



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.

In This Issue..... Click to Read

[Spring Brings a Flurry of Activity at CAST--P. 2](#)

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And They're Off

Twenty horses and their jockeys will compete in the [143rd running of the Kentucky Derby](#), May 6 at Churchill Downs in Louisville.

Antibiotic-resistance Conference

Jeff Simmons (Elanco president and the [2013 BCCA recipient](#)) and others spoke as the [Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria](#) kicked off its two-day public meeting focusing on new ways to tackle this growing human and animal health challenge.

Undergrads and Research

This UC-Davis article looks at [why undergraduates should do hands-on research](#).

A Legacy of Ranching

An exhibit covering some of Texas' [most historic ranching operations](#)

May 5, 2017

Cattle, Autism, and Awards

Temple Grandin into the Women's Hall of Fame

Temple Grandin, Colorado State University professor of animal sciences and world-renowned autism spokesperson, has been [named to the National Women's Hall of Fame](#). She will be inducted with ten other women in September. [In this video interview](#), she speaks about solving ag problems, coping with autism, encouraging young people (especially those with learning challenges), and the importance of science teachers.



Temple Grandin's story was [portrayed in the award-winning film](#) starring Claire Danes--who won an Emmy for her performance.

News and Views

****Comments from Ag Secretary Perdue:** In this recent interview, Ag Secretary Sonny Perdue mentions several current issues, including his [support for renegotiating trade pacts](#). In an earlier statement, Perdue said President Trump may be open to creating a way for some [undocumented immigrant workers](#) to stay in the United States.

****Attack on Ag Research Center:** Attackers [hurled Molotov cocktails at a Monsanto Research Center](#) in Italy. The late-night April 16 attack resulted in no injuries, but the fire caused damage to the facility.

****Science, Ag, and Climate Change:** Tom Vilsack, the former ag secretary, says we need to [embrace the power of science](#) to battle the

[and a historical perspective](#) of the Texas A&M University animal science department is now on display at the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum.

Art Buzz at NC State

North Carolina State's Gregg Museum has a new [garden designed to attract bees and other pollinators](#)--thanks to its horticultural students.

Mapping Research

A new tool is available from the Nebraska On-Farm Research Network website that allows growers to click on a map of Nebraska [to find out about research projects](#) conducted on farms in their area.

CAST Social Media



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

challenges related to climate change. "Advancements in agriculture are good for people and the planet."

****Gene Editing and HIV-1:** Scientists show that they can [excise HIV DNA from the genomes](#) of living animals to eliminate further infection.



****Court Decision about Undercover Investigations:** A federal judge [dismissed a lawsuit challenging the North Carolina law](#) designed to discourage undercover investigations at animal facilities, including farms. Several groups are considering an appeal.

News from the Far Side of the Barn

"Buy Me Some Peanuts and Grasshopper Snacks" (video): At their baseball stadium in Seattle, the Mariners have been selling chapulines--[grasshoppers toasted in a chili-lime salt](#). The popular snacks sold out during the first three home games. [Click here for the blog](#) *Insect Foodies Are Buggin' Me*.

These Plants Can

Kill: Deadly nightshade, poppies, castor--an English garden informs visitors about [poison and the evolutionary roots of medicine](#).



It's biggest worry? Humans.

Pangolins (video): This scaly animal is cute--and endangered. Some humans think the scales have special powers, and [the dinosaur-like mammal is heavily trafficked](#).

Spring Activities Bloom at CAST

The BCCA announcement, two publications, and a board gathering

BCCA and Communication



The past eight Borlaug CAST Communication Award (BCCA) winners have continued to promote agriculture and science throughout the world. The following links give us an example of the effective communication efforts from both the most recent and the first BCCA recipients.

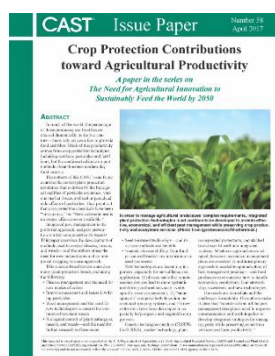
**Jayson Lusk--2017
BCCA Honoree**

Jayson Lusk points out that he has been arguing for the past several years that productivity growth is an often-forgotten cornerstone of sustainability. [In a recent blog entry, he said](#), "Enhanced productivity means being able to produce more (or the same amount of) beef using fewer resources."

In a [video interview](#) recorded just before the German-African conference on global hunger, Akinwumi Adesina--the president of the African Development Bank--commented about the current hunger crisis in the Horn of Africa. Adesina was the [2010 Borlaug CAST Communication Award recipient](#).

