

Borlaug CAST Communication Award Winner Announced

Dr. Alexa Lamm, Associate Professor of Science Communication at University of Georgia, was awarded [the 2020 Borlaug CAST Communication Award](#) (BCCA) on May 12. On October 13, she will be presented with the 2020 BCCA during a free webinar and will speak on *Effectively Communicating Science in Times of Crisis*. With a long list of accomplishments as a scientist, educator, and writer, Lamm is recognized nationally and internationally as an acclaimed research scholar. Colleagues and associates praise her intelligence and hard work, and they note that she is a “skilled translator”—Lamm has a way of making tech and science accessible for all, from policymakers to the general public. You can follow her on Twitter [@lexlamm](#).



President-Elect for 2020-21 Announced

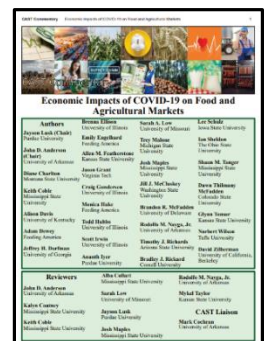
Dr. Anna Dilger, Associate Professor in the Department of Animal Sciences at the University of Illinois, was chosen as the [President-Elect for 2020-21](#) on June 1. Dilger has been active on the CAST Board of Representatives since 2014, representing the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), and she was elected to the CAST Board of Directors as the society liaison in 2019. She currently serves as the vice-chair of the Food Work Group and was recently the task force liaison for the commentary “Food Produced from Cultured Animal Tissues.” Dilger stated, “I plan to continue and strengthen that collaborative environment to further elevate and publicize the work of CAST.”

New CAST Publications and Webinars



On May 18, CAST released [Stewardship Challenges for New Pest Management Technologies in Agriculture](#). The five panelists—David Shaw (task force chair, Mississippi State University), David Ervin, Raymond Jussaume, George Frisvold, and Greg Sword—shared highlights from the paper and responded to questions from attendees the following day during the webinar. Each new pest management technology (weed, insect, disease) developed brings a number of benefits and risks—environmental, health, resistance—that must be considered and managed through effective stewardship practices to ensure that benefits are fully realized while risks are minimized.

The June 29 release and webinar of the commentary [Economic Impacts of COVID-19 on Food and Agricultural Markets](#) included remarks by task force chairs Jayson Lusk (Purdue University) and John D. Anderson (University of Arkansas), followed by a Q&A that included authors Alison Davis and Timothy Richards. The commentary contains insights from 31 experts and examines the many economic factors and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, with a focus on the agriculture sector.



On July 27, CAST released the commentary on [Impacts on Human Health and Safety of Naturally Occurring and Supplemental Hormones in Food Animals](#). The webinar was presented on July 28, featuring comments from Robert Collier (task force chair, University of Idaho), followed by a Q&A session with panelists Laura L. Hernandez, Jimena Laporta, Jim Lauderdale, and Zachary K. Smith. Some components of the technologies employed by animal producers to improve efficiency of animal production include improved nutrition and reproduction; advances in genetics; and health and management practices; as well as feed additives, hormonal treatments, and growth enhancing technologies.

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On August 24, CAST released [Agriculture and the Microbiome](#). The webinar was presented on August 25 and featured comments from task force chairs Megan Andrews and Ignazio Carbone (both from North Carolina State University) and featured a Q&A session with panelists Gregory Maloney, Elizabeth Stulberg, and Carolyn Young. Modern agriculture is successful today because of advances in mechanization, breeding, nutrients (e.g., fertilization), and pest and disease management, all of which enhance crop productivity and provide greater food security. Expanding the use of crop microbiomes to improve plant production is the next agricultural revolution.

Impact of the Precautionary Principle on Feeding Current and Future Generations was released in June 2013. The [Spanish translation](#) of the issue paper is now available. The paper looks at the history and purpose of the precautionary principle and examines problems of ambiguity, arbitrary application, and bias against new technologies.

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, science, and COVID-19's impacts on the ag industry.



A new CAST resource includes [student study guides](#) focused on recent CAST papers that can then be used by teachers and parents for students' online learning activities and in other educational settings.

CAST Staff Updates

Kim Nelson relocated to Colorado and Dylana Luett, a recent graduate from Iowa State University, is the new Communications and Social Media Specialist. Caryn Dawson, the previous Student Administrative Assistant, had an internship with Bayer Crop Science this summer, so Hayley Palensky took her place for a few months. Hayley focused on financial and accounting duties as a student assistant. Once school started back up, Caryn rejoined the CAST office.

CAST Board News

The 2020 CAST Annual Board Meeting will be held virtually October 27-29. The tentative schedule includes the Board of Directors meeting, President's Report, USDA Science Panel, and work group breakout sessions the first day. The second day will include the BCCA Panel, Treasurer's Report, EVP Report, Adaptive Plan Rollout, New President's Vision, and work group breakouts, updates, and reports. The final day will be the Board of Trustees meeting.

In the Works—Upcoming Events



September 21, 2020—Release of Commentary, *The Importance of Communicating Empirically Based Science for Society*

October 13, 2020—2020 Borlaug CAST Communication Award Presentation

October 15, 2020—Release of Issue Paper, *Food Biofortification—Reaping the Benefits of Science to Overcome Hidden Hunger*

October 27-29, 2020—CAST Annual Board Meeting

Mid-November 2020—Release of Issue Paper, *Ground and Aerial Robots for Agricultural Production: Opportunities and Challenges*

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