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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 CAST.

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Ag Honors



Akinwumi Adesina (left) received the 2017 World Food Prize, and 2017 Borlaug CAST Communication Award winner Jayson Lusk [wrote an appreciation of the dynamic ag leader](#) from Nigeria.

Ag Dean New University President

Wendy Wintersteen, dean of Iowa State's agricultural college since 2006, was unanimously [selected as the institution's president](#). She will be the first woman to hold the job in Iowa State's 159-year history.

Helping Young Farmers

The website *Finding Farmland* is a [free educational tool for farmers](#) and farm service providers.

Food Evolution Viewing

October 27, 2017

Harvest Time Healing

Farm tragedies bring out community spirit

In the Midwest, autumn brings frost-tinged mornings, color-coated leaves, and the frenzy of the harvest. It can also bring farm communities together in times of sorrow. The first two [links in this blog describe the spirit of helping out](#)

[when neighbors are in need](#). The posting also includes a story that conveys the meaning behind the phrase "It's what farmers do."



News and Views

Food Safety Reorganization? Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue has backed off his controversial [plan to transfer the U.S. Codex Office--](#) international food standards--from the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service to a new trade office in the department.

A Taxing Situation: A farm business specialist says tax reform changes proposed by the Trump administration [could be a mixed bag for farmers and ranchers](#).

NIFA Grants: The USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture announced grants to [increase women and minority representation in the agricultural science workforce](#). The University of Florida, the University of Nebraska, and others will be included in the program.

National FFA Convention: In Indianapolis--from October 25 to 28--[thousands of FFA members and guests](#) are participating in general sessions, competitive events, educational tours, leadership workshops, volunteer activities, and more. Follow the news on @NationalFFA or check the [official website](#).





Food Evolution examines the debate about genetically modified organisms. The film will be shown at the [Iowa State campus](#) on Oct. 30--followed by a discussion led by UC-Davis professor Alison Van Eenennaam (2014 BCCA recipient).

Ag/Science Research

The Agricultural Research Service launched a website that improves access to [information about government ag/science research](#).

CAST Social Media



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

Ag Innovations: A perfect storm of technology ingredients is defining a new recipe for how food is grown, produced, sold, and consumed--consider these [predictions for ways the food chain will be revolutionized](#) in the next decade.

News from the Far Side of the Barn

Hippo Hassles (video): This South African crocodile learned that it is [dangerous to pop up unannounced](#) at a hippo gathering.



Open wide! [A hippo teeth-cleaning session](#).

Boo from Corn Country (video): Check out the [top ten reasons](#) farmhouses don't get much trick-or-treat action. However, this blog looks nostalgically at hectic Halloween [antics on farms in the old days](#).

Spider Beauty: These terrifying but [beautiful images of spiders](#) will feed your arachnophobia.

Celebrating Agriculture

Another look at the BCCA special event

For the eighth year in a row, the winner of the Borlaug CAST Communication Award (BCCA) was honored at a World Food Prize side event. Attendees included scientists, journalists, agriculture experts, and farmers from around the world. After a breakfast sponsored by Syngenta, this year's recipient--Jayson Lusk--gave an insightful keynote address about *The Future of Food*. In the following session, a panel of agriculture specialists gathered for the ASABE panel discussion titled *Designing the Road Out of Poverty: Ensuring Resource Access*.

This website [article summarizes some of the key points](#) from the event, and this Iowa Farm Bureau report explains what [Lusk says about connecting with food influencers](#).

Insights from a *Feedstuffs* story include this overview: "Lusk told how he looks to share an optimistic story about [what science and technology can do](#) to increase agriculture's voice in current food conversations."



Jayson Lusk: "How you tell agriculture's story makes a difference." Click here for a *Wallace's Farmer* [article about Lusk's presentation](#).



Comment from Nancy Reichert: "The BCCA breakfast was well-attended, and the audience for Jayson Lusk's presentation was a great cross-section of people interested in agriculture, from dignitaries to scientists to farmers from at least 14 countries. Jayson gave an outstanding presentation and is a great messenger of science, as is CAST. In fact, this BCCA event has become a permanent fixture in the overall World Food Prize program--a reflection of CAST's continued relevance as a credible source of science."

Photo (left to right): Dirk Drost (Syngenta and CAST Company Liaison), Richard Cavaletto (Cal Poly State Univ. and CAST President), Jayson Lusk, Nancy Reichert (Mississippi State Univ. and CAST President Elect), and Kent Schescke (CAST EVP).

Friday Notes News Categories

Photos courtesy of the Agricultural Research Service (top masthead); TopLatest News (globe at right). P. 1 photo of Adesina and Lusk from twitter.com, collage from townnews.com/fox59.com, and hippo pic from msn.jpg. P. 2 group photo from Dwight Tomes. Animal Sec. horse pic from pbs.com. Plant Sec. robot pic from octinion.com. Inter. Sec. truck pic from youtube.com. Gen. Sec. map pic from today.com. Unless otherwise noted, photos courtesy of the USDA Agricultural Research Service.



Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

Udderly Robotic (video): This automated milking operation offers a fascinating look at [how cows are milked by robots](#).

Women and Pig Farming: More [women are choosing pig farming](#) as a profession--and for the first time, a woman is named America's Pig Farmer of the Year.

