

COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Publications Impact Report 2026

REPORTING PERIOD	January 1 – August 3, 2026
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Executive Summary

Between January 1 and August 3, 2026, CAST's Open Journal Systems platform recorded **30,877 total interactions** across 189 publications spanning more than five decades — from *Agricultural Science and the Public* (1972), the oldest cataloged title, through three publications released in 2026. This report documents how CAST's scientific publications are being read, downloaded, and used by researchers, policymakers, educators, and the public worldwide.

Traffic is highly concentrated: the top 10 publications account for 41.9% of all views, while the 2020–2026 cohort generates 62.6% of total traffic despite representing only 18.5% of the catalog. *AI in Agriculture* (2025) attracted nearly 2,800 views in the first seven months of the year. A coordinated FIFRA/ESA regulatory cluster of five publications generated a combined 1,676 views, while the 2003 *Mycotoxins* publication posts the highest download rate on the platform at 86% — evidence that rigorous agricultural science retains its value for decades.

30,877 Total Views Jan 1 – Aug 3, 2026	189 Publications Catalog 1972–2026	6,896 PDF Downloads 22.3% of all views	2,780 Top Title Views AI in Agriculture, 2025
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1. Platform-Wide Performance

1.1 Engagement Metrics

Metric	Value	Notes
Total Views (Abstract + File)	30,877	Across 189 publications
Abstract Views	23,981	77.7% of all interactions
PDF Downloads	6,896	22.3% of total views
Publications Tracked	189	Catalog spanning 1972–2026
Mean Views per Publication	163	Skewed by high-traffic titles
Median Views per Publication	70	More representative baseline
Publications with 500+ Views	9	4.8% of the catalog
Publications with ≤50 Views	31	16.4% of the catalog

The mean (163) sits well above the median (70) — a signature of long-tail distribution where a handful of high-traffic titles pull the average up while most of the catalog clusters modestly below 100 views.

Format note: All downloads are recorded as PDF. HTML and Other format fields register zero across the entire catalog — CAST's OJS instance serves content exclusively in PDF.

1.2 Traffic Concentration

Segment	Publications	Total Views	Share of All Traffic
Top 5 publications	5	9,943	32.2%
Top 10 publications	10	12,927	41.9%
Top 20 publications	20	16,574	53.7%
Bottom 100 publications	100	5,508	17.8%

The top 20 titles (10.6% of the catalog) generate more than half of all traffic. The bottom 100 publications share less traffic than the top 5 alone — a classic long-tail pattern that highlights opportunity for improved discoverability across mid- and lower-traffic titles.

2. Top 20 Publications by Readership

DL% = file views ÷ total views. Higher rates indicate readers retrieving the document for active use rather than browsing.

#	Title	Year	Views	DL	DL%
1	AI in Agriculture: Opportunities, Challenges, and Recommendations	2025	2,780	686	25%
2	Integrated Management of Fire-Adapted Invasive Plants That Change Wildfire Regimes	2026	2,666	383	14%
3	Animal and Plant Sourced Proteins as Part of a Balanced Human Diet	2025	2,004	204	10%
4	Diversifying the Corn Belt: Policy Pathways for a Resilient Agricultural Future	2026	1,444	712	49%
5	Precision Irrigation Management	2025	1,049	252	24%
6	Applications, Benefits, and Challenges of Genome Edited Crops	2024	817	124	15%
7	RNA Interference in Agriculture: Methods, Applications, and Governance	2024	725	183	25%
8	Food Traceability: Current Status and Future Opportunities	2023	520	188	36%
9	Impacts of Soil Health Practices on Hydrologic Processes	2024	507	65	13%
10	Potential for U.S. Agriculture to Be Greenhouse Gas Negative	2024	415	71	17%
11	Mycotoxins: Risks in Plant, Animal, and Human Systems	2003	411	355	86%
12	Preventing the Next Plant Invasion: Opportunities and Challenges	2024	411	43	10%
13	Zoonotic Diseases in Animal Agriculture and Beyond: A One Health Perspective	2022	384	56	15%
14	Impacts on Human Health and Safety of Naturally Occurring and Supplemental Hormones in Food Animals	2020	375	51	14%
15	FIFRA, ESA and Pesticide Consultation: Identifying and Overcoming the Complexities from a Growers Perspective	2024	368	69	19%
16	State Regulatory Agencies as Conduit for Informing Local Conditions in Federal Pesticide Processes	2024	341	57	17%
17	Developing and Adopting Economically Effective Pesticide Mitigation Strategies	2024	341	54	16%
18	Impact of the Precautionary Principle on the Nutrition of Current and Future Generations	2020	340	65	19%

