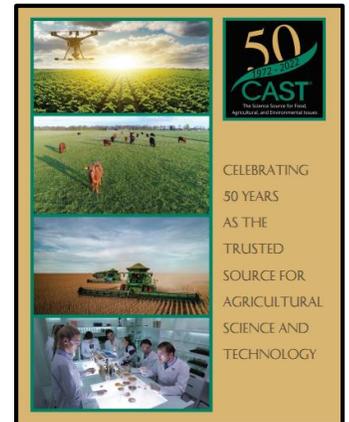


Celebrating 50 Years of CAST in 2022

CAST is celebrating 50 years as the trusted source for credible, balanced, science-based information in 2022. [This commemorative publication](#) was created in October 2021, and offers three sections covering 1) CAST historical highlights, publications, social media, and organizational structure, 2) the impact of CAST, and 3) essays on the future of CAST.

A number of meetings and presentations will take place in the following months to share this publication and engage stakeholders on their ideas about how CAST can better adapt to new challenges to science communications around food, agriculture, and the environment. These events will culminate at the 2022 CAST Annual Meeting which will be held in Iowa, where CAST was formed and still currently operates.



2021 Borlaug CAST Communication Award Presentation



On October 21, Dr. Sarah Evanega was presented with the 2021 Borlaug CAST Communication Award (BCCA). The event was held at the Hall of Laureates in Des Moines, Iowa, and was a part of the World Food Prize agenda. Evanega spoke on *Set a Bolder Table for the Future: Modify, Include, Diversify*. Evanega explained why scientists and agriculturalists need to “modify, include, and diversify.” As she said, “You can be that person who offers a chair, a hand, and says, ‘Will you join me at my table?’ ‘Will you join us at our table?’, and just as importantly, ‘May we join you at your table?’” A video of her presentation and more information about Evanega [can be found here](#) and pictures from the event [can be viewed here](#).

Nominations are now open for the 2022 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. Information on how to nominate someone for the 2022 BCCA and the nomination packet are [on the CAST website](#). Completed nomination packets are due February 7, 2022.

Release of New Commentary

On November 15, CAST released [Gains Foregone by Going GMO Free: Potential Impacts on Consumers, the Environment, and Agricultural Producers](#). The webinar on November 16 had seven panelists—Brandon McFadden (task force chair, University of Delaware), Ellen Goddard, Jayson Lusk, Jill McCluskey, Stuart J. Smyth, Farzad Taheripour, and Alison Van Eenennaam—who were also authors on the paper. This paper communicates the benefits of GMOs and the potential cost to society if the technology were removed from the marketplace. The authors blend results from academic research, public agencies, and statements from nonprofit and scientific organizations to highlight the positive effects of GMO adoption.



2021 CAST Annual Meeting



The CAST Annual Meeting occurred October 26-28 in Columbus, Ohio. Along with educational tours on The Ohio State University campus, members attended informational sessions and met in various work groups. Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young provided updates from the USDA, and during the next three days, attendees and webinar participants stayed focused on CAST's mission of communicating credible science and agricultural information. Presenters and emcees included members of the CAST boards, several BCCA winners, the CAST staff, and more.

Newly installed CAST President Dr. Anna Dilger referred to past accomplishments but kept the focus on the future: "As CAST reflects on the last 50 years, we are proud of our many accomplishments and the value that our stakeholders find in us. In the next 50 years, what won't change about CAST is our focus on bringing together experts to synthesize scientific findings on new technologies and pressing issues in food and agriculture. But we are excited to expand our efforts into new mediums like education modules, videos, or other formats to better reach a broad audience." Dilger "received the gavel" from outgoing President Dr. David Baltensperger, a long-time CAST member and contributor.

Student Scholarship Recipients

This year, eight graduate and veterinary medicine students from The Ohio State University received the CAST Science Communication Scholarship on October 27 during the CAST Annual Meeting. The recipients could choose to submit a short video, infographic, or a micro-podcast, as well as a short essay on how their digital media example communicates a component of their research. A blog with all the students' infographics and short videos is [available for viewing](#). This scholarship is supported by individual donors of CAST.

New Board-Level Nonprofit Member

The [National Turkey Federation](#) (NTF) is the newest addition to the list of CAST Nonprofit Members at the board level. This level of support for CAST allows the organization the opportunity to appoint a representative to serve on a work group and network with other professionals to help CAST address agricultural issues through its publications. Lindy Froebel will represent NTF and serve on the Food Science and Safety work group.

New Director of Council Operations

Anne Owens is the new Director of Council Operations (DCO) for CAST. She is from central Iowa, where she grew up on a family Christmas tree farm and small crop farm. Anne has worked with many different community nonprofit organizations as she and her husband moved through the upper Midwest and New England states. Anne is excited to be joining the team at CAST. You can learn more about [Anne's background in her blog](#). Melissa Sly, prior DCO, is semi-retiring and reducing hours and will be managing special projects at the office.



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. 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 and can be found under each publication's landing page.

Forthcoming Publications Under Development

Goals, Strengths and Limitations Governing the Use of Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) in Food and Agriculture
RNA Interference Technology in Agriculture: Methods, Applications, and Governance
Environmental, Social, and Economic Impacts of Implementing Sustainable Intensification in Agriculture at Scale

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Thank you all for your support and we wish
you a happy holiday season!

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