

Friday Notes

Council for Agricultural Science and Technology

CAST

The Science Source for Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Issues

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.

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Up the Creek with a Paddle



Kayakers versus waterfalls--including video of a man [going over a 110-foot drop](#) in Canada.



Nominations Are Open

Nominations are due by Feb. 4, 2019, for the [2019 Borlaug CAST Communication Award](#).

Scroll down to page two for related information.

New Perspectives

The winners of NC-State's [Envisioning Research Contest](#) offer new perspectives on our world.

In the Legacy of George Washington Carver

Seven students nationwide received the George Washington Carver [Spirit of Innovation and Service Award](#)--honorees came from Kansas

November 2, 2018

Opportunities for Ag Students

Establishing connections to empower the future

Thanks to the generosity of one of CAST's individual members, five UC-Davis graduate students--focusing on careers in agriculture and food science--were given the opportunity to attend the 2018 CAST Annual Meeting. This gave the students an orientation of CAST and its mission, provided networking opportunities with scientists and students in multiple disciplines, and showed them the importance of science communication.

Stay tuned to [CAST's blog and social media accounts](#) to learn more about these young scientists throughout the remainder of the year.



CAST Past President Nancy Reichert (center front) with participating graduate students.

Supporting youth in science and agriculture is paramount to ensuring future scientists, researchers, and communicators are ready to take on the food security challenges facing our growing population. Many companies, universities, and organizations provide such opportunities. We invite you to send us links about these programs so we can share them with our readers. Contact us at kpeterson@cast-science.org.

News and Views

Correction: While describing a court case in last week's *Friday Notes*, we made an inadvertent reference to atrazine, a popular herbicide that has nothing to do with these proceedings. This link provides scientific information about the [effectiveness and safety of atrazine](#).

Dicamba Ruling: The EPA is [extending the registration of dicamba](#) for two years for "over-the-top" use in cotton and soybean fields. Some label changes are also stipulated.

State, Iowa State, Tuskegee, and several other universities.



GOT AN IDEA?

Send In Ideas
CAST [welcomes suggestions](#) for future publications and projects.

FFA Leadership

Students from several states were elected to serve on the 2018-19 [National FFA Officer team](#)--including the national president, Luke O'Leary, from Texas A&M.

Student Leaders

Two Mississippi State graduate students in the CALS department were selected for a [leadership program focused on global food security](#). This qualified them to attend the Borlaug International Symposium at the World Food Prize.



Catch CAST Online!

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

Air Emissions: EPA Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler signed a proposed rule that [exempts livestock producers](#)--including CAFOs--from reporting air emissions. Note: Related links in Animal Section below.



Marketing Terms: This *Farm Journal* economist [explains grain and livestock marketing terminology](#) that can be confusing.

New Gene Editing Tool: Researchers have discovered a [Cas9 enzyme that can target](#) almost half of the locations on the genome, widening its potential use.

CRISPR Patent: A research team led by UC-Berkeley was awarded a [patent for unique RNA guides](#) that work with the Cas9 protein to target and cut genes via CRISPR. Note: [Check out CAST IP 60, Genome Editing in Agriculture: Methods, Applications, and Governance](#).

News from the Far Side of the Barn

Surprise (video): Deep sea fishermen pulled up [more than they expected](#).

The Sniff Test (video): These dogs were trained to identify malaria infection [by sniffing a person's socks](#).



Even ag world gets caught up in the [Halloween costume craze](#).

It's a Dog's Life (video): Sticking with the canine theme, this trailer for a [new documentary series](#) will just add to your love of dogs.

Leaving a Lasting Impression on Laureates



One of the highlights at CAST's Annual Meeting last week was the attendance of three Borlaug CAST Communication Award laureates. [Carl Winter](#) and [Alison Van Eenennaam](#) addressed the gathering on Tuesday, sharing the impact this award recognition has had on their careers and efforts in science communication.

