



2022-2023 WSSA Standing Committee Report

Committee Name and Code: Council for Agricultural Science and Technology

(CAST) representative: Jill Schroeder

Committee Chair: Jill Schroeder

Committee Members (includes sub-committee members): N/A

Board of Directors Liaison: N/A

Committee members rotating off: N/A

Recommended members to replace those rotating off:

Summary of past year's activities including:

1. I attended virtually during the October 2022 annual meeting of the CAST Boards (<https://www.cast-science.org/about/>). As a Board of Representatives member, I serve on the Plant Agriculture and Environmental Issues Working Group (Plant Working Group) (<https://www.cast-science.org/about/board-of-representatives/>) and attended the workgroup meeting (general sessions were not offered virtually).
2. I regularly attend the (virtual) monthly meetings of the Plant Work Group.
3. I am board liaison for the issue paper "Preventing the next invasive plant: Opportunities and Challenges". The proposal was developed by the following representatives from WSSA and NIASMA: Jacob Barney, David Coyle, Erik Lehnhoff, Daniel Tekiela, Paul Tseng. The paper is in progress. Co-task force chairs have been recruited; they developed an outline and recommended task force members who have agreed to work on this project. Our next step is to convene a task force meeting to assign writing responsibilities and establish the timeline for completion. Issue papers usually take approximately 6 months to complete once the task force has been assembled.
4. Greg Dahl, WSWS representative, worked with Matt Baur (WIPM Director and proposal lead) and WSWS representatives to develop a proposal for an issue paper "Integrated management of fire-adapted invasive plants responsible for changing wildfire regimes". The proposal has been approved by the Plant Workgroup and Board of Trustees; the Board of Directors is reviewing the proposal. Lyn Gettys, APMS representative, is the board liaison for an issue paper on the topic of Harmful Algal Blooms Function and impact - HAB (Harmful Algal Bloom). The paper is in final review and editing so should be published this year.

5. I continue to work with my weed science counterparts who represent WSWS, NEWSS, NCWSS, and APMS on the Board of Representatives. Lee VanWychen has been part of many of our occasional conversations. I thank him for sharing his insights into issues that might be addressed through a CAST publication.
6. The weed science representatives met at the end of 2022 and decided that we all need to work on attracting student members to become individual members of CAST. Student memberships are FREE; we are all presenting posters at our annual meetings and the posters have a QR code where students can get membership information while at the meeting.
7. Anthony Witcher (NEWSS representative) and I are co-presenting a poster “The Importance of Communicating Agricultural Science and Technology, The Role of CAST, and You!” at the WSSA/NEWSS joint meeting.
8. I volunteered to represent the Plant Working Group on the CAST strategic planning workgroup on project implementation. The group is supposed to meet quarterly; I met with them once and am not sure what the objective of the workgroup entails as yet.
9. The CAST office sent an update on organization activities; this email and attachments follow this report.

Summary of plans for next year (changes in goals, key initiatives, plan of action, etc.):

1. I will continue to attend Plant Work Group meetings in 2023. In addition, I intend to continue to work with my weed science colleagues to determine how to best represent weed science in CAST publications and activities.
2. The weed science representatives plan to meet (remotely) after the WSWS meeting (final weed science meeting of 2023) to discuss the success/challenges of trying to engage students to become CAST members.
3. I shared the weed science representatives’ conversations/plans for encouraging new members at our respective meetings. I shared that we discussed the need for a statement from CAST on individual member value that we can use in our outreach. I asked that the BOD/or representative committee of CAST provide a statement of individual member value that we could share at our meetings; we have not met since so I do not know if that work is started. I also volunteered that we plan to meet at the close of the weed meeting season to share/discuss how it all went -- and volunteered that we would provide an update to the PWG next spring.

Recommendations for Board or Membership action:

1. I would appreciate input from the BOD on potential topics for CAST Issue Papers. In addition, all BOD members need to become individual members of CAST to serve as role models for the rest of the society.
2. Funds requested for 2022: Reimbursement of travel expenses to attend the October 2023 annual meeting of the CAST Boards.



Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the WSSA Representative to the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology, or CAST.

I'm pleased to pass along highlights of CAST's latest accomplishments through the attached CAST Summary of Activities. You'll find a link to their recently released Special Publication, [*Zoonotic Diseases in Animal Agriculture and Beyond: A One Health Perspective*](#); a summary of the [2022 Borlaug CAST Communication Award presentation](#) at the World Food Prize; an overview of their 2022 Annual Meeting/50th Anniversary Celebration; and more.

As you know, I participate in the Plant and Environmental Science work group that meets monthly via Zoom to discuss current projects under development and to identify and frame topics for future CAST publications. I think you will be interested to see the attached listing of forthcoming CAST publications currently being developed.

Additionally, the CAST team welcomes and encourages feedback and suggestions on issues we should be pursuing. So feel free to share with me any ideas you may have for a CAST publication. I would be pleased to bring them to the group for discussion at an upcoming work group meeting. Also know that the CAST EVP/CEO, Kent Schescke, is always available for a Zoom meeting to discuss ways to deepen our partnership and engagement with CAST.

Thank you again for the opportunity to support CAST's unique and effective way of communicating sound, unbiased information on food and science.

