



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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This [time-lapse video shows a lenticular cloud](#) over Washington's Mount Rainier that looks other worldly.

BCCA Award Event at WFP

CAST and DuPont [invite you to honor the 2016 Borlaug CAST Communication Award winner](#)--Dr. Kevin Folta--on the occasion of the 2016 Borlaug Dialogue hosted by the World Food Prize Foundation.

The session includes breakfast, a presentation, and a panel discussion.

National Teach Ag Website

The [National Teach Ag Campaign](#) sponsored Ag Day on September 22 as an initiative to bring attention to agriculture education careers.

Help CAST Communicate Ag/Science

September 23, 2016

The UN Swats at Superbugs

Resistance problem grabs global attention

The U.N. General Assembly passed a [declaration aiming to slow down the spread of superbugs](#)--bacteria that have become resistant to antibiotics. All 193 UN member states agreed to combat the proliferation of drug-resistant infections, [estimated to kill more than 700,000 people each year](#).

****Note:** see the Animal Section below for various stories about antibiotics and livestock.



News and Views

****Beef Ban Breakthrough:** *Agri-Pulse* reports that China has [lifted its 13-year-old ban on U.S. beef](#), clearing the way for negotiations between the two countries about the specific conditions under which trade can resume.

****Merger Update:** Merger bids amid the top six seed and chemical companies have been giving farmers cause for worry for months--while some applaud the moves. This video provides [reactions from various stakeholders](#).

****A Gene Editing First?** A scientist in Sweden has started trying to edit the DNA in healthy human embryos, making him the first researcher known to attempt to [modify the genes of healthy human embryos](#). Reactions are mixed.



****Immigration and Agriculture:** The USDA is concerned that [immigration reform could significantly impact](#) the U.S. fruit and vegetable industry. The National Milk Producers Federation also weighs in on the issue.

****TPP Q and A:** This pro-TPP group provides [answers to four common questions](#) about the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

This [special offer means new membership](#) begins immediately and extends through 2017.

Willie, Neil, and the Farm Aid Crew

The 31st [annual Farm Aid concert](#) continued to be relevant, unique, and cool. When asked "You guys still doing that?" John Mellencamp answered, "You still eating?"

The Challenges of Ranching

Registration is open for the [Kansas State Ranching Summit](#)--Oct. 7 in Manhattan, Kansas.

Farm Safety Week

President Obama proclaimed "[National Farm Safety and Health Week](#), 2016"--millions of farmers and their families face a variety of unsafe conditions when they wake up for work each morning.

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

****Communicating about Biotech:** Speaking at the recent Agricultural Bioscience International Conference, [Kevin Folta shared his insights about reaching out to consumers](#) to tell the genetic engineering story.

News from the Far Side of the Barn

A Bit of Porcine Therapy (video): A British mother claims a [pet pig transformed their autistic son's life](#). The porker digs up the garden and rolls around in washing it rips from the clothesline, but the parents love the boy's positive shift.

It Will Be Using a Can Opener Next (video): A bird so rare that it is now extinct in the wild has joined the animal elite--the Hawaiian crow [naturally uses tools to reach food](#).

Forty-four Seconds of an Adrenalin Rush: This professional wingsuit BASE jumper uses a flight-stabilized helmet cam to [take us on a hair-raising ride](#).



Fly like a free--and crazy--bird.

Young, Enthusiastic, and Focused

Two university students sign on as CAST interns



Continuing a Legacy Rooted in Ag

Being a part of the agriculture industry has been a family tradition for Mikayla Dolch and her family for the past three generations. Mikayla's deeply rooted passion for agriculture was instilled at a young age on the family farm near Mortan's Mill, Iowa, and that is what led her to pursue a career in agricultural education at Iowa State University. Mikayla brings her enthusiasm for the industry to CAST as a social media assistant intern this fall.

[Click here to access the rest of the profile:](#) Mikayla's love of farm "work and play," her success "living the FFA Creed," her campus activities, and her joy of visiting with her role model--her 100-year-old Great Grandma Wookey, a woman who has had the "Force" with her way longer than Hans and Luke.

Mikayla with her horse, Cheyenne, and with an audience as she speaks at an FFA convention.



Ellen with her father in Europe and with her two dogs in a furry hug.

