



2024-2025 WSSA Standing Committee Report

Committee Name and Code: Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) representative: Jill Schroeder

Committee Chair: Jill Schroeder

Committee Members (includes sub-committee members): N/A

Board of Directors Liaison: N/A

Committee members rotating off: current appointment ends in 2025

Recommended members to replace those rotating off: BOD will need to appoint a new representative to begin their service at or after the CAST annual meeting in 2025.

Summary of past year's activities:

1. I attended the annual meeting of the CAST Boards (<https://cast-science.org/>) virtually November 19-29, 2024. The meeting was held at the University of Florida Gulf Coast Research and Education Center. Greg Dahl and Anthony Witcher attended the meeting in person. As a Board of Representatives member, I serve on the Plant Agriculture and Environmental Issues Working Group (Plant Working Group) (<https://cast-science.org/about/our-work/>).
2. I regularly attend the (virtual) monthly meetings of the Plant Work Group where we primarily discuss progress on the issue papers. The leadership of the Plant Work Group changed after the meeting. Vara Prasad, Crop Science Society of America representative, was elected President-elect. The new PWG chair is Melinda Yerka. Adam Herges has expressed interest in serving as the Work Group Liaison.
3. I was board liaison for the issue paper "Preventing the next invasive plant: Opportunities and Challenges". The paper was presented in a webinar March 24, 2024 by the task force chairs **Deah Lieurance**, Assistant Professor of Invasive Species Biology and Management at Penn State University and **Theresa Culley**, Professor of Plant Ecology at the University of Cincinnati. The paper can be downloaded and webinar can be viewed at <https://cast-science.org/publication/preventing-the-next-plant-invasion-opportunities-and-challenges/>.
4. Greg Dahl, WSSA representative, is the liaison for an issue paper "Integrated management of fire-adapted invasive plants responsible for changing wildfire regimes". Lyn Gettys, past APMS representative, is the board liaison for an issue paper on the topic of Harmful Algal Blooms Function and impact - HAB (Harmful Algal Bloom). **Stanley Culpepper** was one of the task force chairs and an author on a series of issue papers discussing FIFRA and the Endangered Species Act. The webinars were concluded and publication made available on April 17, 2024. The papers can be downloaded at <https://cast-science.org/publication/fifra-esa-and-pesticide-consultation-understanding-and-addressing-the-complexities/>.

5. I continue to work with my weed science counterparts who represent WSSS (**Greg Dahl**), NEWSS (**Randy Probst**), NCWSS (**Tom Peters**), SWSS (**Todd Baughman**), and APMS (**Gray Turnage**) on the Board of Representatives. We are working to find a time for a virtual meeting with all representatives. Lee VanWychen has been part of many of our occasional conversations. I thank him for sharing his insights into issues that might be addressed through a CAST publication. We have also invited Sharon Clay, ASA representative, to join our conversations.
6. The organization has undergone a great deal of change since Chris Boomsma became CEO. There have been staff changes and reorganizations that, frankly, are not well communicated to the Board of Representatives. There were some updates presented at the annual meeting, and we communicated to the group that we hoped for more updates. The Plant Workgroup has not met since the annual meeting; however, the office indicated that calendar invitations will be going out to representatives soon. The Website is undergoing significant changes and is worth reviewing. The organization is revamping its outreach to include more webinars, podcasts, and Ask the Expert series (<https://cast-science.org/resources/>). CAST is placing more emphasis on outreach to young professionals as they revamp the organization (<https://cast-science.org/#>).

Summary of plans for next year (changes in goals, key initiatives, plan of action, etc.):

1. I will continue to attend Plant Work Group meetings and the CAST annual meeting in 2025. In addition, I intend to continue to work with my weed science colleagues to determine how to best represent weed science in CAST publications and activities.
2. I will continue to provide updates and information on publication presentations to the WSSA GSO president.

Recommendations for Board or Membership action:

1. I would appreciate input from the BOD on potential topics for CAST Issue Papers. In addition, all BOD members need to become individual members of CAST to serve as role models for the rest of the society.
2. Funds requested for 2025: Reimbursement of travel expenses to attend the 2025 annual meeting of the CAST Boards.