



AAAE Representative: Jim Flowers

The mission of CAST is to assemble, interpret, and communicate credible science-based information regionally, nationally, and internationally to legislators, regulators, policymakers, the media, the private sector, and the public.

The Council for Agricultural Science and Technology held two meetings of the Board of Directors this past year. The fall meeting was held in Raleigh, NC in October, and the spring meeting was held in March, in Washington, D.C. At these meetings proposals are considered to commission papers that provide a balanced science approach to issues facing agriculture. CAST has four work groups, (1) Animal Science, (2) Food Science and Agricultural Technology, (3) Plant Protection Sciences, and (4) Plant, Soil, and Environmental Sciences. As the AAAE representative, I was assigned to the Animal Sciences Work Group.

CAST produced the following publications this past year: (CAST issue papers are available on the CAST web site free of charge. <http://www.cast-science.org/>)

Water Quality and Quantity Issues for Turfgrasses in Urban Landscapes (Special Publication, hardcopy book). Available on-line and in CD format.

Vaccine Development Using Recombinant DNA Technology (Issue Paper 38). Part of a nine-part series "Animal Agriculture's Future through Biotechnology."

Swine Carcass Disposal Options for Routine and Catastrophic Mortality (Issue Paper 39). The first of a three-part series of papers on poultry and livestock disposal.

Pasteurellosis Transmission Risks between Domestic and Wild Sheep (CAST Commentary). The first in a series of papers dealing with potential risks associated with interaction of domestic livestock and wildlife.

Gene Flow in Alfalfa: Biology, Mitigation and Potential Impact on Production. (Special Publication).

Poultry Carcass Disposal Options for Routine and Catastrophic Mortality (Issue Paper 40). The second of a three-part series of papers on poultry and livestock disposal.

Convergence of Agriculture and Energy: III. Considerations in Biodiesel Production. (CAST Commentary). The third is a series of CAST publications dealing with the convergence of agriculture and energy.

Fate and Transport of Zoonotic Bacterial, Viral, and Protozoan Pathogens during Swine Manure Storage, Treatment and Land Application. (Special Publication in conjunction with the National Pork Board). The paper will be released at the Joint Annual Meeting of the American Dairy Science Association in July, 2009.

Ruminant Carcass Disposal Options for Routine and Catastrophic Mortality. (Issue Paper 41). This paper was released at the National Cattlemen's Beef Association meeting in Phoenix, AZ.

Scientific Assessment of the Welfare of Dry Sows Kept in Individual Accommodations (Issue Paper 42). This paper was released at the American Dairy Science Association/American Society of Animal Science Midwest meeting in Des Moines, IA in March.

Several publications are currently being developed and will be released within the year. Again, the purpose of CAST is to provide balanced, scientific information on issues affecting agriculture. Every effort is made to involve writers on both sides of an issue, but the overriding emphasis is on the science behind the issue, not someone's political views.

Several actions related to CAST operations were passed at the Spring Board of Directors meeting. These actions may have an impact on AAEE's continued participation in CAST.

- **Motion from the Budget, Finance & Investment Committee:** Keep member society dues at the 2009 levels for 2010; discontinue travel reimbursement payments in 2010 for board members; allow travel reimbursement by CAST for Executive Committee members. Motion passed.
- **Motion from the Budget, Finance & Investment Committee:** Beginning in 2010, hold only one in-person CAST Board Meeting per year. The Executive Committee may hold additional in-person meetings. Motion passed.
- **Motion from the Editorial & Publications Committee:** The Executive Committee has the authority to consider plans for an external meeting, possibly in partnership with one or more other organizations, and to publish the proceedings from that meeting using a commercial publisher. Motion passed.
- **Motion from the Membership & Marketing Committee:** The board authorizes the Executive Committee to decide on the details of a "late payment process" but recommends assessing a flat fee rather than a percentage for invoices not paid on time. Motion passed.
- **Motion from the Executive Committee:** Based on discussions of the National Concerns Committee and the Animal Sciences Work Group, the Executive Committee asked the board to authorize the EC to explore and implement opportunities for a conference in the Fall of 2010. This action would include partnering with another organization to present a conference on an issue of critical importance to agriculture; CAST would be responsible for publishing the conference proceedings. Motion passed.

There are two major implications for AAAE to consider. In the past, CAST membership was an assessment to AAAE based upon the size of the organization. This past year, it was \$679. In the past, CAST would then, in turn, reimburse the AAAE representative for up to \$679 for travel expenses incurred for attending the two Board of Directors Meetings. This amount has not typically covered the cost of the spring Board meeting, so the AAAE representative has often used their own departmental funds to cover the cost of attending the Board meetings. The first action, listed above eliminates the travel reimbursement to the AAAE representative. The intention is for AAAE to assume the cost of sending a representative to the two Board of Directors meetings or to let the AAAE Board representative find alternative ways to cover their expenses. This may have an impact on who is willing to represent AAAE on the CAST Board of Directors. CAST did reduce the number of board meetings from two to one meeting annually.

A second factor is that CAST also implemented a policy that CAST Board of Directors members MUST be individual members of CAST. This is a \$100 annual membership dues that must be paid by the AAAE representative to CAST.

If AAAE provides travel reimbursement for its AAAE representative to CAST and also reimburses the representative for the cost of individual membership, the estimated cost for membership in CAST would be:

AAAE dues to CAST (has increased a little each year)	\$680
Travel to Board Meeting (estimated, depending upon location)	\$800
Individual Membership for AAAE representative	<u>\$100</u>
Total estimated costs	\$1580

Action Item for the AAAE Business Meeting:

Should AAAE continue its membership in CAST? If AAAE decides to remain a member, it is recommended that they include the cost of sending the AAAE representative to CAST to the annual Board of Directors meeting in their 2009-10 budget. In addition, AAAE should consider reimbursing the AAAE representative for the cost of annual individual dues to CAST.

I believe it is good for AAAE to be represented, along with the other major agricultural societies, on the CAST Board. While the issues that CAST addresses are focused on technical agriculture issues, the welfare of agriculture, as a whole, does impact our profession. However, AAAE needs to consider the total cost of the membership, perhaps on a per member basis.

Submitted by,

Jim Flowers
AAAE Representative to CAST