CAST President-Elect for 2022-2023



Dr. J. Alex Thomasson—Head of the Mississippi State University Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering and William B. and Sherry Berry Endowed Chairholder—was elected as the [CAST President-Elect for 2022-2023](#). Thomasson will follow Dr. Sally Flis as CAST President from 2023-2024. He represents the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers on CAST’s Plant Agriculture and Environmental Issues work group. He has been involved in writing two CAST papers and has served as a liaison on other CAST publications.

His vision for CAST includes maintaining scientific objectivity so position papers are viewed as informed and credible. Thomasson said, “Within CAST’s position as a scientific authority on agricultural matters, modern means of communicating critical ideas to the public should be explored and adopted where appropriate.”

2022 Borlaug CAST Communication Award Presentation

On October 19, Dr. Martin Wiedmann was presented with the 2022 Borlaug CAST Communication Award (BCCA). The BCCA breakfast was held as a side-event to the 2022 World Food Prize at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines, Iowa. Wiedmann, Gellert Family Professor of Food Safety, Department of Food Science in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University, spoke on *Beauty and risk: Thoughts on communicating food safety risks*. Wiedmann's presentation was recorded and is on the [CAST YouTube account](#). The press release [can be found here](#).



Nominations are now open for the 2023 BCCA, an honor that recognizes professionals actively working in the agricultural, environmental, or food sectors who are promoting agricultural science in the public policy arena. Nomination packets are [on the CAST website](#), with a submission deadline of February 26, 2023.

2022 CAST Annual Meeting

CAST’s 50th anniversary celebration culminated at the 2022 Annual Meeting on October 25-27 in Ames, Iowa. A few highlights of the event included:

- Iowa State University (ISU) President Dr. Wendy Wintersteen spoke at the 50th anniversary reception, hosted by ISU.
- Invited speakers included Dr. Dan Grooms, Dr. Dan Robison, Dr. Ruth MacDonald, Dr. Rodrigo Tarté, Dr. Lisa Schulte-Moore, Dr. Mohamed El-Gazzar, and Dr. Eric Gonder.
- Three past EVPs—Dr. Richard Stuckey, Dr. John Bonner, and Linda Chimenti—joined EVP Kent Schescke in a discussion reflecting on the past 50 years of CAST.
- Meeting attendees toured the Corteva research facilities in Johnston, Iowa, followed by a reception and dinner where Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig spoke.
- Current CAST President Dr. Anna Dilger passed the gavel on to Dr. Sally Flis as the incoming CAST President.



Annual Meeting attendees at Corteva.



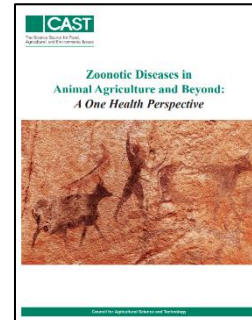
Dr. Wendy Wintersteen and Dr. Dan Robison.

Student Scholarship Recipients

This year, 13 graduate students from Iowa State University received the CAST Science Communication Scholarship during the CAST Annual Meeting. The recipients were nominated by their professors. This scholarship is supported by individual donors of CAST.

Special Publication Released

On November 14, CAST released [Zoonotic Diseases in Animal Agriculture and Beyond: A One Health Perspective](#). By looking through the lens of One Health, we identify key lessons learned in the dynamics of zoonotic diseases including their transmission and prevention. Kent Schescke and publication task force chair, Dr. Lonnie King, Dean Emeritus of The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine, traveled to Washington, D.C. to present at three different locations in the area. A webinar was held on November 17 and featured a panel with Dr. King, Dr. Bernadette Dunham, and Dr. Laura Kahn. Dr. Stephanie Masiello Schuette was the moderator. The recorded webinar, publication, Ag quickCAST, op-ed, and webinar Q&A [can be found here](#).



New Board-level Members

CAST is pleased to welcome the [Society for Range Management](#) (SRM) as a new society member. The SRM is an international organization that includes people who manage, conserve, and enjoy the vast landscapes known as rangelands. Also joining as a company member is [The Mosaic Company](#), which is the world's leading integrated producer of concentrated phosphate and potash—two of the three most important nutrients in agriculture. CAST also has three new Education Program members, including the [University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences](#), the [University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences](#), and [Purdue University Libraries and School of Information Studies](#). Please visit the CAST website for information on each member's representative.

CAST Staff Updates



Rachel
Bauler

Two student staff members are starting their next life chapters after working with CAST. [Rachel Bauler](#), Student Administrative Assistant, will be student teaching in the spring and graduate from Iowa State University in May. Her favorite memories while working with CAST have been all the funny moments in the office and getting to attend the BCCA presentation. [Nick Plaugher](#), CAST Communications Project Coordinator, will be graduating from University of Missouri this December and will pursue a career in communications and leadership. His favorite memories at CAST include interviewing industry leaders for media projects and working on *Friday Notes*.



Nick
Plaugher

Stay Aware and Connected Through CAST

CAST's *Friday Notes* newsletter, blog, and other social media outlets regularly provide important updates about news headlines, announcements, and pertinent educational resource material related to agriculture and science. Another CAST resource includes self-study guides focused on CAST's papers that can then be used by teachers and parents for their online learning activities and in other educational settings.

Forthcoming Publications Under Development

RNA Interference Technology in Agriculture: Methods, Applications, and Governance

Environmental, Social, and Economic Impacts of Implementing Sustainable Intensification in Agriculture at Scale

Happy Holidays from everyone at CAST!
Thank you for celebrating 50 years with us!

The logo for CAST, featuring the letters 'CAST' in a bold, white, sans-serif font inside a green rectangular box.

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