

Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST)

CAST is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organization composed of representatives of scientific societies, commercial companies, nonprofit or trade organizations, individuals and students. CAST addresses agriculture-related food production and environmental issues from the perspectives of animal sciences, food sciences, and plant and soil sciences.

Charge/Objective

The objective of CAST is to advance public interest and understanding of the science and technology used in the production, processing, and utilization of food and fiber. The objective is accomplished by (a) serving as a resource group from which the public and government may seek information, (b) independently identifying subjects on which scientists and technologists can provide useful information, (c) drawing on the expertise of qualified scientists and technologists in relevant disciplines to assemble and interpret the factual information available on the subjects identified, (d) producing peer refereed publications written by scientists from many disciplines, and (e) disseminating the information in usable and effective form to the public, the news media, and the government, as appropriate.

Membership & Representation

The AVMA Board of Directors appoints the AVMA's liaison to the CAST to serve for a 3-year term. The liaison can be reappointed for one additional term provided the AVMA liaison policy permits such reappointment.

Meetings

The CAST Board of Representatives is made up of representatives of each of the member societies and of individual members of CAST. Each member serves on one of three workgroups (Animal Agriculture and Environmental Issues, Food Science and Safety, or Plant Agriculture and Environmental Issues). The CAST holds one working meeting annually, at which the AVMA liaison to the CAST actively participates in the "Animal Agriculture and Environmental Issues" workgroup.

Funding

AVMA is a Society Member of CAST, which has an annual membership dues obligation of \$3,000 payable on or before the first day of the calendar year for which membership is held. AVMA pays travel expenses for its liaison to attend and participate in the annual meeting.

Reports

Reports of the CAST liaison shall be submitted to the Animal Agriculture Liaison Committee after each meeting of the CAST Board of Representatives and at such other times as necessary.