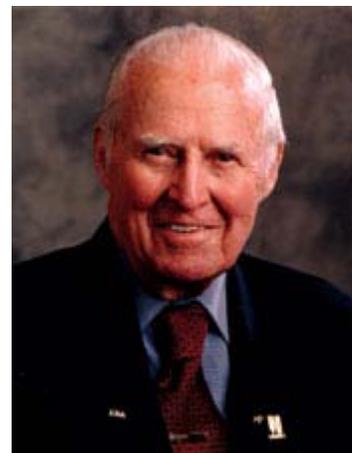


# Norman Borlaug 1914-2009

## *CAST Honors the "Man Who Fed the World," Longstanding Advocate for CAST*

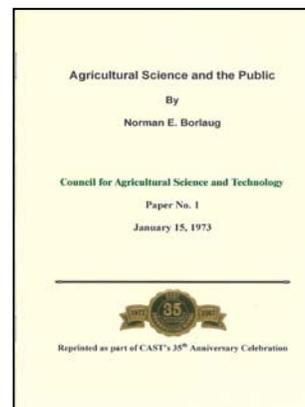


Dr. Norman E. Borlaug—the man credited with saving more lives than any other person who has ever lived—passed away Saturday, September 12, 2009, at his home in Dallas, Texas. Widely known as the “Father of the Green Revolution” and “The Man Who Fed the World” for his pioneering work developing high-yielding wheat for areas with limited cultivated land and increasing population, Dr. Borlaug was one of only five people in history to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the Congressional Gold Medal (an honor shared by Nelson Mandela, Elie Wiesel, Mother Teresa, and Martin Luther King, Jr.). *[Photos (top): Courtesy of the World Food Prize Foundation; (bottom): Dr. Borlaug in Mexico, courtesy of The Borlaug Institute]*

Dr. Borlaug devoted his life to ensuring food security for what he termed “the forgotten world,” mostly developing nations, where “most of the people, comprising more than 50% of the total world population, live in poverty, with hunger as a constant companion.” When Dr. Borlaug received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, then-President Gerald Ford stated that Borlaug’s work “has pushed back the shadow of hunger on this planet and given us precious time to force its final retreat.”

Dr. Borlaug was a lifelong promoter and advocate for the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST), beginning at its founding in 1972. He was the featured speaker at the CAST–Industry Conference, held in January 1973, at which CAST was introduced to the agribusiness community. His remarks at the conference—later published as CAST Paper #1—helped establish the new organization and set the tone for its mission and impact.

*It is opportune today that the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology is being formed to bring back together, after many years of separation, the different disciplines of agricultural science into a body designed to affect overall policy of agricultural development....CAST therefore has both a tremendous responsibility and opportunity to present unbiased, scientific data on many of these issues to congressmen, policy makers, and the general public so that wise policy and legislation will be enacted. I have faith the correct decisions will be made if the facts are made known to the general public and to the national and state legislative leaders. [Excerpt from CAST Paper No. 1; image above a reprint of Paper #1 formatted for CAST’s 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 2007]*





Both Dr. Borlaug and CAST have deep roots in Iowa. Dr. Borlaug was born March 25, 1914, near Cresco, and often stated “Whatever I’ve been able to do in life for good...in large part goes back to the experience of growing up on the soil, [on] a very small farm in Howard County, Iowa.” In 1985 Dr. Borlaug was the driving force behind the establishment of the World Food Prize, headquartered in Des Moines, Iowa, and awarded annually to persons who have made outstanding contributions to food and agriculture throughout the world. In addition, several acres of his Iowa boyhood farm have been dedicated to the

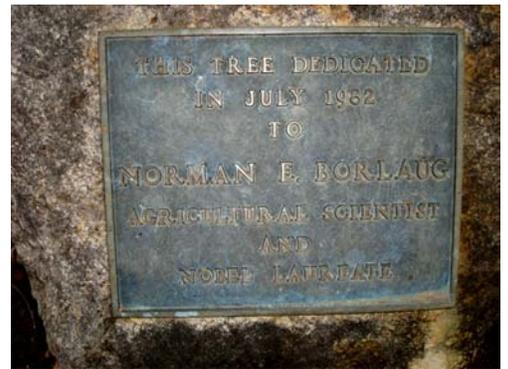
education of new generations of agricultural scientists. *[Photo (left): Borlaug’s childhood farm near Cresco, Iowa, courtesy of the Norman Borlaug Heritage Foundation]*

CAST’s vision mirrors that of Dr. Borlaug’s in bridging research, politics, and the individual. CAST, now a 37-year-old nonprofit organization, has grown from its original small group of cooperating scientists to a worldwide organization, and likewise remains anchored in the Heartland where it began (Ames, Iowa).



In 1982 as part of CAST’s 10-year anniversary in Ames, Dr. Borlaug received CAST’s first “Distinguished Achievement Award in Food and Agricultural Science.” A stone marker was installed to commemorate the occasion and a scarlet oak tree was planted in his honor on the Iowa State University campus, where it continues to grow and mature. Dr. Borlaug’s remarks at that meeting were later published as CAST Special Publication 12.

