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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 the CAST organization.

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### **Veterans Day--Nov. 11**

The USDA is marking Veterans Day by honoring its employees who have served in the armed forces and by [inviting service members to seek a career in agriculture](#) once they hang up their uniforms.

### **Dr. Wintersteen Honored**

Wendy Wintersteen, dean of agriculture and life sciences at Iowa State University, is the 2016 recipient of the [Carl F. Hertz Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award](#).

### **Youth Ag Summit**

People aged 18 to 25 may submit an essay on the [underlying causes of food insecurity](#) and the effect it can have on a growing population--based on the *UN Sustainable Development Goals*. The entries for the [Youth Ag Summit](#) are due January 13, 2017.

*November 11, 2016*

## **U.S. Election Signals Changes**

*What could it mean for agriculture?*

The nation finally pushed away from its political dinner table, and Americans left behind a surreal family gathering that had plenty of food fights, sour grapes, and humble pie. Some participants no doubt savored the meal; others finished with indigestion. Now family members will decide where the post-dinner "conversation" goes from here and how they might work together for the good of all.



Agriculture is a major factor in the after-dinner scenario. Neither candidate focused on food production during the campaigns, but major issues abound, and many are speculating about what might happen as President-elect Trump and his administration take charge. A few samples:

This *AgWeb* writer looks at what a Trump administration [might mean for agriculture](#)--pros and cons.

In this *Agri-Pulse* report, two agriculturalists who played [key roles in past presidential transitions](#) offered their perspectives on what to expect as President-elect Donald Trump's transition team moves into high gear.

This *Chicago Tribune* article says a Trump presidency [bodes well for farms and coal mines](#), but trade deals might be in peril. The writer also looks at ag, tech, trade, and transportation

At the National Association of Farm Broadcasting Convention, [agriculture leaders shared insights](#) about the election and its ramifications for agriculture--audio podcasts available.

This *Politico* article points out that Trump does [not have a record on agriculture policy](#), but he will probably work on the Farm Bill, cut

## At Goonoo Goonoo Station

A group of Texas A&M Aggies spent study-abroad time [exploring agricultural practices in Australia](#).



### Magic and Your 7 of Hearts

Hannah's recent blog considers the [implications of the heartfelt message](#) she heard from a speaker at the Agriculture Future of America Leadership Conference.

### Send 'Em In

If you have a blog entry you wish to share with CAST members, send it to [dgoerty@cast-science.org](mailto:dgoerty@cast-science.org).

### CAST Social Media

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

regulations, and will possibly alter trade deals. Another *Politico* editorial says that [migrant labor shortages](#) will hurt agriculture.

## News and Views

**\*\*Biotech Ban Implications:** A Purdue University study says that a global ban on genetically modified crops [would raise food prices](#) and add the equivalent of nearly a billion tons of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere.

**\*\*CRISPR Update:** Using CRISPR gene editing technology, the gene drives have the ability to [cut and paste a desired gene into each organism](#), making a trait present in an entire population.

**\*\*Veterans on the Land:** Many veterans making the tough transition home find a [sense of purpose in the field](#), tending crops or livestock.

## News from the Far Side of the Barn

### Indiana Iguana Jones and the Temple of Snakes

(video): This BBC *Planet Earth 2* footage shows a [baby iguana fleeing a gang of snakes](#).



Ever have that feeling you're being followed?

### Quit Buggin' Me

(video): Nearly two billion people worldwide [eat insects](#)--maybe you do without knowing it.

**Gee--Why Can't I Pay More?** A Swedish company sells the [world's most expensive potato chips](#)--charging \$56 for five small bites.

## Student Membership at CAST

*Young agriculturalists need information in the biotech age*

Students make up an important part of CAST's individual membership--some through the [CAST Education Program](#) that includes high school ag classes, FFA contacts, and 14 prestigious universities. Others take advantage of the [free membership offer for students](#) while they are enrolled in an academic program. As an example, this student studied history but eventually fell in love with humanitarian aid. For nine years he [spent his summers giving back](#)--in the Canary Islands, Guatemala, Panama, Austria, South Africa, Chile, and Ecuador.