Dr. Winter explained how he feels honored and inspired to be connected to Norman Borlaug in such a way. "Throughout the years I have learned that if I stick my neck out when it comes to science communication, I might get a little banged up, and times might get a little tough, but in the end it is important to reflect on why we continue to bridge the gap."

Dr. Van Eenennaam shared that receiving the Borlaug CAST Communication Award has propelled her to national notoriety--which is often challenging and uncomfortable, but always an honor. "I believe CAST is essential in aligning all the different scientific societies and bringing them together as one agricultural organization."

On Wednesday, [Jayson Lusk](#) joined the meeting via video broadcasting to share his experience with the group. "I feel this award provides visibility and elevates the recipient to newly opened doors and opportunities to engage with a wide range of groups." To read more about the lasting impression this award has had on these laureates' lives, [check out our recently published blog](#).



Alison Van Eenennaam and colleagues gave animal work group members a tour of her genetically hornless dairy cattle facilities.

Nominations for the 2019 Borlaug CAST Communication Award Are Now Open

If you know someone who is actively engaged in promoting agriculture through research, teaching, extension, or mass communication; who has made significant contributions to their discipline or field; and who demonstrates a passionate interest in communicating the importance of agriculture to policymakers, the news media, and the public, keep in mind that [nomination material for the 2019 Borlaug CAST Communication Award](#) is now available.

Downloadable [nomination packets can be](#)

[found here](#).

Borlaug CAST Communication Award
Building a Legacy of Excellence

Matlock (2018)	Lusk (2017)	Folta (2016)	Prakash (2015)	
Van Eenennaam (2014)	Simmons (2013)	Winter (2012)	Bertini (2011)	Adesina (2010)

Friday Notes News Categories

Photos courtesy of the Agricultural Research Service (top masthead); TopLatest News (globe at right). P. 1 kayak pic from lovethesepics.com, group photo from kpeterson, and Halloween photo from drovers.com. P. 2 group photos from kpeterson. Animal Sec. goat pic from goatlottery.com. Food Sec. price graphic from nfu.com and chili pic from cosmicchile.jpg. Plant Sec. rice pic from internapedn.net. Inter. Sec. koala pic from livescience.com and Kit Kat pic from nyt.com. Gen. Sec. apple pic from ctv.ca and orchid pic from bonnethouse.com. Unless otherwise noted, photos courtesy of the USDA Agricultural Research Service.



Animal Agriculture and Environmental News



A Shrinking Footprint (video): College [students find out about](#) egg production, water use, and the industry's environmental impacts.

The UC-Davis College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences recently broke ground on a [goat dairy and creamery](#)--adding to its existing dairy goat research center.

Pork Trends: This pork industry analysis includes [prices, trends, and some optimism](#).

Beef Technology: According to this article, these [eight digital technologies](#) can help the beef industry develop better management practices, accuracy, and methods.

Livestock Welfare and Farm Size: Research conducted on German pig farms indicates that the size of a livestock feeding facility does not affect the [quality of animal welfare](#).

Dairy Aid (opinion): The National Milk Producers Federation sent a letter to the USDA saying the [federal dairy aid package falls short](#).

Lamb on the Land: American lamb industry proponents [look at sustainability](#)--the land, animals, and community.



Livestock and the Environment: Frank Mitloehner--animal specialist at UC-Davis--provides this [research about animal agriculture and the environment](#). As he says, "Cows are not killing the climate."

Air Issues on the Farm (related to above): Dr. Mitloehner was a member of the task force that produced CAST IP 47, [Air Issues Associated with Animal Agriculture: A North American Perspective](#).

Food Science and Safety News

Naturally--You Should Take a Close Look (video): *Consumer Reports* looks at packaged [food labels and the meaning behind](#) some of the eye-catching words. Note: Check out CAST's [food information videos](#), including one regarding food labels and "use by, sell by dates."

"I Can Resist Everything except Temptation" (opinion): This food writer looks at [nutrition, obesity, and diets](#), and she thinks the key is to remove temptations--but some nutritionists disagree with her views.

