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American Academy of Veterinary and Comparative Toxicology: Robert H. Poppenga, University of California, Davis
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American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers: David B. Beasley, North Carolina State University, Raleigh
American Society of Animal Science: Gretchen Hill, Michigan State University, East Lansing
American Society of Plant Biologists: Representative to be appointed
American Veterinary Medical Association: David Scarfe, American Veterinary Medical Association, Schaumburg, Illinois
Aquatic Plant Management Society: John Madsen, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State
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Northeastern Weed Science Society: Robert D. Sweet, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York
Poultry Science Association: Michael Lilburn, Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, Wooster
Society for In Vitro Biology: Mary Ann Lila, University of Illinois, Urbana
Society for Nutrition Education: Representative not appointed
Society of Nematologists: Jonathan D. Eisenback, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg
Soil Science Society of America: John Havlin, North Carolina State University, Raleigh
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Western Society of Weed Science: Phillip Stahlman, Kansas State University, Hays

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On the cover: CAST publications in 2008 included two Commentaries, three Issue Papers, and three Special Publications, one of which was CAST’s first hardcover book.
2008 Highlights

Publications and Rollout Events

- The National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (NC-FAR) “Lunch-N-Learn” Seminar for legislative Staff (June)
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) “Diverse Voices in Agriculture” (June)
- The American Farm Bureau Federation (June)

Vaccine Development Using Recombinant DNA Technology, Issue Paper 38, May. Chair: Mark W. Jackwood, University of Georgia, Athens. Describes three basic categories of recombinant vaccines; evaluates the development of vaccines for cattle, sheep, and goats; swine; poultry; fish; and companion animals; and provides information on commercially available vaccines. Rollout presentations:
- NC-FAR “Lunch-N-Learn” Seminar—“Shots Are for the Birds (and Other Animals)” (March)
- USDA “Diverse Voices in Agriculture” (May)
- U.S. Agency for International Development (May)

Swine Carcass Disposal Options for Routine and Catastrophic Mortality, Issue Paper 39, July. Chair: Allen F. Harper, Virginia Tech Tidewater Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Suffolk. Reviews burial, incineration, rendering, and composting as routine and catastrophic mortality disposal methods; alternative and nontraditional methods and technologies; biosecurity and disease control with the traditional methods; and conclusions and future considerations. Rollout presentation in Indianapolis, Indiana:
- Joint Annual Meeting of the American Dairy Science Association/American Society of Animal Sciences (July)

Pasteurellosis Transmission Risks between Domestic and Wild Sheep, CAST Commentary QTA2008-1, August. Chair: Michael W. Miller, Wildlife Research Center, Fort Collins, Colorado. Reviews the decline of bighorn sheep populations throughout much of western North America. Although native sheep are particularly susceptible to pneumonia, and interactions between wild and domestic species seem to carry some risk for disease spread, not all contemporary pasteurellosis epidemics in bighorn sheep can be attributed to contact with domestic populations. Rollout presentation in Greensboro, North Carolina:
- U.S. Animal Health Association meeting (August)

Gene Flow in Alfalfa: Biology, Mitigation, and Potential Impact on Production, Special Publication 28, September. Chair: Allen E. Van Deynze, University of California, Davis. Certain alfalfa hay and seed markets are sensitive to genetically engineered (GE) crops and the potential for gene flow (the exchange of genes from one population to another). Sufficient scientific data are available to design successful strategies to manage gene flow, and understanding the issue is a critical first step. Rollout and presentations:
- Rollout—California Seed Association Mid-Year Meeting, Monterey, California (September)
- Presentation—38th California Alfalfa & Forage Symposium/Western Alfalfa Seed Conference, San Diego, California (December)

Poultry Carcass Disposal Options for Routine and Catastrophic Mortality, Issue Paper 40, October. Chair: John P. Blake, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama. Carcass disposal remains one of the major problems facing poultry meat and egg production facilities, posing a never-ending task as birds succumb to congenital defects, diseases, accidents, equipment failures, and natural disasters. Producers, scientists, and regulators alike are examining closely the acceptable methods of handling dead bird disposal. Rollout presentation in Des Moines, Iowa:
- 2008 National Poultry Waste Management Symposium (October)
2008 Highlights

Convergence of Agriculture and Energy: III. Considerations in Biodiesel Production, CAST Commentary QTA2008-2, October. Chair: Jon Van Gerpen, Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering, University of Idaho, Moscow.