By the Numbers--Setting Goals and Achieving Success

Unlike the stereotypical young person, Ellen Jasper is good with money and likes math. "I've had my sights set on a business career for some time now," she said, "and that keeps me focused." The Iowa State University sophomore is majoring in finance, and she already has an internship at the Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust on her resume. As an administrative assistant intern at CAST, Ellen is learning various aspects of accountancy and the cyber-paper trail. "I'm looking forward to gaining experience in varied aspects of finance," she said.

[Click here to access the rest of the profile:](#) Ellen is from "urban Iowa," but she did plenty of free ranging on her grandparents' farms. She joined her father for a trip to Europe during the past summer, where she enjoyed the beauty and history of Prague, Salzburg, and other impressive cities.

Friday Notes News Categories

Photos courtesy of the Agricultural Research Service (top masthead); TopLatest News (globe at right). P. 1 cloud pic from Ian McRae, superbug pic from cbsnews.com, DNA spiral from genengnews.com, and base jump pic from theawesomer.com. Animal Sec. cow pic from hutchnews.com. Food Sec. tailgate pic from foodsafetynews.com. Plant Sec. meme from pinterest.com. Inter. Sec. burrito pic from charlotterestauranttraffic.com. Gen. Sec. dung beetle pic from nationalgeographic.jpg. Unless otherwise noted, photos courtesy of the USDA Agricultural Research Service.



Animal Agriculture and Environmental News



Gotta Get a Bigger Truck? (video): Many packers, truckers, and feedyard managers agree with Kansas State research that indicates [cattle welfare is affected by the restricted size](#) of the transportation.

Not the way to solve the "big cows, restricted room" transport problem.

Gene Editing and Animal Agriculture (opinion): In this academic paper, Alison Van Eenennaam explains the [need for gene-edited animals to align](#) with commercial animal breeding practices.

Chicken Farms, Eggs, and Health: Eggs from small flocks of chickens are [more likely to be contaminated with *Salmonella*](#) enteritidis than eggs sold in grocery stores, according to this Penn State research.

Bacon Bits: According to this report, Panera will be the [first national chain to serve so-called clean bacon](#)--a pork project "to rid its menu of artificial flavors, colors, preservatives, and sweeteners."

Aquaculture--Ecology, Economics, Public Perception (opinion): This research team looked at wild-caught fish, farmed fish, and land-based farming to [assess the most viable long-term options](#).

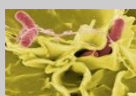
Too Much Horsin' Around? The U.S. government [completely refutes rumors](#) that officials planned to kill 45,000 wild horses. The saga of the "symbols of the American West" continues (related blog: [A Horse Is a Horse, Of Course, Of Course](#)).

****Antibiotics and Agriculture

Government Action on Antibiotics: The USDA says it is entering the next phase of its [efforts to mitigate antimicrobial resistance](#) by focusing for the first time on "medically important antimicrobials."

Regulations and Antibiotic Use with Livestock: Several prominent agriculture groups launched an [educational website explaining](#) the FDA's new policy about antibiotics and animal health.

Antibiotic Stewardship: The Elanco Company developed an [eight-step antibiotic-stewardship plan](#) last year, and a progress report was delivered at a recent webinar.



Food Science and Safety News

Food Prep as a Task and an Art (video): Traditional [ramen is gaining popularity](#), but making the Japanese specialty is a grueling task. This young expert spends up to 80 hours a week--but he loves his job.

Scoring Big at the Tailgate Party: This clever article from the University of Delaware uses [football terms to emphasize food safety](#).

Food, Health, and Perspectives: According to this IFIC survey, Boomers [look for different health benefits](#) from their food compared to other generations, particularly Millennials.

Food-insecure Teens: Some sources claim that 2.9 million teens are "very food insecure and roughly four million live in marginally food secure households, where the [threat of running out of food is real](#)."

Food Info Database: The USDA launched the



Illegal use of hands is a penalty that can lead to food safety problems at tailgates.

[Branded Food Products Database](#)--a free online resource for families, the food industry, and researchers--containing nutrition details about thousands of food products.

Detecting *Salmonella*: University of Florida researchers found a faster and more [precise way to detect *Salmonella*](#) in beef and chicken.

Taste the Burn: Pastry chef Michael Laiskonis explains Maillard reactions and [why browned foods taste so darn good](#).

