

2021 WSSA Committee Report

Committee Code and Name: Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) representative

Committee Chair: Jill Schroeder

Committee Members: same

Board Coordinator: none

Committee Members Rotating Off:

- Jill Schroeder (October 2022)

Recommended Replacements/Additions:

- tbd

Summary of Activities

Brief Summary of my activities:

1. I attended the October 2021 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 both the general sessions and the workgroup meeting.
2. I regularly attend the monthly meetings of the Plant Working Group (zoom meetings). Prior to the annual meeting I helped convene a group of scientists representing WSSA and the North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) to draft a proposal titled “Preventing the next invasive plant: Opportunities and Challenges”. The effort was led by Jacob Barney (chair of the WSSA Noxious and Invasive Weeds and Biocontrol Committee) and included David Coyle, Erik Lehnhoff, Daniel Tekiela, Paul Tseng. Both WSSA and NAISMA boards approved partnering with CAST to develop this proposal for an issue paper. The proposal was approved by the CAST Plant Working Group at the annual meeting and subsequently been approved by the Board of Directors and the Board of Trustees. The next steps will be to bring a representative from WSSA and a representative from NAISMA together with CAST liaison (me) and CAST EVP to identify a task force chair.
3. The Plant Working Group has discussed how/whether to propose a paper on the topic of grassland, chaparral, and forestry management. Greg Dahl, WSSWS representative, is bringing the topic to the society for suggestions (there will be a workshop on fire and invasives at the 2022 annual meeting organized by Matt Baur, WIPM Center Director). I offered to help make connections with USDA and the WIPM Center.
4. I participated on a call in November, organized by Kent Schescke and the CAST office, with representatives of the Range Science Society. They had questions about CAST related to a

decision about whether to become a society member of CAST. I participated by sharing the experience of WSSA as a society member of CAST.

5. I continue to work with my weed science counterparts who represent WSSA, 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. I am presenting an oral paper on 50 years of CAST at the WSSA annual meeting in Vancouver.

7. I volunteered to represent the Plant Working Group on the CAST strategic planning workgroup on project implementation. The group meets quarterly and I will learn more about the strategic planning as a representative of this subcommittee.

Yearend note prepared by the CAST office:

I am pleased to pass along highlights of CAST's latest accomplishments through the attached [CAST Summary of Activities](#). You'll find an announcement of CAST's 50th anniversary in 2022, along with a link to their recently published [commemorative publication](#); an overview of the [2021 Borlaug CAST Communication Award presentation](#); a link to the latest commentary, [Gains Foregone by Going GMO Free: Potential Impacts on Consumers, the Environment, and Agricultural Producers](#); and more.

As you know, I participate in the Plant Agriculture and Environmental Issues work group which meets monthly via Zoom to discuss current projects under development and to identify and frame topics for future CAST publications. I think you'll 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 happy to schedule 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.

Recommendations for Board/Society Action:

Funds requested for 2022: Reimbursement of travel expenses to attend the October 2022 annual meeting of the CAST Boards.

Other requests for the Board: My term ends with the October 2022 meeting. A new representative will need to be named. I am willing to continue as WSSA representative for an additional term, if the board approves my participation. I feel it takes some time to become comfortable with the organization; therefore, I could be more effective if I continued for an additional term. However, it is the board's decision how to proceed but a new representative needs to be named prior to the October meeting to ensure a smooth transition.

PUBLICATIONS COMING FROM CAST



DECEMBER 2021

- Environmental, Social, and Economic Impacts of Implementing Sustainable Intensification in Agriculture at Scale
- RNA Interference Technology in Agriculture: Methods, Applications, and Governance
- Review of Mycotoxin Impacts: Balancing Economic Costs with Animal and Human Health Adverse Effects Worldwide
- Goals, Strengths, and Limitations Governing the Use of Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) in Food and Agriculture
- The Impact of Biogenic Methane from Ruminants on Climate Change
- Harmful Algal Blooms: Causes, Effects, and Mitigation
- Applications, Benefits and Barriers of Gene Edited Crops
- Animal Agriculture and Zoonoses—A One Health Perspective
- Recruiting and Educating Graduate Students to Become Researchers and Leaders in Global Agriculture
- Irrigation and Precision Crop Management Technologies
- Impact to Agricultural Advances of Missing or Misaligned Maximum Residue Levels: Options to Enable a Fair and Secure Food Supply to the World