

Colorado CCA News



**CERTIFIED
CROP ADVISER**

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Colorado CCA News

is a quarterly publication of the Colorado Certified Crop Advisers.

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Colorado Certified Crop Adviser Newsletter

Greetings from the Colorado CCA Board

I hope this newsletter finds you well into this crop season with everything running smoothly. If you have recently passed the CCA exam you will find important instructions on what you need to do next. For the

rest of you you'll find info about CNMP's as well as other web sites of interest. Good luck with the rest of the cropping season!

Kevin Miller
Colorado CCA Chairman

Colorado CNMP Workbook Available Online

The newly revised Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) web site is available online at <http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/SoilCrop/extension/Soils/cnmp/index.html>. It has been designed to take livestock producers through the process of developing a CNMP, step-by-step. Crop and environmental consultants may find it useful to help their clients.

The purpose of this web site is to help producers comply with the 1999 USDA/EPA United National Strategy for Animal Feeding Operations. This National Strategy is based on a national performance expectation that all Animal Feeding Operations should develop and implement technically sound, economically feasible, and site-specific CNMPs to minimize impacts on water quality and public health.

A CNMP includes the following components: feed management, manure handling and storage, land application of manure, land management, record keeping, and other utilization options. The workbook is broken down into 15 short sections which can be completed over time. It is recommended to print the sections, complete them, and store them in a notebook.

If you have ideas for improving this workbook or have any questions, please contact Jessica Davis (jgdavis@lamar.colostate.edu) or Kirk Iversen (kiversen@lamar.colostate.edu) at Colorado State University.



Results of the 2001 CCA Exams



Fifty individuals took the Colorado CCA exam February 2, 2001 at the Adams County Fairgrounds near Brighton, CO. Forty-four percent of the people who took the state exam passed. The passing score was 72. The International CCA exam was taken by 46 individuals in Colorado and 54% of the people who took the exam received a passing score. Both the state and international CCA exam scores have been sent out.

The next exam will be held February 1, 2002. Registration must be received by ASA 6 weeks prior to the exam date. Exam registration materials are available by contacting ASA at 608-273-8080, Fax: 608-273-2081, Email: cca_testing@agronomy.org, mail: ASA/CCA, 677 S. Segoe Road, Madison, WI 53711.

I've Passed the Exam- Now What?

Congratulations! You have successfully completed the first step to becoming a Certified Crop Adviser (CCA).

You will soon receive an ICCA Credential Packet in the mail. The Credential Packet contains an Application for Verification of Credentials form, a Code of Ethics to sign, a Crop Advising Experience Form, two Reference forms, a Summary of College Course Work form, and a Short Course Work form. You must complete the appropriate forms within the Credential Packet and return it to CCA, 677 S. Segoe Rd., Madison, WI 53711, within six months of passing both exams. Materials that are received after six months are no longer accepted and your exam scores are invalidated at that time. If your scores are invalidated, you must pay the appropriate fees and retake the examinations.

The forms will be processed at the ASA Headquarters and then sent to the Colorado CCA Board on a quarterly basis. Once received, the Colorado CCA

Board will review your credential packet and grant or deny your certification. The average turnaround time from the time the package is originally sent to the board is four to six weeks.

Once certification has been granted, you will receive a certificate for framing and a wallet card. Certificates will not be issued without a signed copy of the Code of Ethics. If you are denied certification, you will receive a letter of explanation.

In order to maintain your certification you will need to pay an annual maintenance fee to the ICCA office in Madison, Wisconsin and earn 40 hours of Continuing Education Units (CEUs) over a two-year period.

You may start receiving your CEUs from the date on your CCA certificate. Any meeting/course hours held before your certification date will not count towards your CCA requirements.

Your credential status is available online at http://www.agronomy.org/cca/check_credentials.html.



Determining Education - Credentials Review

Your education level determines how many years of work experience is required.

If you do not have a degree, you will only need to complete the experience and reference forms. You will need to show four years of crop advising experience.

If you have an associate degree, and have 15 semester hours of course work in agricultural production (basic soils, fertility, crop production, and farm management), you will need three years of crop advising experience. If you have an associate degree but do not have 15 semester hours of course work in agricultural production, you will need four years of crop advising experience.

If you have a BS degree or higher, and have a good science background (course

work in biology, chemistry, math, and physical sciences) and course work in production agriculture (soil fertility, crop production, pest management, and farm management), two years of experience is required. If one component is missing (i.e., good science background, but no production agriculture), you will need three years of crop advising experience. If your degree is not related to agriculture in any way, you are required to have four years of advising experience.