In the Chicken Coop: This [inside view of a poultry operation](#) looks at how they are bred, given veterinarian care, and handled as they become part of the food supply.

Hoofs on a Plane: Texas ranchers are [flying cattle to Vietnam](#)--Brahmans will be bred with local cows to produce better marbling and tenderness.

Grading Pork: The USDA is [seeking public comments about proposed revisions](#) to the U.S. standards for grades of pork carcasses.

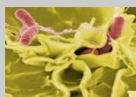
Bringing Up Baby--Poultry Style: This article provides some concrete [tips about assessing chick quality](#)--watching behavior, activity, and performance.



This large-animal [veterinarian explains why she loves horses](#).

Helping Cattle Chill Out: Stressed cattle suffer from feeding and disease problems. This article looks at cows' abilities to [remember and cope with stress](#).

Biotech Pigs: Chinese scientists are using genetic engineering to create low-fat pigs in the hope of providing farmers with animals that would be [less expensive to raise and would suffer less in cold weather](#).



Food Science and Safety News

Freaky Fast Options: This new [social media feature allows consumers to order food](#) for delivery and pick-up from ten popular restaurant chains--combining the deluge of separate delivery options.

Labels and Consumer Behavior: This study finds that [process labels--like organic, fair trade, and cage free--](#) can affect consumer behavior, even when there is no scientific basis.

Good, Bad, and Ugly of Food Labeling: A paper published in the journal *Applied Economics Perspectives and Policy* examined [the good, the bad, and the ugly of food labeling](#).

What Counts as Dietary Fiber? Gum acacia? Bamboo fiber? Xylooligosaccharides? The FDA is reviewing 26 [ingredients that food manufacturers use](#) to bulk up the fiber content of processed foods.

School Milk Nutrition Act: The nation's two leading dairy organizations applauded the introduction of a bipartisan bill to help [reverse the decline of milk consumption in schools](#).

Camel Milk Caper: Federal officials are attempting to seize more than \$70,000 in [raw camel milk products](#) stored in a warehouse in Kansas City.

The Subtle Finesse of Egg Cooking: This senior food editor says he can explain [how to best cook eggs at home](#).



[Click here for CAST's Issue Paper](#)
about the process labeling of food.



Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

Artificial Intelligence in the Greenhouse: This company plans to use three [robots powered by artificial intelligence](#) to work its greenhouses.



Glyphosate Debate: Some European officials say the EU should draw up [plans to phase out glyphosate](#), but this report claims information was skewed to [falsely malign the much-used herbicide](#).

A small robot moves through rows of strawberries growing on trays suspended above the ground--using machine vision to locate ripe berries.

Soil Health Partnership: A soil health program aimed at [helping with economic, yield, and environmental](#) benefits of farm practices has farmers enrolled from twelve states.

In Need of Some Popeye Power: Water spinach farmers are [struggling to recover](#) after Hurricane Harvey.

Genetic Advances for Sunflowers: Sunflowers are a [global commodity with a growing demand](#). Genome mapping is creating a better hybrid seed, but the crop will probably not overtake corn in the Midwest.

Insect Allies: The Ohio State University and partner institutions are using cutting-edge technology to provide an insect-delivered [antidote to whatever ails a growing plant](#).



International News

Pig Farming in the Land of the Long White Cloud: New Zealand's [pig industry has the benefits of isolation](#)--protection from diseases--and the deficits such as high transportation costs.

A Rural Hazard with Fangs (video): Officials estimate that more than 10,000 Nigerians are [bitten by snakes each year](#)--the exact death toll is unknown.

Biotech Solutions in Uganda (audio): This Kevin Folta podcast is about [scientists in Uganda using genetic engineering](#) to generate genetic lines that stop major diseases.

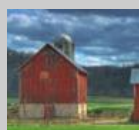


Keep on truckin'--the [longest road train cuts](#) through the Aussie Outback.

Wheat--Changes Are Coming: Australian researchers discovered a gene that could help in the [breeding of high-yielding hybrids](#)--and radically change the way wheat is bred.

Disease-fighting Eggs: Japanese scientists have [genetically engineered hens](#) whose eggs contain drugs that might be able to fight serious diseases--including cancer and multiple sclerosis.

Worms on the March: A Florida professor points out that the [invasion of maize-eating caterpillars](#) worsens the hunger crisis in Africa--crops that feed 200 million people are at risk from the fall armyworm.



General Interest News

This Land Is Your Land--This Land Is My Land? A debate is taking place across the country over [preserving land for recreational public use](#)--in Montana's Crazy Mountains, the issue is taking some strange, angry twists.

A Scam Involving Worms and Millions of Dollars: According to the allegations, a fast-talking con man used a grand pyramid of worms and [high-end ag investment to cheat investors](#). Some say the mystery continues.

Precision Management: This report says the agriculture industry is controlling runoff through conservation practices to [limit the impact agriculture has on the environment](#)--especially regarding the use of fertilizers.

Growing in the City (opinion): According to this report, [urban farms will help feed the world](#) through better tracking, financial incentives, land use, and support systems.

Farm-labor Shortage: An Idaho state lawmaker plans to sponsor a bill in 2018 that would [allow the hiring of inmates](#) for farm labor.

Machinery Market Trends: This expert looks at [trends bubbling to the surface](#) of the machinery market.



The [most popular Halloween candy](#) in each state.

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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- * 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
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