*[Photos (left): Dr. Borlaug resting on the stone marker in front of CAST’s newly planted oak tree, dedicated in his honor in July 1982, CAST archives; (right):*



*Engraving on CAST marker, CAST archives. (See below for an image of Borlaug’s tree as it appears today)]*

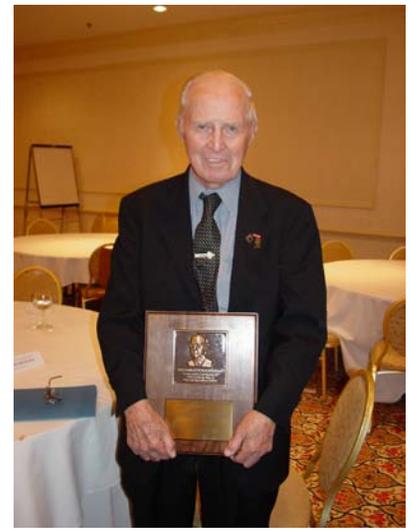
Dr. Borlaug was featured in several other CAST publications as well, and his life and work were highlighted in *Science of Food and Agriculture* (May 1983), CAST’s magazine for high school science teachers.



In 1998 as part of an American Crop Protection Association’s Annual Meeting (now CropLife America), CAST presented a special trophy to Dr. Borlaug for his scientific and humanitarian contributions to reduce the extent of hunger and starvation. In accepting the award, Dr. Borlaug commended CAST’s Board of Directors:

**Let me say that it is a real pleasure...to see the progress that CAST has made....We need to pool our scientific knowledge as well as our cultural knowledge. I think that membership in CAST is a long step toward achieving that....I have watched with delight the vacuum that has been filled by CAST in presenting scientific publications covering a vast array of subjects that relate to agriculture....** *[Excerpt from Dr. Borlaug’s acceptance remarks on receiving CAST award, 1998; Photo (left): Dr. Borlaug receiving CAST’s Scientific and Humanitarian Award from CAST EVP Dick Stuckey, 1998, CAST archives]*

In April 2005, CAST presented the Charles A. Black Award to Dr. Borlaug for his outstanding achievements as a scientist, educator, and communicator. He also participated in an open forum with other guest speakers and later made a presentation to CAST Board Members and invited guests during which he voiced his continued support for CAST's work. *[Photo (right): Dr. Borlaug with CAST's Charles A. Black Award, 2005; CAST archives]*



At CAST's October 2007 35th Anniversary celebration in Ames, Iowa, Dr. Borlaug—who originally was scheduled as a guest speaker but had to cancel for health reasons—prepared the following statement:



**The need for an organization like CAST is as great today as it was in 1972....Science-based information to help decision makers make the best decision possible continues to be a great need and will still be so when CAST celebrates its 70th Anniversary. Every scientist must do their part in helping inform the world about how science-based information leads, and will continue to lead, to increased food production....I wish CAST all the best. What you do is very important to mankind and to a better world for all. *[From letter to CAST Board at 35th Anniversary celebration, October 2007]***

Most recently, Dr. Borlaug authored the Preface for CAST's forthcoming Issue Paper titled "U.S. Agricultural Policy for the Twenty-first Century Global Economy," a new look at the same general topic he addressed in his visionary 1973 "Agricultural Science and the Public" (CAST Paper No. 1). Dr. Borlaug also provided a personal letter expressing his support for CAST and its mission, part of a major CAST fundraising campaign currently under way.



Dr. Borlaug's enthusiastic support has played a major role in CAST's continued success in assembling, interpreting, and communicating "credible, science-based information regionally, nationally, and internationally to legislators, regulators, policymakers, the media, the private sector, and the public." *[See "Norman Borlaug's Letter of Support to CAST 2009," below]*



CAST joins individuals and organizations throughout the world in expressing deep appreciation for Dr. Borlaug's work and influence, and sincere sympathy to his family.

Thank you, Dr. Borlaug.

*[Photos (above left): CAST EVP John Bonner discussing CAST publications with Dr. Borlaug, World Food Prize Symposium, October 2005; (above right) Scarlet oak tree, originally planted in honor of Dr. Borlaug at CAST's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1982, continues to flourish on Iowa State University campus, September 2009, courtesy of John M. Bonner]*



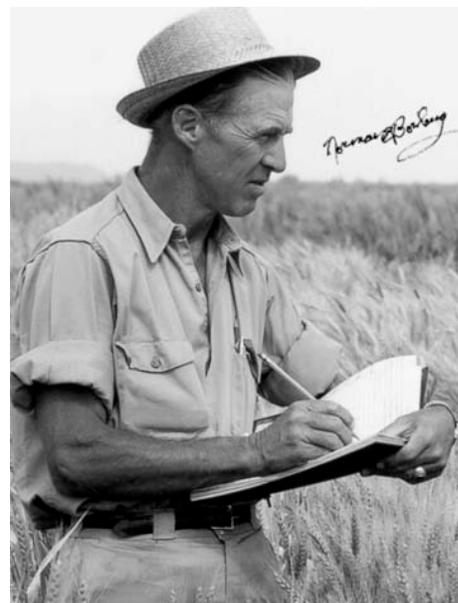
## *Borlaug Memorial Service October 6, 2009*

Services have been set for Dr. Norman E. Borlaug, Nobel laureate and distinguished professor of international agriculture at Texas A&M University. The public memorial will be at 11 a.m. October 6 in Rudder Auditorium on the Texas A&M campus in College Station.