Supervised summer work experience or internship may be used to substitute for six months of work experience. A maximum of one year of work experience credit can be granted for summer work experience or internship.



Determining Work Experience - Credentials Review

The work experience needed to become a CCA varies from two to four years, based on the educational level of the applicant. In general, the amount of crop advising experience required is either two years with a BS degree in an agricultural related field, three years with an associate degree in an agricultural related field, or four years for an unrelated degree or no degree.

A year of experience may be credited if you spend approximately one-third of your time engaged in one or more of the following activities:

- Advising farmers on crop production.
- Teaching or educating crop advisers about topics that are described in the Performance Objectives.
- Advising or working with farmers to install soil conservation practices, or

to meet state or federal regulations that are related to crop production (such as conservation compliance).

Partial credit might be assigned if you spend less than one-third of your time in the activities mentioned above.

If you have farm experience, this experience may count up to one year of CCA work experience regardless of experience duration. For example, a farmer who has farmed for 20 years and a farmer who farmed for one year can both only receive up to one year of CCA experience.

When filling out the Experience Form, be sure to provide enough detail to aid the CCA board in determining whether you have the necessary experience. The board may return your application if more information is needed. Resubmit as directed.



Guidelines for Submitting Valid References - Credentials Review



References are very important to the credential review process. To minimize risk of being denied certification, follow the steps outlined below.

1. Include two completed reference forms (one from your employer and one from a client or individual who is familiar with your work experience in crop production). If you are self employed, provide at least two references from clients. Be sure the

two reference letters are signed and witnessed OR notarized.

2. Have your references recommend you for certification. It is helpful, but not required, if your references give some reasons why you should be considered for certification.
3. Ask people to serve as your reference who are familiar with your work experience history.

Upcoming CEU Opportunities

There are currently no scheduled Board-approved CEU opportunities.

Meetings for continuing education credits will be announced in future CCA

newsletters or can be found on the American Society of Agronomy CCA website at <http://www.agronomy.org/cca/cal/calendar.html>.

Colorado CCA Continuing Education Units Summary

Since the Colorado CCA program was initiated in 1995, the number of Board-approved CEUs has steadily increased,

as shown below. More than 50 Board-approved CEUs were available in each category in year 2000.

Reporting period	Nutrient Management	Soil and Water Management	Pest Management	Crop Management	Total	Number of CEU Applications
1995-96	6.5	13.5	7.5	3.5	31.0	6
1996-97	43.0	46.5	37.5	32.0	159.0	46
1997-98	44.0	56.5	68.5	55.5	224.5	87
1998-99*	59.0	61.5	78.5	59.0	258.0	109
2000	52.5	93.0	77.0	88.5	311.0	97
Total	205.0	271.0	269.5	238.5	983.5	345

* The 1998-1999 period was 18 months, the others were 12-month periods.

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() Denotes the last year of the current
appointment and which 3-year term.



Call for Articles

Do you have an idea for a future newsletter article? Do you know of a CCA member who has received recognition and should be mentioned in a future CCA newsletter? Do you know of any websites that would be of interest to other CCAs?

If you have answered "yes" to any of the above questions or have any other ideas or comments to share, please contact Betsy Buffington at Betsy.Buffington@ColoState.edu or (970) 491-6027.

Colorado Certified Crop Adviser Newsletter

Colorado Certified Crop Adviser Program
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Websites Worth A Look

International CCA website

<http://www.agronomy.org/cca/>

Check your CEU's by entering your certification number, look at upcoming events on the CEU calendar, take self-study exams, and much more!

CSUag.com

<http://www.csuag.com/>

A web page with links to agricultural information available at Colorado State University.

National Weather Service Home Page

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov>

Direct Access to U.S. official weather forecasts, watches, warnings, and the most recently observed weather conditions for international locations and locations throughout the United States.

Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES)

<http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/AES>

The CAES conducts research on agricultural and natural resource issues that specifically impact Colorado. An integral unit of Colorado State University, the CAES conducts research in 19 departments at the main campus in Fort Collins, at 11 off-campus research centers throughout Colorado, and with individual cooperators. Check out upcoming events including the 2001 Wheat Field Days in June.

Colorado Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

<http://www.co.nrcs.usda.gov>

The Colorado NRCS is dedicated to improving and enhancing Colorado natural resources.

