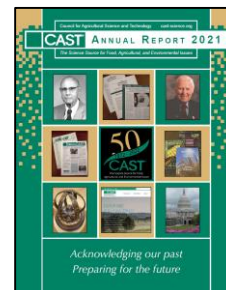
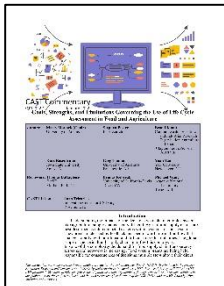


Release of New Commentary

On January 24, CAST released [Goals, Strengths and Limitations Governing the Use of Life Cycle Assessment \(LCA\) in Food and Agriculture](#). Life cycle assessment (LCA) is a method to identify all the inputs and outputs necessary to make a product and quantify the associated environmental and socioeconomic impacts. In its simplest form, the LCA method describes the inputs (e.g. energy, materials, and resources) to a process and all the resulting outputs including the emissions and losses to the environment. The [webinar](#) on January 25 had three panelists—Marty Matlock (task force chair, University of Arkansas), Yuan Yao, and Kurt Rosentrater.



CAST Annual Report

The 2021 CAST Annual Report was released in April and can be [found on the website](#).

CAST Board of Directors Meeting

The CAST Board of Directors held their spring board meeting, virtually, on April 25 and 26. The directors discussed plans for the 2022 fall annual meeting to be held in Ames, Iowa, and looked ahead at future sites for upcoming annual meetings. Members discussed 50th anniversary plans and celebratory activities for this year. The 2021-2025 Adaptive Plan and progress to date on those objectives were reviewed. The meeting also included spending time reviewing CAST financial reports and staffing needs and recent transitions.

2022 Borlaug CAST Communication Award

The 2022 Borlaug CAST Communication Award (BCCA) announcement event was held on May 10.

[Dr. Martin Wiedmann](#), Gellert Family Professor of Food Safety, Department of Food Science in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University, was announced as the 2022 BCCA recipient. His communication style is extremely effective in both conveying information to the intended audience, as well as stimulating discussion and questions around key food safety issues. [Dr. Sarah Evanega](#), 2021 BCCA recipient, presented on *People & Planet: Finding our science communication purpose*.

The recorded event can be [watched here](#). During the past twelve years, [this prestigious award](#) has been presented to accomplished, influential scientists and communicators.



Dr. Martin Wiedmann (2022)



Dr. Sarah Evanega (2021)

50th Anniversary Celebration

As CAST celebrates its 50th year as the trusted source of credible, science-based information around food and agriculture, we are looking forward to hosting our 2022 fall annual meeting in October where this work all began—in Ames, Iowa. During the meeting, which will be co-hosted with our university partner, Iowa State University, we will be celebrating with past and present supporters of CAST, and welcoming new friends.

Last November, a [commemorative publication was released](#). It offers three sections covering 1) CAST historical highlights, publications, social media, and organizational structure, 2) an overview of CAST's impact as an agricultural source, and 3) essays from past BCCA recipients on the future of CAST.

New Board-Level Members

CAST is excited to announce that [Minor Use Foundation](#) (nonprofit) and [Zoetis](#) (company) are the newest additions to the list of CAST members at the board level. This level of support for CAST allows these organizations 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.

Dan Kunkel represents MUF and serves on the Plant Agriculture and Environmental Issues work group. Kunkel stated, "We are looking forward to providing support to many of the activities of the plant work group and expect to add a publication in the area of global trade standards for plant protection products on commodities." Wendy Feik Pinkerton represents Zoetis and serves on the Animal Agriculture and Environmental Issues work group. Pinkerton stated, "We believe in CAST's work and see strong alignment between it and Zoetis business objectives."

The Future of CAST/Student Engagement Opportunities

CAST partnered with Iowa State University MBA students to help CAST with two service learning projects—a communications audit and setting up project management software. The communications team consisted of three students who researched ways to improve brand awareness through digital technology and reach a new audience. A group of four students worked on setting up project management software and processes to help CAST staff and volunteers to operate more efficiently and automate various organization processes.

CAST is also working with University of Missouri and University of Illinois students developing new interactive lesson plans based on CAST publications. During the spring semester a group of students created a career exploration lesson based on the *Impact of Recruitment and Retention of Food Animal Veterinarians on the U.S. Food Supply*.

Anne Owens, CAST Director of Council Operations, said, "The students are highly motivated, energetic, and contribute many fresh, new ideas to CAST. We are as interested in continuing to work with them on further project implementation and opportunities as they are!"

Please contact us if your university has a similar program and are interested in partnering with CAST.

CAST Staff Updates



Dan Gogerty

Dan Gogerty has retired after passionately serving as the *Friday Notes*' editor for more than a decade. If anyone could receive a Ph.D. in Friday Notes, it would be Dan as he has created more than 560 editions of the weekly newsletter. All of the naked mole rat articles that Dan found over the years deserve an honorable mention. He discusses his reflections on his blog that [you can read on our website](#).

Nick Plaughter recently joined CAST as a Communications Project Coordinator. Nick grew up in Clarksburg, West Virginia in the hills of the Appalachian Mountains. He is interested in learning more about marketing, media, and communications in various channels. Nick looks forward to bringing an outside perspective to CAST as he works remotely. Learn more about Nick [in his blog](#).



Nick Plaughter

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 and science. 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.

Forthcoming Publications Under Development

RNA Interference Technology in Agriculture: Methods, Applications, and Governance

Environmental, Social, and Economic Impacts of Implementing Sustainable Intensification in Agriculture at Scale

Animal Agriculture and Zoonoses. A One Health Perspective

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