Concern about rising prices and unstable sources of petroleum fuels is driving the search for U.S. domestically produced, renewable transportation fuels, such as biodiesel, which is developing into a widely accepted alternative fuel. This Commentary reviews the biodiesel production process, quality requirements, characteristics of biodiesel, biodiesel economics, and energy balance. Rollout presentations in Washington, D.C.:
- NC-FAR “Lunch-N-Learn” Seminar—“Living Off the Fat of the Land” (October)
- National Farmers Union (October)

Year at a Glance

- CAST’S Plant and Soil Sciences Work Group officially became the Plant, Soil, and Environmental Sciences Work Group (January)
- CAST introduced new format and coverage for “Friday Notes,” including new cover art and abbreviated front matter and news entries. The Notes now cover news Friday through the following Thursday (January)
- A ClustrMap was added to the CAST website to track the frequency of online visits globally. More than 924 visits were recorded in the first 2 weeks (January)
- CAST announced Dr. Pedro Sanchez as the recipient of the 2008 Charles A. Black Award (January)
- Membership and Marketing Director Donna Freeman attended the American Farm Bureau Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana and hosted the CAST booth, distributing information on CAST activities and publications (January)
- John Bonner and CAST Board Member Nick Zimmermann hosted the CAST display at the International Poultry Expo in Atlanta, Georgia and distributed information on CAST’s four recent publications on avian influenza. More than 200,000 people from 100 countries attended the Expo (January)
- John Bonner and Task Force Chair David Gealy traveled to Washington, D.C. to make presentations on Issue Paper 37, Implications of Gene Flow in the Scale-up and Commercial Use of Biotechnology-derived Crops: Economic and Policy Considerations, at the USDA, NC-FAR, and the Biotechnology Industry Organization (February)
- John Bonner made a presentation about CAST at the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. (February)
- CAST published its 2007 Annual Report (March)
- CAST Special Publication 27, Water Quality and Quantity Issues for Turfgrasses in Urban Landscapes, CAST’s first hardcover book, was published and distributed (March)
- Katlin Wiest won the 2008 Ag Day Essay Contest (March)
- Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) was awarded the “CAST President’s Award” (March)
- CAST’s Spring Board Meeting was held in Washington, D.C. Several guest speakers addressed the Board, and Pedro Sanchez was presented CAST’s Charles A. Black Award (March)
- CropLife America donated a poster of the Lincoln Memorial to the CAST Office (April)
- CAST Issue Paper 38, Vaccine Development Using Recombinant DNA Technology, was published and distributed. John Bonner hosted the rollout events

Fate and Transport of Zoonotic Bacterial, Viral, and Parasitic Pathogens during Swine Manure Treatment, Storage, and Land Application, Special Publication 29, December. Cochairs and Lead Author: Dana Cole, Georgia Division of Public Health, Atlanta; Cochair: Jan Vinjé, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia.

There have been concerns about the potential for pork production facilities to disseminate pathogenic microorganisms into the surrounding environment. Although the majority of microbes in swine manure are not pathogenic to humans (zoonotic), it is generally accepted that there are environmental pathways by which these zoonotic pathogens may be transported to water resources.

“Friday Notes” e-newsletter, published 48 times/year. Provides links to current articles in subject areas corresponding to CAST work groups; also contains updates from Washington, D.C. CAST distributes the Notes to members including faculty, staff, and graduate students at several universities.

Publications Catalog, Updates published January, July, and September.

2007 Annual Report, Published March.
2008 Highlights

- Trent Loos and the Feedstuffs FoodLink Chuck Wagon with former CAST President Don Beitz (left) and CAST EVP John Bonner.

