



**WSWS Officer and Committee Report  
March 2026**

**Office or Committee Name:** CAST Representative  
**Officer or Chairperson Name:** Gregory Dahl  
**Date of Preparation (include year):** February 27, 2026

**Activities during the year:**

**CAST Issue Paper: Integrated Management of Fire-Adapted Invasive Plants that Change Wildfire Regimes.** Will be completed in March 2026.

**Authors:** Al Khatib K, Brock KC, Burger J, Crandall R, Ghetts T, Mangold J, Mealor B, Perryman B, Randall C. **Editors:** Baur M, Dahl G.

The Authors and Editors of this CAST paper will be hosting a Discussion Session at the WSWS Annual Meeting on Wednesday Afternoon, March 4th at 3:30 – 4:45 pm in the Canyon C room. Please plan to attend.

CAST is hosting a live webinar on **April 8, 2026, at 1:00 PM EST** to release its newest publication on invasive plants and wildfire. The event is free and open to the public.

The webinar will be chaired by **Greg Dahl**, Representative at the CAST Plant & Soil Sciences Workgroup for the Western Society of Weed Science, and **Matthew Baur**, Director of the Western Integrated Pest Management Center — both of whom helped guide the development of the publication.

**Other Related Activities:**

Matt Baur and I participated in the NAISMA Annual Conference at Harrah's Lake Tahoe in Stateline, NV on November 3-6, 2025. Matt presented on Invasive Plants and Wildfires. He represented the Western IPM Center, WSWS and I represented WSWS, WSSA and CAST. Very good presentations and tours. Dr. Jacob Barney gave a great keynote address on invasive plants at the NAISMA Conference.

Meet the Expert Webinar

On July 31, 2025, CAST recorded and released a special Meet the Expert session with **Matt Baur**, Director of the Western Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Center **Jill Schroeder**, CAST Representative for WSSA, moderated this session. A trained entomologist and long-time for sustainable pest control, Baur discussed his journey, research focus, and the critical role of IPM in addressing two major challenges facing the American West: **invasive weeds and wildfires**.

### **CAST Issue Paper: Surfactants in Agriculture**

I am working as a contributor to the CAST Issue Paper, Surfactants in Agriculture. We hope to have it completed in 2026.

### **CAST National Meeting, October 27 – 29, 2025**

I participated in the National CAST Annual Meeting on October 27 – 29, 2025 at Mississippi State University at Starkville, MS. I participated in all CAST meetings, tours, and events at the meeting. This was a great meeting. The tours included autonomous aerial and ground drones, aerial drone spraying demonstrations, AI, and machine learning, touring a cotton gin, and touring a catfish farm and catfish processing plant. Great information and tours.

Much of the CAST meeting dealt with reorganization of CAST, assumption of the SOAR Foundation assets and legacy. CAST is trying to create a National Academy of Agriculture. The attachments from CAST and from Tom Peters, NCWSS CAST Representative, explain this further. They also list recent CAST Publications. I am proud to represent WSWS at CAST and feel that we should continue to work with CAST as it proceeds towards its future.

### **I am now a Lifetime Member of CAST.**

**Represented the WSWS on the CAST Plant Working Group.** Participated in most of the monthly CAST Plant Working Group ZOOM meetings. Discussed and prioritized projects and publications that are in development and identified new topics to be evaluated as projects.

**Met a few times with Jill Schroeder, CAST Representative for WSSA, and other Regional Weed Society CAST Representatives** Tom Peters, CAST Representative for NCWSS, Anthony Witcher and now Randy Prostack, CAST Representative for NEWSS, Todd Baughman, CAST Representative for SWSS, Gray Turnage CAST Representative for APMS, and Lee Van Wychen WSSA Director of Science Policy. John Wallace has been selected to be the new WSSA CAST Representative. Sharon Clay, CAST Representative for ASA, has retired. This has been helpful to us in coordinating and completing our CAST Representative Efforts. Participated with the WSSA and Regional Weed Science Societies to publicize CAST at each of the meetings.

### **Recommendations for Board Action:**

Thank you to the Western Society of Weed Science for supporting and working with CAST. Please keep our support for CAST strong. Thank you for the opportunity to serve WSWS and CAST.

**Budget Needs:**

No additional needs at this time.

**Name of Person Preparing This Report:** Gregory Dahl