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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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#### A Foot Soldier in the War on Hunger



Norman Borlaug (right) with Kenneth Quinn--check out these 30 [classic photos of Dr. Borlaug](#).

#### NIFA Wants Input

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture is accepting input from stakeholders [regarding research, extension, and education priorities in food and agriculture](#) with a series of four in-person listening sessions.

#### Essay Contest

The [National Ag Day essay and video contest](#) theme is "How Will Agriculture Feed the World?"

#### GMO Answers

The GMO Answers site is [hosting a video contest](#) to show the importance of GMOs and biotechnology.

*September 22, 2017*

## Nonfood Uses of Plants and Animals

*Do You Know Where Your Child's  
School Supplies Come From?*

The fact that animals play such a vital role in our everyday lives may not come as a surprise to many. Not only are they raised as a source of food, they also help aid those who are suffering from physical and emotional disabilities, work alongside our armed forces, act as a form of transportation, pollinate and fertilize plants, and provide companionship.

More often than not, we assume the contents of most products we use on a daily basis to be man made. In reality, most products contain one or more animal body part as an ingredient.

Companies continue to discover innovative ways to make sure no part of the animal is wasted. From crayons to footballs, the number of goods we use on a daily basis that contain a plant or animal ingredient is astronomical. With school in full force, this is the perfect time to take a quick peek at the by-products a typical elementary student might encounter throughout the school day. [Visit CAST's latest blog to learn more.](#)



## News and Views

**Rise in Hunger:** The number of [people suffering from hunger last year rose](#) at the fastest pace since at least the beginning of this century, as conflicts and climate-related issues curbed access to food.

**Senate Ag Committee:** The Senate Ag Committee has been [considering two of the pending USDA nominations](#)--Steve Censky for Deputy Secretary of Agriculture and Ted McKinney for Under Secretary

### Gene Editing Conference

The [\*Genetic Editing in Agricultural Biotechnology Roundtable\*](#) will occur on October 24 at the North Carolina Biotechnology Center in the Research Triangle Park.

### Ag College Rankings

[\*This Best Colleges for Agricultural Sciences\*](#) ranking is based on key statistics and student reviews using data from the U.S. Department of Education. It is one of several rankings, and results often vary.

### Be A Future Influencer

Unleashing agriculture's potential is the theme for this year's [\*GrowCanada® Conference\*](#). Students in grades 11 or 12 and those studying agriculture in college are welcome to apply. Applications are due before October 13th.

### CAST Social Media



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

of Agriculture for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs. Senate Ag Chairman Pat Roberts says crop insurance and trade are two of the committee's biggest concerns.

**Vacant Positions (related to above):** This writer says [government food safety vacancies](#) have not been a high enough priority.

**Food Spending and Income:** Jayson Lusk looks at the question of [how much money people spend on food](#) as their income rises or falls. Consumers with annual household incomes below \$20,000/year spend a much larger percentage of their total income on food than higher earners.

## News from the Far Side of the Barn

### Rare White Giraffe Turns

**Heads--and Necks:** A villager in Kenya came upon a [ghostly creature with a mighty long neck](#).

**Run Away!** As these very short clips show, do not get caught in a [plague of locusts](#) or a [stampede of water buffaloes](#).

**Hey--Whatever Works:** The [mating dance of the hooded grebe](#) is simultaneously goofy and beautiful.



Trying out their moves.

## Awards, Speeches, Presentations

*Join the CAST BCCA breakfast event at the WFP*

CAST and Syngenta invite you to honor Jayson Lusk, the 2017 Borlaug CAST Communication Award winner, on the occasion of the 2017 Borlaug Dialogue hosted by the World Food Prize Foundation. [Click here for information and the registration link](#). The event occurs on October 18 in Des Moines, Iowa--in conjunction with the World Food Prize.

The complimentary breakfast begins at 7:00 a.m., followed by the Borlaug CAST Communication Award program from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. The winner, Jayson Lusk, will speak about "The Future of Food." From 8:30 to 9:45 a.m., CAST and The American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers will host a presentation and panel discussion--*Designing the Road out of Poverty: Ensuring Resource Access*.



Jayson Lusk

### *The World Food Prize to Honor Dr. Adesina*



**Akinwumi Adesina**

Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, the President of the African Development Bank, will be recognized as the [2017 World Food Prize Laureate](#). Through his roles over the past two decades with the Rockefeller Foundation, at the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, and as Minister of Agriculture of Nigeria, Dr. Adesina has been at the forefront of galvanizing political will to transform African agriculture through initiatives to expand agricultural production, thwart corruption in the Nigerian fertilizer industry, and exponentially increase the availability of credit for smallholder farmers across the African continent. Dr. Adesina won the [2010 Borlaug CAST Communication Award](#).

Note: [The World Food Prize](#) occurs in Des Moines, October 18-20.

## ***The World Food Prize Hunger Summit and Borlaug Dialogue***

The [Iowa Hunger Summit](#) is held each year during the World Food Prize week of events in October. It kicks off the events preceding the Norman E. Borlaug International Symposium, also known as the "Borlaug Dialogue."

## **Friday Notes News Categories**

Photos courtesy of the Agricultural Research Service (top masthead); TopLatest News (globe at right). P. 1 Borlaug pic from gannett-edu.com and bird pic from dawn-production.com. Animal Sec. cowgirl pic from mnginteractive.com. Food Sec. Belushi pic from homevideos.jpg. Plant Sec. mural pic from relylocal.jpg. Inter. Sec. cow pic from cattlenetwork.com. Gen. Sec. Gomez pic from fbresearch.org. Unless otherwise noted, photos courtesy of the USDA Agricultural Research Service.