- John Bonner was elected Secretary/Treasurer of the Agriculture Council of America, a position that moves to Vice Chair and then Chair in subsequent years (September)
- CAST Special Publication 28, Gene Flow in Alfalfa: Biology, Mitigation, and Potential Impact on Production, was released at the California Seed Association’s Mid-Year Meeting in Monterey, California. Task Force Chair Allen Van Deynze introduced the paper (September)
- John Bonner and CAST Director of Council Operations Linda Chimenti represented CAST at the World Food Prize, staffing a CAST display booth and distributing publications. Dr. Bonner met briefly with 2008 World Food Prize Laureates Robert Dole and George McGovern (October)
- CAST Issue Paper 40, Poultry Carcass Disposal Options for Routine and Catastrophic Mortality, was released at the National Poultry Waste Management Symposium in Des Moines, Iowa. John Bonner hosted the event and Task Force Chair John Blake introduced the paper (October)
- CAST realigned several Staff positions, assigning new titles and redistributing responsibilities (October)
- CAST’s Fall Board Meeting was held in Durham, North Carolina. Henry Shands was named as President, Todd Peterson as President-Elect, and Kassim Al-Khatib as Past President. Several guest speakers addressed the Board (October)
- CAST Commentary QTA2008-1, Pasteurellosis Transmission Risks between Domestic and Wild Sheep, was featured in a session of the U.S. Animal Health Association Meeting in Greensboro, North Carolina. Task Force Chair Mike Miller presented the paper (October)
- CAST Commentary QTA2008-2, Convergence of Agriculture and Energy: III. Considerations in Biodiesel Production, was released in Washington, D.C. at the National Farmers Union and NC-FAR. John Bonner hosted the events and Task Force Chair Jon Van Gerpen introduced the paper (October)

- Todd Peterson, a member of the Executive Committee, was elected CAST President-Elect (May)
- The CAST Board approved expansion of the Graduate Education Program to include faculty members (May)
- CAST began offering its Issue Papers free (formerly $5.00 each) (June)
- Briefings were held in Washington, D.C. for Special Publication 27, Water Quality and Quantity Issues for Turfgrasses in Urban Landscapes, at the USDA, NC-FAR, and the American Farm Bureau Federation (June)
- CAST received federal approval for its trademark and registered its logo (June)
- The United Nations Environmental Programme began offering links to several CAST publications on their Biosafety Information Resource Centre website (June)
- CAST Issue Paper 39, Swine Carcass Disposal Options for Routine and Catastrophic Mortality, was released at the Joint Annual Meeting of the American Society of Animal Science and the American Dairy Science Association in Indianapolis, Indiana. John Bonner spoke about CAST and Task Force Chair Allen Harper introduced the paper (July)
- CAST began offering several of its earlier publications free in boxed quantities for only a small shipping charge (August)
- CAST Commentary QTA2008-1, Pasteurellosis Transmission Risks between Domestic and Wild Sheep, was released (August)
- Bookmarks and RSS Feed features were added to the CAST website (August)
- Trent Loos and the Feedstuffs FoodLink Chuck Wagon came to Ames, Iowa, to meet with members of the agricultural community and to discuss the importance of technology in modern food production and the role of agriculture in providing national security. CAST is a partner with Feedstuffs FoodLink. Several CAST publications were available at the Feedstuffs exhibit (August)

in Washington, D.C., and Task Force Author Robert Silva introduced the paper (May)
2008 Highlights

- John Bonner attended the National Association of Farm Broadcasting Annual Meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, where he distributed CAST information and recorded radio interviews about CAST activities (November)
- CAST Special Publication 28, *Gene Flow in Alfalfa: Biology, Mitigation, and Potential Impact on Production*, was presented at the 38th California Alfalfa & Forage Symposium/Western Alfalfa Seed Conference in San Diego, California. John Bonner represented CAST at the event (December)
- CAST Special Publication 29, *Fate and Transport of Zoonotic Bacterial, Viral, and Parasitic Pathogens during Swine Manure Treatment, Storage, and Land Application*, was released in cooperation with the National Pork Board (December)

CAST Supports 2008 National Ag Day Essay Contest

CAST concluded its third year as a sponsor of the National Ag Day Essay Contest. The theme was “Agriculture—Bigger than You Think,” and was open to students in grades 7–12. Katlin Wiest, an 8th grader from Lykens, Pennsylvania, was the national winner; 31 state winners also were announced. Katlin was recognized at the Celebration of Agriculture dinner in Washington, D.C. on March 11, 2008, and also presented her winning essay as part of CAST’s Spring Board of Directors’ Meeting (see “2008 Board Meetings,” p. 7).