#	Title	Year	Views	DL	DL%
19	Goals, Strengths and Limitations Governing the Use of Life Cycle Assessment in Food and Agriculture	2022	338	65	19%
20	Improving the FIFRA/ESA Process by Addressing Key Obstacles and Incorporating Better Data and Tools	2024	338	79	23%

3. Performance by Publication Era

3.1 By Decade

Decade	Publications	Total Views	Avg Views / Pub	Traffic Share
1970s (1972 — single title)	1	319	319	1.0%
1980s	7	583	83	1.9%
1990s	43	2,562	60	8.3%
2000s	61	4,623	76	15.0%
2010s	42	3,719	89	12.0%
2020s (through 2026)	35	19,323	552	62.6%

Average per-publication engagement rises steadily decade over decade — from 60 in the 1990s to 89 in the 2010s and 552 in the 2020s — reflecting both improved discoverability and growing public interest in agricultural science. The single 1972 title records 319 views, outperforming the majority of 1990s publications.

3.2 By Era

Era	Publications	Total Views	Avg Views / Pub
Pre-1980 (1972)	1	319	319
1980–1999	50	3,145	63
2000–2009	61	4,623	76
2010–2019	42	3,719	89
2020–2026	35	19,323	552

4. Key Findings

4.1 The FIFRA / ESA Regulatory Cluster

Five publications on the intersection of FIFRA and the Endangered Species Act collectively generated **1,676 views** — enough to rank the cluster fifth platform-wide if treated as a single title. Download rates of 16–23% across all five confirm readers are retrieving full documents for regulatory proceedings, legal filings, or policy briefs.

Publication	Year	Views	Downloads	DL%
FIFRA, ESA and Pesticide Consultation: Identifying and Overcoming the Complexities from a Growers Perspective	2024	368	69	19%
Improving the FIFRA/ESA Process by Addressing Key Obstacles and Incorporating Better Data and Tools	2024	338	79	23%
FIFRA and the Endangered Species Act: Finding a Balance between Agricultural Efficiency, Environmental Sustainability, and Regulatory Stability	2023	335	69	21%
FIFRA, ESA, and Pesticide Consultation: Understanding and Addressing the Complexities	2024	327	54	17%
A Legal Discussion of the FIFRA/ESA Consultation Process Over Time	2023	308	53	17%
Cluster Total	—	1,676	324	19%

4.2 Mycotoxins (2003) — Platform's Highest Download Rate

Published in 2003, *Mycotoxins: Risks in Plant, Animal, and Human Systems* achieves an **86% download rate** — more than three times the platform average (22.3%) and well above the next-highest titles. This is consistent with a document used as a standing reference in coursework, regulatory submissions, or practitioner guides. All publications with a download rate above 50% are shown below.

Publication	Year	Views	Downloads	Download Rate
Mycotoxins: Risks in Plant, Animal, and Human Systems	2003	411	355	86%
Water Quality and Quantity Issues for Turfgrasses in Urban Landscapes	2008	114	75	66%
Integrated Pest Management: Current and Future Strategies	2003	94	54	57%
Benefits of Controlling Nuisance Aquatic Plants and Algae in the U.S.	2014	99	56	57%
	2020	144	81	56%

Publication	Year	Views	Downloads	Download Rate
Economic Impacts of COVID-19 on Food and Agricultural Markets				
Probiotics: Their Potential to Impact Human Health	2007	88	48	55%

4.3 2026 Publications — Early Traction

Both high-traffic 2026 publications have accumulated substantial readership within months of release. *Diversifying the Corn Belt's* 49% download rate — highest among all high-traffic titles — points to an audience of legislators, extension services, and farm bureaus actively retrieving the document for use.

Publication	Views	Downloads	Download Rate
Integrated Management of Fire-Adapted Invasive Plants That Change Wildfire Regimes	2,666	383	14%
Diversifying the Corn Belt: Policy Pathways for a Resilient Agricultural Future	1,444	712	49%

Agricultural Science and the Public (1972) is the oldest cataloged CAST publication — predating the previously assumed 1986 catalog start by 14 years. With 319 views in 2026, it outperforms the majority of 1990s and 2000s titles.

4.4 Multilingual Publications

CAST has published 8 Spanish-language and 1 Vietnamese-language translations, totaling 551 combined views in the reporting period. *Impacto del Principio Precautorio* (Spanish, 2020) leads at 179 views. OJS metrics likely undercount global reach for translated materials, as international readers frequently access publications through institutional repositories or direct links.