Students deal with a barrage of information about food production, and when it comes to feeding billions, biotech is a big part of the agricultural conversation. Professor Alison Van Eenennaam (UC-Davis) points out that a documentary is premiering this weekend that explores the polarized debate surrounding GMOs. Dr. Van Eenennaam ([2014 recipient of the Borlaug CAST Communication](#)



[Award](#)) is one of several featured experts, and the film--[Food Evolution](#)--is narrated by [Neil de Grasse Tyson](#).

## Friday Notes News Categories

Photos courtesy of the Agricultural Research Service (top masthead); TopLatest News (globe at right). P. 1 election pic from KSFY.com, flag pic from grit.com, and iguana pic from sbs.com.au. Animal Sec. dog pic from pbs.twimg.com. Food Sec. Hello Kitty pic from lolamipezharuerto.blogspot. Plant Sec. fire pic from bjornvaugn.CIFOR. Inter. Sec. koala pic from cnn.com. Gen. Sec. wind machine pic from paulrusnak.jpg. Unless otherwise noted, photos courtesy of the USDA Agricultural Research Service.



### *Animal Agriculture and Environmental News*

**Biotech Mosquitoes in Zika Virus Program (video):** A Florida county has cleared the way for the first U.S. test using [genetically modified mosquitoes](#) to fight against the species that spreads Zika virus.

**Crossfire about Antibiotics (opinions):** This [editorial from the Animal Agriculture Alliance](#) says that recent [comments from HSUS](#) about antibiotic stewardship are misleading.

**They Definitely Got Milk:** This blogger takes us [on a daylong journey](#) at the family's Michigan dairy farm where they care for more than 400 dairy cows and calves each day.

**Safety First:** The cases of nonfatal occupational [injuries and illnesses in the poultry sector](#) remain at an all-time low, according to this U.S. Dept. of Labor report.

**LMR Comments:** The USDA announced several meetings to gather [feedback about the Livestock Mandatory Reporting \(LMR\) program](#), in addition to current livestock and meat marketing practices.

**Law Passes but Effects Are Still Debated:** Massachusetts [voters approved](#) a "humane treatment proposition" that deals with cages for farm animals.

**Horse Help:** The University of Kentucky Gluck Equine Research Center developed a test to determine the likelihood of a long-term [equine arteritis virus](#) carrier state in stallions.

**Gut Health, Feed, and Manure (opinion):** Nutritionists and feedlot managers need to recognize [the role that bacteria play](#) in lower-gut health, immunity, digestion, and absorption.

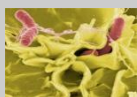
**Influential Beef Specialist:** Dee Griffin's career in the beef industry started like many people--as a [4-H kid raising projects](#) for the county fair.



So, maybe you're wondering why I gathered you here.  
[Click here to see the sheep dog litter of 17 puppies in Napa, California.](#)



**Rare Birds:** A Texas A&M University team has [discovered three never-before-documented bird species](#), and there could well be more, the team's leader said.



## ***Food Science and Safety News***

**Saving--and Using--Ugly Apples:** This Washington cooperative of more than 1,000 growers [saves almost 600 million pounds of ugly apples](#) each year so they can be used and not discarded.

**Shakin' It Here, Boss (video--related to above):** This machine shows us one way to [get apples off the tree](#).

**Food Info on This Menu (opinion):** The USDA opened up its [database of nutritional information](#) to accept submissions from food manufacturers, creating a publicly accessible nutrition index of grocery items.

**From Poutine to Paella:** This quiz lets you guess the [countries most associated with the food](#) in the photos.

**Taking Creative License (opinion):** Words like "artisan" and "forage" used to mean something specific--this blogger writes about four [words that food marketers have watered down](#).

**In Search of the Best BBQ:** This travel site provides its list of the [best BBQ restaurants in the United States](#)--and the top ten states for the cuisine.

**We Assume They Aren't Called Bambi Burgers:** Arby's test-market [turnout for deer meat sandwiches](#) has been a success, with locations selling out the items.

**OK to be Cheesy (opinion):** According to this group, [cheese snacks are a big growth opportunity](#).

**What's on Your Menu--in 2036?** This site takes a look at what [mealtimes in the future](#) might look like--from Cajun Swedish to an insect smorgasbord.



Not too tough to guess the country this food came from.



