



WSWS Officer and Committee Report

Office or Committee Name: WSWS representative to CAST

Officer or Chairperson Name: Brian Jenks

Date of Preparation (include year): March 2018

Purpose: CAST, through its network of experts, assembles, interprets, and communicates credible, balanced, science-based information to policymakers, the media, the private sector, and the public.

Committee Activities during the Year:

The Plant Working Group meets once per month via conference call.

Drew Lyon currently serves as Chair of the Plant Working Group on the CAST Board of Representatives.

2017 Borlaug CAST Communication Award winner: Dr. Jayson Lusk. Lusk was with the Department of Agricultural Economics at Oklahoma State University. In July, he became the head of the Department of Agricultural Economics at Purdue University.

Upcoming papers:

- Regulatory Barriers to the Development of Innovative Agricultural Biotechnology by Small Businesses and Universities. CAST Issue Paper. Expected March 2018.
- Scientific, Ethical, and Economic Aspects of Farm Animal Well-Being. Expected April 2018.
- Omega-3 Fatty Acids: Health Benefits and Dietary Recommendations. Expected May 2018.
- Genome editing. Expected June 2018.
- Free-Range Poultry Production. Expected July 2018.

Papers released in the past year:

- Why Does Bee Health Matter? The Science Surrounding Honey Bee Health Concerns and What We Can Do About It. CAST Commentary. June 2017.
- Crop Protection Contributions toward Agricultural Productivity. CAST Issue Paper 58. April 2017.
- Plant Breeding and Genetics. CAST Issue Paper 57. March 2017.

Other upcoming paper topics include:

- Historic drought, aquifer mining, and potential impacts on long-term irrigated agricultural productivity.
- Many other papers are in various stages of preparation.

CAST annual meeting was held October 25-27, 2017 in Raleigh, NC. The next CAST meeting will be October 23-25, 2018 in Sacramento, CA.

Recommendations for Board Action: None

Budget Needs: None

Suggestions for the Future: Continue WSWS commitment to CAST and encourage individual memberships.

Current Committee Members: Brian Jenks

Name of Person Preparing This Report: Brian Jenks