

Colorado Certified Crop Adviser Newsletter

April • 1996

This will be the last issue of this Newsletter until this fall, as we have come to the end of the winter meeting season. The purpose of this newsletter is to update you on several items related to the Colorado CCA program. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me or any member of the Colorado CCA Board.

John Mortvedt, Chair

Kathryn Apley leaves Colorado

Kathryn Apley, Chair of the Colorado CCA Training Committee, moved to Iowa in early March. She was mainly responsible for establishing the protocols to obtain CEUs from meetings held in Colorado. She also was editor of the Colorado CCA newsletter. We will miss her leadership and service to CCA. John Mortvedt will continue part of her CSU job responsibilities on a temporary basis until a permanent replacement has been hired, probably by this fall.

National CCA Advisory Board meeting

John Mortvedt attended the above meeting in Chicago on March 12. The main news item is a change in the way that CEUs which are earned by individual CCAs will be recorded at the National CCA office. Effective March 1, 1996, any meeting vendor offering training for CEU credits in Colorado will apply to the Colorado CCA Training Committee (as before). The current contact is John Mortvedt, Dept. of Soil and Crop Sciences, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523 (phone 970-491-6201 and fax 970-491-5064). New application forms are available from John Mortvedt or from the National CCA office at 677 South Segoe Road, Madison, WI 53711 (phone 608-273-8080 and fax 608-273-2081). Meeting vendors should be sure to complete the entire forms, giving subject matter, length of presentation, instructor's names and their qualifications for each topic.

Upon receipt of the completed forms, the application form(s) will be evaluated for CEUs in each of the four competency areas (soil fertility, soil and water management, crop production, and pest management). John will fax the completed form(s) to the National CCA office and they will assign a meeting number. Then the National CCA office will send a CCA attendance form (including the meeting number(s)) to the meeting

vendor. The meeting vendor will have each CCA attending the meeting sign his/her name, CCA number and Social Security Number.

After the meeting the vendor will send the sheet to the National CCA office, where due credit will be recorded for each CCA in attendance. (NOTE: Vendors should retain a copy of the attendance sheet in case the original was lost in the mail). This new procedure will eliminate the need for individual CCAs to send the green forms for each class on Board-approved CEUs. However, each Colorado CCA still must send in the brown forms for self-directed CEUs, as in the past. This procedure may be more fully explained in future article in the National CCA Newsletter, which is published in Ag Consultant.

The National CCA office will send each individual CCA a report of their earned CEUs four times per year. In case you haven't done so, you should complete any green and brown forms for CEUs earned to date, so your summary will be up to date. Be sure to keep copies of documentation for any CEU activity or the forms, in case you have not been given proper credit. After you receive a quarterly CEU report, direct any inquiries on CEUs to Candace Hanson, Certified Crop Adviser Program, 677 South Segoe Road, Madison, Wisconsin 53711 (phone 608-273-8080, ext. 305). Candace is the staff member assigned to keep records for the Colorado CCA program.

Reciprocity with adjoining states

At their last meeting on February 27, the Colorado CCA Board approved a policy on reciprocity with adjoining states and transfers of CCAs from other states. Under this policy, any Colorado CCA may earn CEUs in courses which have been approved by the respective CCA Boards of any adjoining state (Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Wyoming).

Individuals must obtain their initial CCA certification in the state in which their primary business is located. A Colorado CCA may request recognition as a CCA in any adjoining state by writing to that state's CCA Board. Acceptance of such recognition in another state is up to the policies of that state's CCA Board, however. If recognized as a CCA in another state, the Colorado CCA must abide by their policies including earning CEUs and paying renewal fees. If an individual CCA in an adjoining state wants to obtain reciprocal certification in Colorado, he/she will not be required to take the Colorado CCA exam, pending a review of his/her qualifications by the Colorado CCA Board, but must pay Colorado renewal fees in Colorado in addition to those in their "home" state. Those CCAs who wish to transfer to Colorado from all other states may be required to pass the Colorado CCA exam before recognition in Colorado, pending a review of their credentials by the Colorado CCA Board.

Results of the February 1996 CCA exams

By now, all CCA applicants should have received their test scores from the National CCA office. If you know of anyone who has not received notification, ask them to call the National CCA office. There were 3,018 applicants who took the National CCA exam and the average state/regional pass rate was 51.5%. The main reason for the low pass rate was that only 14% of those applicants taking this exam for the second or third time passed it this year, as compared with 62% of those taking the exam for the first time. Colorado ranked third in the nation with an average pass rate of 69% by 61 applicants. The passing score was 79.5% for the National exam. There were 66 applicants taking the Colorado exam this year, and 54% passed this exam. The passing score was 70%, the same as for the 1995 exam.

It was emphasized during the discussion session at Chicago that the questions included in the National and State/Regional exams are used to establish the minimum competency of knowledge by an individual CCA. Those CEUs earned by a CCA after becoming certified should be designed to upgrade an individual CCA's competence as a crop adviser. In other discussions, the most recent version of the 1996 U. S. Farm Bill included CCAs among those eligible to write nutrient management plans. In the revisions of Worker Protection Standards being discussed at the Federal level, CCAs would be allowed to enter fields before the Restricted Entry Interval (REI) has elapsed, if they are advising for IPM purposes. These actions are examples of the growing acceptance of the Certified Crop Adviser program at the Federal level.

National CCA Newsletter

You should all be aware of the National CCA Newsletter which is published in the magazine, Ag Consultant. This Newsletter will be published five times per year (January, February, March, May and November). May I suggest that you tear out and file the 8-page insert for future use, if you don't keep the entire magazine.

Colorado CCA Exam Study Guide

As reported earlier, a new publication has been developed for the Colorado CCA exam. Gene Gilbert, a Colorado CCA residing in Denver, is the author and the Colorado Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) is selling the guide for a cost of \$30, including shipping and handling. The first edition was available in mid-January. This publication will be reviewed and revised early this fall and the second edition will be available for sale after October 1, 1996 for those planning to take the 1997 CCA Colorado exams. The second edition also should serve as a good reference book for any Colorado CCA. We thank Gene and the Colorado Chapter of the SWCS for developing and distributing this study guide.