Publications and Impact

CAST Issue Paper 58--*Crop Protection Contributions toward Agricultural Productivity*--was released on April 5-6 at several successful events in Washington, D.C. [Click here to access](#) the paper and a video of the presentation. Press releases for the publication were delivered through Constant



Contact (CAST lists), Meltwater (media), and PRWeb (distributes news to search engines like Google, Yahoo, and Bing). Two weeks after the rollout, the "opens" on the press release numbered 4,350. The most recent website stats show 2,717 hits on the full paper and 566 on the Ag quickCAST.

CAST Issue Paper 57--*Plant Breeding and Genetics*--also a paper in the series on "The Need for Agricultural Innovation to Sustainably Feed the World by 2050," was released on March 22. This paper was also rolled out at three well-received events in the nation's capital. [Click here to access](#) the paper and a video of the presentation. Two weeks after the rollout, the "opens" on the press release numbered 3,663. The most recent website stats show 3,345 hits on the full paper and 1,171 hits on the Ag quickCAST.

CAST Board of Directors Spring Meeting



**CAST EVP Kent
Schescke**

Coinciding with the BCCA announcement at the World Bank in Washington, D.C., members of the CAST Board of Directors gathered for the spring meeting. During the three days of various activities, they attended a reception at the American Farm Bureau and continued work on the implementation of the 2016-20 CAST Strategic Plan.

CAST Executive Vice President Kent Schescke said it was also a good opportunity to make stakeholder visits with organizations and government agencies. While in the nation's capital, CAST directors met with the Lugar Center, Food Marketing Institute, National Academy of Sciences, International Food Information Council, and Grocery Manufacturers Association. They also met with officials from the USDA (REE, ARS, and APHIS)--and with Ray Starling, Special Assistant to President Trump for Agriculture, Trade, and Food Assistance.

Friday Notes News Categories

Photos courtesy of the Agricultural Research Service (top masthead); TopLatest News (globe at right). P. 1 horse pic from ajc.com-MarkJ.Terrill, Grandin pic from keywordhut.com, gene edit pic from news.mit.edu, and pangolin pic from pinktreefrog.typepad.jpg. Animal Sec. chicken pic from modernfarmer.jpg. Plant Sec. Klingenberg pic from klingenbergfarmstudios.jpg. Inter. Sec. collage includes pics from jpninfo.com and dramafever.com. Gen. Sec. fungi pic from sanpaulouniv.brazil. Unless otherwise noted, photos courtesy of the USDA Agricultural Research Service.





Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

Deadly Blizzards (video): Cattle ranchers in the Great Plains have been struck with another heavy blow after a weekend [blizzard left countless cattle dead](#) and thousands struggling to get feed in Oklahoma and Kansas.

Something Fishy (video opinion): Demand for seafood is growing, but many wild fish stocks are under strain from overfishing. Aquaculture--fish farming--is [poised to dominate the future of seafood production](#).

Chicken in Every Pot? (opinions): The city of Austin is going to [help everyone have a chicken](#) (or several) in their own back yard--some (including BCCA winner Jayson Lusk) are not crowing about this idea.

Drought and Livestock: This article includes University of Arkansas research about [drought management and recovery for livestock systems](#).

Pork Master: With his drive to improve the global swine industry, this professor of veterinary medicine at the University of Minnesota is one of this year's [Masters of the Pork Industry](#).



Chicken issues--[housing, sex, and attitude](#).

Bee Research: This university research found that the overall health of honey bee hives actually [improves in the presence of agricultural production](#), and this study looks at the relationship [between neonicotinoids and bumblebees](#). As always, readers should check multiple sources about controversial issues.

Beef Trade: The United States is [exporting beef to Brazil after a ban](#) that started when BSE was discovered in the U.S. in 2003. Brazil beef is also now allowed in the United States.

Egg News: This report says U.S. egg production has [decreased its environmental footprint](#) in the past 50 years, and these egg industry officials are working on a way to [meet the demand for cage-free eggs](#).

Pork Optimism: Rabobank analysts see a [positive overall outlook for the pork sector](#), with the demand market continuing through the second quarter, supporting margins along the supply chain.



Food Science and Safety News

Food, Fun, and Safety: Cinco de Mayo boosts sales of avocados, tomatoes, onions, limes, and other food items. This site provides [health tips for dealing with food safely](#) during the festivities.

Raw Milk Debate: Based on statistics from 2009 to 2014, people who drink unpasteurized, raw milk are 840 times [more likely to contract a foodborne illness](#) than those who drink pasteurized milk.