2008 Charles A. Black Award

CAST presented the Charles A. Black Award on March 11, 2008, in Washington, D.C., to Pedro Sanchez, Senior Research Scholar, Director of the Tropical Agriculture and Rural Environment Program, and Director of the Millennium Villages Project, all at Earth Institute at Columbia University, Palisades, New York. He is Professor Emeritus of Soil Science and Forestry at North Carolina State University, Raleigh. Dr. Sanchez was awarded the World Food Prize in 2002 and has been awarded the MacArthur Foundation’s prestigious “Genius Award” as well as the International Soil Science Award and the International Service in Agronomy Award.

In his acceptance presentation titled “The Millennium Villages and the African Green Revolution,” Dr. Sanchez spoke about the overarching problems facing agriculture in many African countries. The date and location of CAST’s event coincided with ceremonies celebrating the kick-off of National Ag Week, and Dr. Sanchez was also an invited speaker at “A Celebration of Agriculture” hosted by the Agriculture Council of America.

The Charles A. Black Award is presented annually to a food or agricultural scientist engaged actively in research who has made significant scientific contributions to his/her scientific field, and who communicates the importance of this work and of food and agricultural science to the public, policymakers, and the news media.

Personnel Notes

- Kayla Down, an Iowa State University (ISU) student majoring in Finance, graduated from ISU and left CAST to begin her career (May)
- Allison Nelson, a graphic designer and marketing specialist, joined CAST as Membership and Marketing Assistant (May)
- Krista Fox, an ISU junior majoring in Accounting, was hired as an Administrative Assistant (May)
- JaLynne Russell, an ISU sophomore majoring in Agricultural Business, was hired as an Administrative Assistant (May)
- Kelsey Whiley, CAST Administrative Assistant for the past 2 years, graduated from ISU with her Master’s degree and left CAST to begin her career (June)
- Donna Freeman, Membership and Marketing Director, resigned (September)
- A CAST staffing reorganization resulted in new duties and titles for several Staff members: John Bonner—Executive Vice President/Chief Executive Officer; Linda Chimenti—Director of Council Operations; Allison Nelson—Membership and Marketing Manager; Lynette Allen—Senior Editor; and Laura DeBoer—Editorial Project Manager (October)
- Gale Osborne, an experienced office business manager, joined CAST as Council Administrative Assistant (October)
- Thuy Ton, student Administrative Assistant, resigned (November)
2008 Board Meetings

Spring 2008

The Spring 2008 Board of Directors’ Meeting was held March 12–14, in Washington, D.C. At an afternoon reception attended by Executive Committee Members and invited guests, the Charles A. Black Award was presented to Dr. Pedro Sanchez of the Earth Institute at Columbia University (see “2008 Charles A. Black Award,” p. 6). In his remarks, Dr. Sanchez spoke about the overarching problems facing agriculture in many African countries and how the Millennium Villages project empowers communities to increase food production, improve sanitation, generate cash by selling crop surpluses, and provide better educational opportunities for children.

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Ed Schafer addressed the Board at a breakfast meeting in which he complimented CAST for its ongoing work, especially on the issues of bioenergy, climate change, and food safety. Mr. Matt Sutton-Vermeulen, representing the Center for Food Integrity, gave a presentation to the Board titled “A New Model to Earn and Maintain Consumer Trust,” and Katlin Wiest, National 2008 Ag Day Essay Contest Winner, presented her winning essay at the Wednesday breakfast meeting. Kellin Kershner, President of the Kansas State University Graduate Student Council, reported his experience of helping set up CAST’s Graduate Student Education Program at his institution, and Larry Meyers, of Meyers & Associates, updated the Board on the Farm Bill debate and what might be expected in the coming weeks.

The Board approved two new Issue Papers and a new policy to make CAST Issue Papers available online at no charge. The Board also voted to disband CAST’s Science Education Committee. The Staff and members of the Executive Committee gave a presentation titled “The Three I’s and U,” focusing on Input, Impact, and Investment.

Fall 2008

The Fall Board of Directors’ Meeting was held in Durham, North Carolina, October 29–31. In both general session discussions and small group exchanges, the focus of the meeting was to identify and address the “key issues” facing CAST.

The “CAST Champion Award” was presented to Dr. Stanley Fletcher, President of CAST in 2004–2005 in honor of his considerable support for CAST in recent years. Dr. Henry Shands was named President, Dr. Kassim Al-Khatib became Past President, and Dr. Todd Peterson began service as President-Elect.