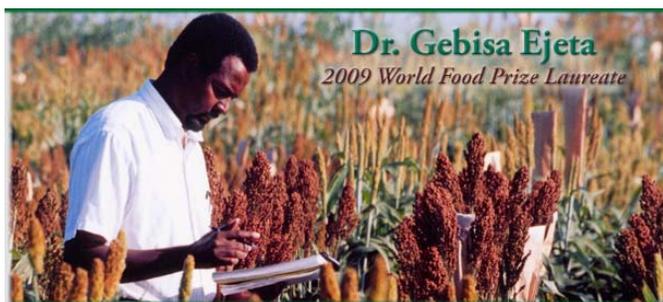
Borlaug died shortly before 11:00 p.m. September 12 from complications of cancer in Dallas. He was 95. Borlaug's career was dedicated to using science to combat world hunger. He received the 1970 Nobel Peace Prize for developing high-yielding, disease-resistant wheat, which was credited for ending famine in developing countries.

A website has been established (<http://borlaug.tamu.edu>) with information about Borlaug, a portal for writing condolences online, and other information about the services.

The family has requested, in lieu of flowers, memorials to the Borlaug International Scholars Fund. Checks should be made payable to "Texas A&M Foundation" and may be mailed to the Texas A&M Foundation, 401 George Bush Drive, College Station, TX 77840-2811. Please indicate in the Memo line "Borlaug International Scholars Fund." This fund will allow students from developing countries to pursue graduate studies or short-term experiential learning activities at Texas A&M University or other land grant universities of the United States. Condolences may be addressed to The Borlaug Family, 13352 Peyton, Dallas, Texas 75240. For information on the memorial service and Borlaug's complete vitae visit <http://borlaug.tamu.edu/>. [Photo: Dr. Borlaug, 1970, courtesy of AgBioWorld]



## **FULL CIRCLE: 2009 World Food Prize Winner Inspired as a Student to Emulate Borlaug's Service to the World**



It is fitting that during the week following Dr. Borlaug's memorial service, the World Food Prize that he founded will be awarded to Gebisa Ejeta, a professor at Purdue University, for his work developing a variety of drought-resistant sorghum that also is resistant to a weed that plagues the crop in Africa. As a young college student in Ethiopia trying to determine his future, Ejeta ultimately was inspired to pursue plant genetics after learning of Borlaug's work through a mentor. "I didn't quite fully

understand the power of the work that Dr. Borlaug had done other than the fact that if a person could be given this kind of recognition for serving humanity, I thought this would be a field of study that would be worth looking into," recalls Ejeta. [Image courtesy of The World Food Prize Foundation]

# Norman Borlaug's Letter of Support for CAST 2009



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College of Agriculture and Life Sciences  
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FAX (979) 845-0456  
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January 5, 2009

Dr. John Bonner, President  
CAST  
4420 West Lincoln Way  
Ames, Iowa 50014-3447

Dear Dr. Bonner,

As a new year begins, I want to congratulate CAST for the excellent job it has done in communicating agricultural science for more than 36 years. I was pleased to be a featured speaker at a CAST-Industry meeting in 1973, and I was honored when CAST distributed those remarks as its first publication (CAST Paper No. 1, *Agricultural Science and the Public*, 1973). As I said on that occasion:

*CAST has both a tremendous responsibility and opportunity to present unbiased, scientific data so that wise policy and legislation will be enacted. I have faith the correct decisions will be made if the facts are made known to the general public and to national and state legislative leaders.*

Today, policymakers and legislators continue to debate agricultural issues that impact the nation and the world, with decisions that have profound, far-reaching implications. In addition, the 2008 election brought agriculture-related propositions to the forefront, reflecting a broad-based and increasingly involved public. We obviously have a critical need now—more than any time in the past—for CAST's accurate, concise, science-based information.

Scientists must do their part in helping inform the world about how science leads, and will continue to lead, to increased food production and advances in other issues related to agriculture. CAST specializes in bringing together the knowledge and experience of these scientists, summarizing it for broad impact, then communicating it locally and internationally. I have no doubt that CAST will continue with this mission another 36 years and beyond.

I wish CAST all the best and I encourage all of you who are reading this to increase your support of this organization so it can continue contributing to agricultural science as it has done so well for 3<sup>1/2</sup> decades. What CAST does is very important to mankind and to a better world for all.

Sincerely yours,



Norman E. Borlaug, Distinguished Professor  
International Agriculture