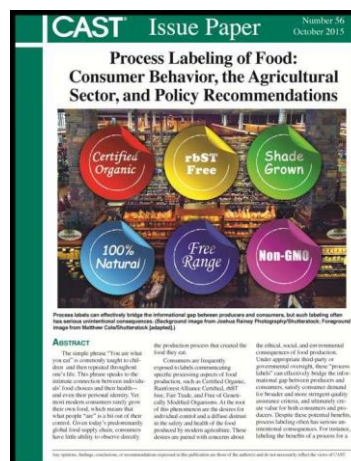
Is This Media Sensation the New Kale? Cauliflower is [cheap, ubiquitous, and a favorite](#) of many munchers and diners.

Label Law Pause: The USDA is [delaying the menu labeling rule](#) that provides consumers with nutritional information about the foods they purchase. Some want it--others think it adds unnecessary burdens.

Changes in School Lunch Regulations (video): The USDA placed a [hold on regulations in the National School Lunch Program](#) that would require less salt and more whole grains in cafeterias--and [dairy leaders praise a change for milk consumption](#) in the regulations.

Sugary Soda Tax Nixed: Santa Fe election officials confirm the [proposed tax on sugary soda](#) and other sweetened beverages has failed.

More Gender Balance in Chef Awards: The James Beard Awards are the [Oscars of the food world for chefs](#), restaurateurs, producers, and others--and this year a higher percentage of women made the semifinals.



Check out this CAST [paper about process labeling](#).



Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

Fighting Citrus Greening (video): Kansas State [researchers battle citrus greening](#)--a bacterial disease that costs citrus growers billions in lost revenue. The University of Florida is also focused on this problem.

The "Autocidal Trait": USDA officials released a draft environmental assessment of a proposed experiment by a Cornell entomologist hoping to control diamondback moths by [using bioengineered female moths](#).

Looking for Optimism as Planting Ramps Up: In the face of bleak USDA forecasts, [farmers are adjusting their strategies](#) and expectations.

Analyzing Biotech Crops (opinion): Issues [surrounding biotech crops are complex](#)--and there is a need for continued scrutiny, risk assessment, and debate among various stakeholders, according to this article.

Genetically Modified by Mother Nature (podcast): Kevin Folta [examines the sweet potato](#)--its natural diversity and some of its genetic oddities.

How to Fight Blight: Research by scientists at The Ohio State University and the University of Illinois examine the [effects of fungicide applications](#) used to counter wheat blight.

Tree Focused: People become [interested in agroforestry](#) for a wide range of reasons, including improving water quality, enhancing wildlife habitat, reducing soil erosion, and increasing crop and livestock production.



Derek Klingenberg is not shy, and in this video he displays his [excitement about planting season](#).



International News

Cows Just Wanna Have Fun (video): A [springtime ritual for cows](#) has become a popular family outing for urban residents in Sweden. It's the *koslapp*--cow release.

Food Security (video opinion): According to the United Nations, enough food is produced to feed everyone, but almost 800 million people currently suffer from chronic hunger. "[The right to adequate food is a human right](#)."

Irradiated--Not Radioactive: Health Canada is preparing to propose regulatory changes that would allow the sale of "[irradiated ground beef](#)." This has caused some vigorous debate.

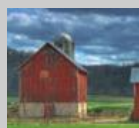
Spanish Pork: Spanish swine production has continued an upward trend resulting in the [largest EU swine herd](#).

Commercial Indoor Ag: The Netherlands is building its first [large-scale commercial vertical indoor farm](#). It's expected to serve Europe's largest supermarket chains with high-quality lettuce.

Army on the March: The fall [armyworm decimates fields as it marches forward](#), and it has spread to Angola, as the caterpillar eats its way through southern Africa.



[Pastoral zen in an urban maze](#). Ag research and education in the city.



General Interest News

Weather in a Podcast: This University of Nebraska-Lincoln climatologist gives us several podcasts about [climate, weather, and drought](#) in the Midwest.

Vaccine Victories: This infographic is presented as visual [proof that vaccines do more good than harm](#) as they fight against infectious diseases.

It's in Your Genes (opinion): According to this report, causes of obesity are not as simple as a lack of exercise or overindulging--a [predisposition for obesity has been linked to certain genes](#).

Does Anyone Like Ticks? Reports indicate that 2017 is [shaping up to be a bad tick season](#). This refresher includes information about ticks and how to avoid these (occasionally) disease-ridden pests.

Isn't Lyme Disease Enough? (see above): A few [ticks can cause the Powassan virus](#). It's rare but the tick only needs 15 minutes on your body to spread the fun.

Potash Pumped Up: Potash prices are [recovering after a decade of weakness](#), lifting the prospects of a turnaround in fortunes for fertilizer companies following a slump in farm spending.

Optimistic about Bee Colonies: This expert tries to [predict what beekeepers can expect](#) from their honey bee colonies following this year's winter season.



A new study shows that [75% of deep-sea animals make their own light](#).

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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- * American Society of Animal Science
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- * 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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