Dr. David Volz, an environmental toxicologist at Syngenta, gave a presentation on “The Endangered Species Act: Potential Impact of Atrazine Use in the United States.” Dr. Alan Ayers, Director of Bayer CropScience State Affairs and Stewardship, addressed the Board at a breakfast meeting, and Dr. Johnny Wynne, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at North Carolina State University, hosted a dinner for Board Members as an evening activity. Dr. John Bonner, Executive Vice President of CAST, entertained the Board with an informative presentation — “19th Century Medical Science and Technology.” Dr. Bonner’s extensive collection of surgeon’s equipment, which he uses in his performances as a re-enactor, provided a clear visual demonstration of some of the differences and similarities between medical challenges such as vaccinations and food safety, then and now.
Letter from the CAST President

Henry L. Shands
President

It is a pleasure to address CAST’s community of Board Members, Staff, affiliated societies, corporate members, and the public at large. CAST is in its 37th year of bringing clear and unbiased science to its readership. Established with the underlying support of the National Academy of Science’s National Research Council, CAST was meant “to provide accurate information, based on agricultural science and technology, to the government, the news media, and the public about national or regional agricultural subjects of broad public concern.” And, as Dr. Norman Borlaug stated in the January 9, 2009 issue of “Friday Notes,” “CAST has both a tremendous responsibility and opportunity to present unbiased, scientific data so that wise policy and legislation will be enacted.”

After nearly four decades, CAST continues to do just that. CAST’s publication record reflects critical issues of the day that impact its individual and corporate membership, professional societies, stakeholders, and the general public. As columnist David Brooks recently commented in an essay in the New York Times, “…Journalism imposes habits that help reporters keep a mental distance from those they cover. Scientists have obligations to the community of researchers. In the process of absorbing the rules of the institutions we inhabit, we become who we are.”

Communicating science requires a special skill in balancing the logic, facts, and truths from competing hypotheses and experimental results. The emotions and politics often involved in those events must be carefully set aside to allow an unbiased analysis and interpretation of the science. CAST authors are selected not only because they are at the top of their fields in the subject matter, but also because they understand and are expected to uphold these principles of scholarship. We believe CAST’s publications demonstrate that science-based information can be communicated in an honest and straightforward manner.

Many individuals stand behind the success of CAST’s publications. Task Force Chairs, Members, and Reviewers may get the visible credit, but CAST Staff are the ones who provide the foundation for it all to happen. The author selection process, the coordination of Task Forces, the time schedules, the initial editing and assembly of the text from different authors, the copyediting and proofing of final galleys, all are masterworks of the CAST Staff. CAST Board Members and elected officers also donate their time for review of manuscripts, a service essential to the production of quality products.

We at CAST appreciate the support from all of you during these difficult economic times. CAST is no different from other nonprofit organizations in terms of the stress brought about by the economic downturn. To continue our mission, we need your individual, organizational, and corporate support and contributions more than ever. We need that financial support to continue to produce the publications you have been accustomed to receiving. Our streamlined, top-notch Staff does all the things necessary to maintain and expand the impact of communicating science-based information. Help us maintain the resources to keep them busy and productive.

I want to thank the CAST Board, Executive Committee, and Staff for their support and efforts to provide us the information we need to move forward. Also, thanks to Past Presidents Don Beitz, Stanley Fletcher, Gale Buchanan, and many CAST members for their help and guidance. We have a bright future.

Henry L. Shands, President of CAST

Mission
CAST assembles, interprets, and communicates credible, science-based information regionally, nationally, and internationally to legislators, regulators, policymakers, the media, the private sector, and the public.

Vision
CAST will be recognized as a credible and objective source of science-based information on agricultural issues across the urban–rural continuum—especially those issues regarding food, fiber, landscape environments, and agriculturally related natural resource, societal, and environmental concerns.
2008 CAST Membership

KEY
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• Millennium Club
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▲ Friends of CAST
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List as of December 2008

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Annual Report 2008
Council for Agricultural Science and Technology
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For More Information about CAST

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Website: www.cast-science.org
I sincerely hope CAST will continue to play a leading aggressive role in providing reliable scientific data for policymakers at state, national, and international levels.