5. Full Catalog — Tier 1 & 2 Performers

Tier 1 — High Performers (500+ Views)

Publication	Year	Views	Downloads	DL%
AI in Agriculture: Opportunities, Challenges, and Recommendations	2025	2,780	686	25%
Integrated Management of Fire-Adapted Invasive Plants That Change Wildfire Regimes	2026	2,666	383	14%
Animal and Plant Sourced Proteins as Part of a Balanced Human Diet	2025	2,004	204	10%
Diversifying the Corn Belt: Policy Pathways for a Resilient Agricultural Future	2026	1,444	712	49%
Precision Irrigation Management	2025	1,049	252	24%
Applications, Benefits, and Challenges of Genome Edited Crops	2024	817	124	15%
RNA Interference in Agriculture: Methods, Applications, and Governance	2024	725	183	25%
Food Traceability: Current Status and Future Opportunities	2023	520	188	36%
Impacts of Soil Health Practices on Hydrologic Processes	2024	507	65	13%

Tier 2 — Strong Performers (200–499 Views)

Publication	Year	Views	Downloads	DL%
Potential for U.S. Agriculture to Be Greenhouse Gas Negative	2024	415	71	17%
Mycotoxins: Risks in Plant, Animal, and Human Systems	2003	411	355	86%
Preventing the Next Plant Invasion: Opportunities and Challenges	2024	411	43	10%
Zoonotic Diseases in Animal Agriculture and Beyond: A One Health Perspective	2022	384	56	15%
Impacts on Human Health and Safety of Naturally Occurring and Supplemental Hormones in Food Animals	2020	375	51	14%
FIFRA, ESA and Pesticide Consultation (Growers Perspective)	2024	368	69	19%
State Regulatory Agencies as Conduit for Informing Local Conditions in Federal Pesticide Processes	2024	341	57	17%
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Improving the FIFRA/ESA Process by Addressing Key Obstacles and Incorporating Better Data and Tools	2024	338	79	23%
FIFRA and the Endangered Species Act: Finding a Balance...	2023	335	69	21%
FIFRA, ESA, and Pesticide Consultation: Understanding and Addressing the Complexities	2024	327	54	17%
Ionizing Energy in Food Processing and Pest Control: I. Wholesomeness of Food Treated With Ionizing Energy	1986	322	46	14%
Agricultural Science and the Public	1972	319	53	17%
A Legal Discussion of the FIFRA/ESA Consultation Process Over Time	2023	308	53	17%
Gene Flow in Alfalfa: Biology, Mitigation, and Potential Impact on Production	2019	305	54	18%
Food Waste Across the Supply Chain: A U.S. Perspective on a Global Problem	2016	288	39	14%
Gains Foregone by Going GMO Free	2021	260	41	16%
Convergence of Agriculture and Energy: II. Producing Cellulosic Biomass for Biofuels	2007	257	28	11%
Ground and Aerial Robots for Agricultural Production: Opportunities and Challenges	2020	247	30	12%
The Importance of Communicating Empirically Based Science for Society	2020	236	45	19%
Food Biofortification — Reaping the Benefits of Science to Overcome Hidden Hunger	2020	225	35	16%
The Role of Agricultural Science and Technology in Climate 21 Project Implementation	2021	211	30	14%

6. Looking Ahead

The 2026 data reflects something CAST has long understood: rigorous, independent agricultural science reaches people who need it — and continues to reach them for decades. The platform's 30,877 interactions across publications dating to 1972 are not just a usage metric; they represent the ongoing relevance of CAST's scientific record to researchers, educators, regulators, and practitioners around the world.

What the Data Shows About Impact

- **New science travels fast.** Three of the top five titles were published in 2025 or 2026. CAST publications are reaching audiences within weeks of release — a signal that the platform and CAST's scientific reputation together create an effective distribution channel.
- **Policy-focused science gets used.** The 49% download rate on *Diversifying the Corn Belt* and the FIFRA/ESA cluster's 1,676 combined views show that when CAST addresses contested policy questions with independent science, practitioners download and use the full documents.
- **Legacy publications remain in active circulation.** The 1972 *Agricultural Science and the Public* drew 319 views. The 2003 *Mycotoxins* report has an 86% download rate. CAST publications are not ephemeral — they enter the scientific record and stay there.

Access CAST Publications

All CAST publications are freely available through the CAST Open Journal Systems platform at **publications.cast-science.org**. The full catalog — spanning 1972 to the present — is indexed and searchable. New publications are released throughout the year.

Data source: OJS statistics export (2026-08-04). All sections and issues included. Download metrics reflect PDF file access only. For questions about CAST publications or research, visit cast-science.org.