

Promoting Produce and Getting the Facts Right

Worried about getting sick from pesticides in your produce? Don't be.

That is the message of CAST Issue Paper 66, *Interpreting Pesticide Residues in Food*. The new report aims to reduce consumers' worries by describing how information from complex risk assessments can be misinterpreted in news stories and by consumer advocacy groups.

"Consumers should feel confident, rather than uncomfortable when purchasing fruits and vegetables," says Dr. Carl K. Winter, Cooperative Extension Food Toxicology Specialist Emeritus at the University of California–Davis, and chair author of the CAST publication.

Winter presented the highlights from the paper to three different audiences in Washington, D.C., on October 21.

[Download the paper on our website.](#)



University of Arkansas Hosts the 2019 CAST Annual Meeting

CAST staff and board members traveled to the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville to discuss research, future publications, and CAST business at the annual meeting held in October.

Attendees toured the university's plant and animal research labs and discussed hot topics such as the significance of blockchain technologies in food production and introducing alternative proteins—including cultured meat—to the U.S. marketplace.

A select group of graduate students attended the meeting and received recognition as this year's CAST Science Communication Scholarship recipients. The students participated in the three-day meeting and had the opportunity to connect with professionals in their research areas.

The meeting ended with outgoing CAST President Dr. Gabe Middleton passing on presidential duties to Dr. Juan Tricarico for the upcoming year. Tricarico concluded the meeting with his vision for the organization, "CAST must continue building on its strengths: its history, scientific rigor, reputation, and membership."

[Read more on our website.](#)



CAST Celebrates a Decade of Outstanding Science Communication in Agriculture

On October 16, CAST celebrated the 10th anniversary of its annual Borlaug CAST Communication Award by honoring this year's prize winner, Dr. Frank Mitloehner of the University of California–Davis.

CAST Executive Vice President Kent Schescke welcomed the 150 participants at the World Food Prize morning event; Julie Borlaug spoke on behalf of this year's sponsor CropLife Foundation, then Schescke honored the retiring president of the World Food Prize, Ambassador Kenneth Quinn, with a special "Norman Borlaug Plaque."

After receiving his award, Mitloehner spoke on how facts, logic, and clear messages can help explain information in ways that the public understands. He led by example as he showed that beef production is not a leading contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, that ruminant livestock production is valuable, and that fossil fuels contribute much more to climate change than agriculture. Mitloehner also emphasized that we "need to do more with less." This refers to efficient methods, including thoughtful uses of technology to boost food production.

During a subsequent panel discussion, Mitloehner joined four previous BCCA winners to speak about the importance of science communication in agriculture. Julie Borlaug of INARI Agriculture moderated the spirited discussion. Panelists included Catherine Bertini (2011 BCCA), Carl Winter (2012 BCCA), Frank Mitloehner, Channapatna Prakash (2015 BCCA), and Marty Matlock (2018 BCCA).

[Read more on our website.](#)

Forthcoming Publications

The Microbiome's Positive Impacts on Crops

Impact of Recruitment and Retention of Food Animal Veterinarians on the U.S. Food Supply

Producing Food Products from Cultured Animals Tissues

Ground and Aerial Robots for Agricultural Production: Opportunities and Challenges

The Need and Challenge for Effective Stewardship of New Pest Management Technologies in Agriculture



CAST EVP Kent Schescke and Dr. Frank Mitloehner



Julie Borlaug, Catherine Bertini, Carl K. Winter, Frank Mitloehner, Channapatna Prakash, and Marty Matlock



Kent Schescke and World Food Prize President Ambassador Kenneth Quinn