## ***Plant Agriculture and Environmental News***

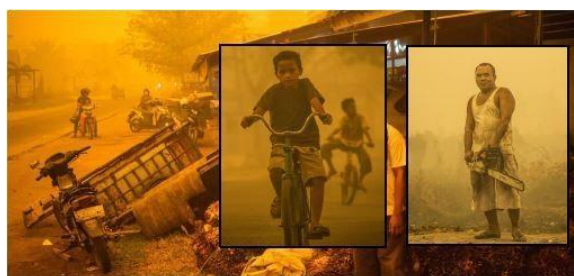
**Annual Toxic Haze Disaster:** Due to a global demand for commodities such as palm oil and other reasons, peatland clearing fires produce health impacts, economic burdens, and [annual environmental hazards](#).

**Root Biomass:** A Cornell University expert explains a new [method to measure root biomass](#) developed for shrub willow--an important biofuel crop.

**Enlist Duo Issue:** The EPA proposed more than doubling the number of states [allowed to use a new version](#) of a popular weed killer on GMO crops--some environmentalists disagree.

**Pigweed Update:** Missouri researchers find Palmer amaranth in their state and emphasize the need for an integrated approach to the [management of herbicide-resistant weeds](#).

**Guacamole Lovers Are Thankful:** A USDA-ARS researcher has developed a new tool to [help Florida](#)



Annual burn-off in Indonesia poisons the air.

[avocado producers](#) concerned about a disease that is killing their trees.

**Boycotting Deforested Land Products:** Deforestation opponents enlist a [powerful ally--Big Food](#)--but there's a catch.

**Battling Aphids:** Researchers are working to [take the bite out of sugarcane aphids](#) in sorghum.

**Light-bulb Moment:** Researchers have found that plants "see" underground by [channeling light to their roots](#).



## ***International News***

**A Happy Pig Farm (video):** This family in the Netherlands built an [ultra-modern, well-equipped organic pig farm](#)--and they claim their pigs are about as happy as a porker could get.

**Koala Crisis?** This editorial says that three separate policies in New South Wales [could threaten koala habitats](#).

**Bagged Baby on Board (related to above):** A woman arrested by police in Brisbane, Australia, shocked officers by handing over a zipped [bag containing a baby koala](#).

**TPP in Japan:** The Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement has [cleared its main hurdle](#) in Japan's parliament, but not without controversy.

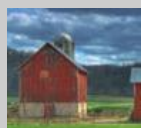
**Afghan Ag Aid:** UC-Davis, Texas A&M's Norman Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture, and other universities have been working to help [improve the lives and livelihoods of farmers in Afghanistan](#).

**Canadian Bacon:** The [Canadian hog industry](#) is looking for ways to adapt to the "Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pigs."

**Islands in the Sky:** For the last six years, a team of Australian conservationists has been growing critically [endangered native plants on the roofs](#) of buildings in Melbourne.



**Bagging a baby koala.**



## ***General Interest News***

**The Big Dry in Pictures:** This award-winning photo essay focuses on the water and [drought challenges still facing some parts](#) of California.

**Science Buzz at Florida Ag Expo:** The 2016 Florida Ag Expo became a showcase for [the power of science](#).

**Baseball History and Public Health:** When the Chicago Cubs last won the World Series [108 years ago](#), life expectancy was 49.5 years for men and 52.8 for women.

**Profit and Sustainability:** This soybean farmer says that [profit and sustainability go hand-in-hand](#), as he uses savvy and progressive techniques on his farm.

**Blending Fertilizers:** The Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan Inc. announced that its shareholders overwhelmingly [voted to approve the proposed merger](#) of equals with Agrium Inc.

**Loan Help for Veterinarians:** The USDA awarded more than \$4.3 million to 48 American veterinarians to [help repay a portion of their veterinary school loans](#) in return for serving in areas lacking sufficient veterinary resources.

**Doomed Flights:** Wind power has many advantages, but wind farms have a long-documented history of [killing thousands of birds and bats](#) each year.

**Not OK on This Issue:** Oklahomans were not ready to enshrine the "[right to farm](#)" in the state constitution as voters in urban and rural areas rejected State Question 777.



The Tow and Blow fan--designed to fight frost damage in citrus groves--at the Florida Ag Expo.

## 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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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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- \* 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 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
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- \* Northeastern Weed Science Society
- \* Poultry Science Association
- \* Society for In Vitro Biology
- \* Soil Science Society of America
- \* Syngenta Crop Protection
- \* United Soybean Board
- \* Weed Science Society of America
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- \* 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



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