## ***Animal Agriculture and Environmental News***

**Why They Flutter As They Do:** Two newly published complimentary studies have utilized CRISPR genome editing technology to explore how specific genes [affect wing-pattern variation in butterflies](#).

**Animal Production and Food Security:** This new paper analyses [global livestock feed ratios and feed conversion ratios](#), with specific insight on the diversity in production systems and feed materials.

**Livestock's Impacts (see above):** Check out CAST's [Issue Paper about livestock and food security](#)--*Animal Feed vs. Human Food: Challenges and Opportunities in Sustaining Animal Agriculture Toward 2050*.

**Pig Feed--And a Whole Lot of "Phy" Words:** North Carolina State researchers examined the dosing of phytase to see if it can [mitigate the anti-nutritional effects](#) of phytate.

**Hog Heaven:** Iowa houses the most pigs in the world, and state officials believe the [number of confinement facilities](#) is more than originally thought. Reactions to the expansion vary.

**Poultry Plant Proposal:** Tyson Foods' proposal to build a \$320 million poultry facility in northeast Kansas is backed by some, but it has [met a wall of local resistance](#).



This [boss of an all-female cowgirl crew](#) says women have a special touch in the pen.



**The Buzz about Bio Mosquitoes:** A company that seeks to control pest insects through genetics announced that it will invest \$9.88 million to produce [one billion genetically modified mosquito eggs](#) per week.



## *Food Science and Safety News*

**The Journey of Milk (videos):** When you add milk to your shopping list, [do you think about its journey](#) from farm to table?

**Clarifying Food Dates:** Some say the [confusion about date labels on food](#) items (sell by, use by, and more) adds to the massive amount of global food waste. They hope to fix the problem.

**Labeling Research (related to above):** Check out CAST's science-based papers about [process labeling of food](#) and [the impacts of mandatory labeling](#).

**Investing in Test-Tube Burgers:** [Lab-made meat](#) and poultry get big funding boosts from certain big food interests.

**Millennials Choose Organic (audio):** A new survey says millennials will [increase the demand for organic food](#) as more of them become parents. This [USDA report shows similar findings](#) of a boom in organic farming.

**Very Yummy Veggies:** [Healthy choices are on the menu](#) at this elementary school, as a new program aims to convince students to fall in love with healthy food and eat it every day.

**Obesity Warning Nixed:** A federal court says San Francisco's [soda pop warnings are unconstitutional](#)--sweetened beverage advertisers will not be forced to add an obesity warning to their labels.

**Nutrition Research:** Kansas State University has entered into an agreement with a major soft drink company to focus on making nutritious food and beverage products [more affordable and accessible](#).



IFIC provides tips that can help college students navigate through the [campus dining environment](#).



## *Plant Agriculture and Environmental News*

**Harvest Insights:** Farmers took to Twitter to share their [photos, videos, and reflections](#) about #Harvest17.

**Organic Leap:** The USDA says the [value of certified organic commodities jumped](#) 23% from 2015 to 2016.

**Coping with Drought:** Texas A&M scientists have discovered a ribonucleic acid that can increase the thale cress plant's [resistance to stress from drought and salt](#).

**Grassland Green Up:** This Iowa State study shows that the introduction of exotic, nonnative plant species to U.S. grasslands has played a large part in [changing the phenology of those regions](#).

**Robots in Your Field?** Investors and executives are looking at TerraSentia--an agricultural [robot that autonomously measures crop traits](#).



[Hand-picking corn](#)--a skill, an art, a toil--is still practiced in contests.

**Pollinators in Your Garden?** This site provides seven ways to make a garden a [haven for native pollinators](#).

**Popeye Would Be Happy:** The USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture awarded a \$2.45 million research grant to University of Arkansas scientists working to [develop disease resistance in spinach](#).



## *International News*

**Open Wide (video):** In case you wondered what it would be like to do dental work on a [saltwater crocodile](#).

**Africa Counting on Agriculture:** This article looks at where African wealth might come from--Akinwumi [Adesina asserted it is from farmers](#).

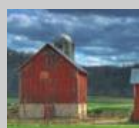
**China and Ethanol:** China plans to [increase the use of ethanol nationally](#) by 2020--the first time the government has set a targeted timeline for pushing the biofuel, known as E10 and containing 10 percent corn.

**Climate Change and Tea:** The [weather patterns in Darjeeling, India, have changed](#)--topsoil has eroded, rainfall is erratic, landslides are more frequent, and the region has been hit by long, dry spells.

**Asian Ag Conference:** China, the Republic of Korea, and Japan discussed rural issues at a conference called "[Develop Mountain Agriculture and Share Green Benefits](#)."



This bovine winner at Japan's Wagyu Olympics seems unimpressed, but the [specialty beef is getting lots of attention](#).



## *General Interest News*

**Environmental and Agriculture Harmony? (video-opinion):** According to this writer, [opinions from the World Wildlife Fund](#) seem at odds with agriculture--until you understand the group's rationale and their motives.

**Where There's a Will, There's a Way:** This young, beginning farmer in North Dakota [found a way to start farming](#) even though his parents don't farm.

**Farmers and the Pipeline:** These unlikely [environmental activists are Nebraska farmers](#) still fighting against the Keystone XL pipeline.

**Auto Baler:** The crowd at Husker Harvest Days seemed impressed with a company unveiling of "the world's [first self-propelled round baler](#)."



Singer Selena Gomez is recovering from a kidney transplant. [She encourages research about lupus](#), the disease afflicting her.

**Research Blowin' in the Wind?** A chill around federal funding for renewable energy has wind energy researchers looking for [ways to bring innovation](#) to the renewable energy field.

## 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 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
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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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**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)**