Oh Snap (opinion): The administration's proposal to create deliverable food for SNAP participants--Blue Apron--[would be a logistical nightmare](#), according to this writer.

Achieving Food Security: The [Cornell Initiative for Digital Agriculture](#) will address food production concerns from several different standpoints.

Location, Location, Location: Research in the United Kingdom shows that simply moving where fresh [fruit and vegetables are placed](#) in a shop can increase their sales.



The Glorious Endorphin Rush: How [chili peppers took over the world](#)--native only to Central and South America, chilis have become ubiquitous.



According to the National Farmers Union, [farmers and ranchers take home just 11.4 cents](#) from every dollar that consumers spend on their Thanksgiving dinner meals.

Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

Gene-edited Plants in the Store: Gene-edited plants can be developed and marketed in the United States with no added regulations, and the first such soybeans will be [hitting the commercial market soon](#).

Dealing with Skepticism: Despite ample evidence that [GMO crops do not threaten human health](#), some consumers remain skeptical of agricultural biotechnology. When it comes to medical advancements, however, Americans aren't as apprehensive.

Wise Application: Manure [enhances soil fertility and crop yield](#)--but as this study shows, an optimum rate of manure application is important to avoid any negative impacts to soils and the environment.

Fertilizer Use: The Fertilizer Institute's 4R plan is an example of how the [proper use of fertilizer](#) can help global food security.

E-15 Effect: The world's largest biofuels producer plans to build a [new ethanol plant in Indiana](#) following the administration's directive to allow year-round E-15. Some groups still [have questions about the program](#).

Bale Grazing: University of Kentucky researchers are encouraging cattle producers to use [bale grazing with their winter feeding](#) programs.



[Wild rice consumed by our Neolithic ancestors](#) was different from domesticated rice eaten today.

International News

Treetop Dining (video): This [luxury treetop dining experience](#) in Thailand includes waiters who deliver food by zip line.

EU and Antibiotics: The European Parliament adopted plans to limit the [use of antibiotics on farms](#) in the European Union.

Pork Restrictions Lifted: The USDA [lifted restrictions on imports](#) of some fresh and frozen pork from Poland. The restrictions had been put in place due to the potential risk from African swine fever.

Deforesting: Haiti's forests have been nearly obliterated, making the island nation one of the world's [most deforested countries](#).

Rhinos and Tigers and Bans, Oh My: China will allow trading in [products made from endangered tigers and rhinos](#) under "special circumstances," reversing a previous ban and bringing condemnation from many.



Chocolate Obsession: The Kit Kat--once a British chocolate export--is a booming business in Japan. Its [obsessive fans love various flavors](#) ranging from strawberry to wasabi.

A "Disgusting" Matter of Taste: An exhibition in Sweden looks at ["disgusting food items"](#) from 35 countries--from haggis and vegemite to bat soup and maggot-infested cheese.



A Cal Poly professor is working with a team of researchers from universities and governments in Australia [to protect koalas](#)--a nationally threatened species.

General Interest News

From Farm to Film (video): A young man from Montana is [leaving his mark on agriculture](#)--not by running the farm, but by filming it.

Best Corn Maze (video): This Minnesota farm began a corn maze tradition 22 years ago, and it has become a [popular, award-winning fall festival](#).

"Just a Little Pin Prick" (opinion): This University of Florida expert says another catastrophic 1918 flu pandemic could occur again unless the [compliance with flu vaccines](#) is improved.

Boosting Vitamin D: This study claims that higher levels of vitamin D are [associated with better exercise](#).

Cry Wolf: The lethal [removal of a wolf pack](#) in Washington has been approved by wildlife officials following repeated attacks on cattle.



How the Orchid Went Mainstream: For many years, orchids were considered a luxury--the exclusive domain of obsessed collectors--but new methods [make them accessible to all](#).



Cornell researchers are helping [apple growers and hard-cider producers](#) meet the demands of a rapidly growing market.

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.



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- * 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-San Luis Obispo
- * Cornell University
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