), especially to China and Japan.

**Farming Vertically:** Urban farming is providing some consumers with instant access to fresh produce. Tour [five of the world's coolest vertical farms](#) in this photo essay.

**The Air We Breathe:** This World Health Organization report says many people worldwide breathe air containing [high levels of pollutants](#), and many die as a result.

**Maize, Water, and Productivity:** Scientists have observed [unexpected benefits in a Mozambique program](#) that involves water-efficient maize.



A requirement put into effect six years ago after the [Fukushima earthquake for Cesium-131 radiation testing](#) of food from East Japan has been lifted by the Hong Kong Center for Food Safety.



## General Interest News

**Health Expert or a Guru Wizard of Oz? (video):** President Trump announced that he plans to appoint Dr. Mehmet [Oz to his health council](#). Some critics are [dubious about Oz's expertise](#).

**Leave No Poop Behind:** Experts say [dogs may pose a public health problem for us and nature](#)--encouraging dog owners to dutifully pick up after their pets.

**Tick, Tick, Tick:** The CDC says [Lyme disease rates are up](#), and estimates indicate the actual prevalence of Lyme disease infections is ten times higher than the number of reported cases.

**Animals Adapt to City Life:** The book *Darwin Comes to Town* looks at how urban environments are "[powerhouses of evolution](#)." Animals as diverse as blackbirds and bobcats adapt to new surroundings.

**Where the Wild Things Now Are (related to above):** This blog considers many [impacts of coyotes and other wild creatures](#) as they mix in with human communities.

**Fertilizer on the Rebound?** Overall, 67% of the nation's top ag retailers indicate their [fertilizer sales for the spring have been stronger](#) than anticipated.



Vape Scam: The FDA is [cracking down on deceptive marketing](#) by some nicotine liquid companies--going after [violators who are clearly targeting children](#).

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:chamilton@cast-science.org), or [CLICK HERE](#) for CAST membership information.

## 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
- \* 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-Reno College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources



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](mailto:dgogerty@cast-science.org) and [kpeterson@cast-science.org](mailto:kpeterson@cast-science.org)



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