Twenty-six Ways to Use an Avocado: This enthusiast wants folks to know [there is more to avocados](#) than the "gospel of guacamole"--from ice cream and hummus to face masks.



Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

Water Quality (opinion): Harvest Public Media's [five-part series about water and agriculture](#) focuses on the environmental challenges of farming in the fertile Midwest and methods to improve water quality.

Biotech Breakthrough: A newly discovered non-Bt protein could be a solution for farmers [struggling with corn rootworm resistance](#) to existing Bt corn varieties, DuPont scientists report.

Ethanol By-product: Exports of [dried distillers grains](#) with solubles jumped from 1 million tons in 2006 to more than 11 million tons in 2014, says the U.S. Grains Council. Cattle, pigs, and poultry use it domestically.

EPA Statement about Glyphosates: The EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs released an issue paper that says [glyphosates are unlikely to cause cancer](#).

More Than Tar and Nicotine: Tobacco is the top crop in North Carolina. But these days, [tobacco means more than cigarettes](#)--including vaccines, cosmetics, and other products.

Wheat Woes? The National Association of Wheat Growers spoke to the Senate Agriculture Committee about the [dire economic conditions in wheat country](#)--conveying the importance of safety net and risk management tools.

Money Does Grow on Trees? Some say trees can provide a [real boost to the economy](#)--the connection between ecosystems and the economy is the focus of this research expert from the University of Florida.

Urban Forests (related to above): The U.S. Forest Service Urban Field Stations work to enable the restoration and stewardship of [green spaces and waterways in urban areas](#).

Office Plants--Helping Workers to Avoid Vegging Out: Research shows that a little foliage near employees' desks [improves intellectual performance](#), job satisfaction, and well-being.



International News

Gone Fishin'--with Satellites (video): Illegal fishing is a multibillion-dollar business and one that is difficult to combat. But a [new satellite-based surveillance system](#) by Google aims to help solve that problem.

Agriculture Credited with the Improvement: According to the World Bank, the proportion of the Ugandan population living beneath the [national poverty line declined](#) from 31.1% in 2006 to 19.7% in 2013.

From Sushi Burritos to Birthday Cake Croissant: This writer has rounded up 100 foods from around the world that she says are [worth their social media hype](#).

China Livestock Production (video): China's largest [dairy company is installing innovative practices](#) to reduce energy and water consumption, and a hog production company plans to [double its production](#)--to 1 million pigs a year.

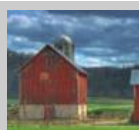
A Bit of Kiwi Swagger: Farmer confidence in New Zealand's agricultural economy is at its [highest level since 2013](#)--led by a more optimistic outlook for dairy--according to rural lending specialist Rabobank.

A Quiet Biotech Revolution: According to this article, thousands of smallholder farmers in Bangladesh are [growing GMO food crops](#) expressly developed for poorer countries.

Paid Not to Milk? A Dutch dairy cooperative will pay its member dairy farmers [to not produce milk](#) during a six-month period as part of a phosphate reduction program.



Gonna need both hands for this sushi burrito.



General Interest News

Hands-on Music Tech (video): Cornell students developed [gloves that hold prerecorded tracks and can create music](#) controlled by the user's hand movements.

Slower Snow Melt in Warming Climate? Western communities face the effects of a [warming climate with slower and earlier snow melts](#), according to experts at the University of Nevada-Reno.

The Mercury Is Rising: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said August's average temperature made it [16 consecutive months of record-breaking heat](#).

Useful Poop: The DNA inside dung beetles' guts could [help to identify other animals](#)--especially rare ones.

Precision Ag Tools (short video): This site [looks at precision equipment](#) on lettuce farms, robots in packing plants, and thoughts about ag/tech investment for autonomous implements and robotics.

Humanitarian Drone Use: A new [humanitarian food-aid drone](#) is ecofriendly, carries 200 pounds of food, and is adaptable to local dietary requirements.

Precision Ag in the Dirt: University of Nebraska scientists are working on sensors that communicate with [radio waves that propagate through the soil](#) and draw their power from the vibrations generated by farm vehicles moving about on the surface.

Keeping Farmers Safe: Farming has become safer over decades, but it remains one of the country's [most dangerous lines of work](#).

Surf's Up and the Power Is On: America's [first wave-produced power](#) goes online in Hawaii--the electrical current travels through an undersea cable to a power grid.



A dung beetle guttin' it out.

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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