

Colorado CCA News



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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

The Technical Service Provider Process

By Jim Sharkoff, Colorado CCA Board Chairman

The 1996 Farm Bill authorized the use of third party vendors (private consultants) to assist USDA cooperators implement conservation practices. However, there were no certification or payment provisions included and vendor compensation was left up to the producer. The 2002 Farm Bill re-authorized the use of third party vendors, renamed them as technical service providers (TSPs), and directed the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a process to certify and pay the providers for technical assistance.

Certification

A TSP can be an individual, a private sector entity, or a public agency. In order for a TSP to be certified, they will need to document their technical training, education and/or experience, and meet any licensing or other state laws or requirements. They also must be able to document their training or experience with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) standards and specifications, handbooks and technical guides for the conservation practices, and systems they will be planning and implementing.

There are three ways for an individual to be certified:

1. Submit an application as an individual;
2. Request certification through a recommending organization; or,
3. Request certification through a private sector entity or a public agency.

Recommending organizations are professional societies, licensing boards, or associations that have certification programs. They must be accredited to train, test and evaluate candidates, have an agreement with NRCS, and provide a list of individuals who meet the criteria outlined in the agreement. The ASA/CCA Program is a recommending organization for individual certification.

The process for private sector entities and public agencies requires the entity or agency to identify individuals who meet certification criteria who are authorized to provide technical assistance on behalf of the entity or agency. Individuals who work for the entity or agency who do not meet certification criteria must have their work warranted by a certified individual from within the organization. The private entity or public agency is also required to assume all liability for the quality of work performed. Additionally, individuals certified through a public agency would not be allowed to certify as individuals or through private sector entities.

Implementing Conservation Practices

It will ultimately be up to the USDA cooperator to decide who provides technical assistance on their farm or ranch. If they decide not to use NRCS, they will need to select a TSP from an approved list provided by NRCS. The landowner would then sign a contract or agreement with the TSP identifying the practices and products to be provided and for what costs. Once the practices

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The Technical Service Provider Process (continued)

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are completed, the TSP will need to provide the cooperator and NRCS copies of all plans, designs and/or practice completion forms, a statement that all practices installed meet NRCS standards and specifications, and an invoice. USDA will pay the TSP for their services either through the cooperator or directly by an assigned payment.

All work performed by NRCS planners and TSPs is subject to quality assurance spot checks to assure that practices are planned, designed, and installed properly. These reviews are not intended to decertify NRCS staff or TSPs. Rather, spot checks are performed to identify deficiencies and allow NRCS planners and TSPs to take remedial action.

For More Information
NRCS is developing a website for TSPs that will provide information,

applications, and certification agreements. The website should be active sometime in February 2003. It will be accessible through the NRCS National homepage at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>. An e-government User ID and Password will be required to work with NRCS online through the TSP website.

To obtain a User ID and Password, go to the NRCS National Homepage at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov> and click on electronic government on the left-hand side of the page. Then click on register for specific instructions.

Specific details on the Colorado program will be in place by March 1, 2003. Look for an update in the next CCA newsletter.



Self-Report CEUs Online

ICCA has developed a handy online tool for reporting your self-reported CEUs. The CEU Self Reporting Form, available at http://www.agronomy.org/cca/ceu_reporting_form.html, is an easy way to utilize the flexibility that is already available to CCAs by using self-reported CEUs.

Self-reported CEUs are continuing education events including meetings, seminars, symposia, and/or short courses that meet one or more of the ICCA performance objectives, but are not pre- or post-approved by the Colorado CCA board.

The number of CEUs granted per topic is related to contact time as follows:

- 30 to 45 minutes = 0.5 CEUs
- 46 to 75 minutes = 1.0 CEUs
- 76 to 105 minutes = 1.5 CEUs

Remember, Colorado CCAs are required to have a minimum of 20 board-approved CEUs during each 2-year reporting period. The remaining 20 hours can be any combination of self-study, self-reported, or board-approved credits.



*Mike Ferrari
Servi-Tech Employee
of the Year*

Colorado CCA Receives Special Recognition

Mike Ferrari was recently recognized as the "Employee of the Year" for his leadership, dedication, and commitment in providing outstanding service to his customers at Servi-Tech, Inc.

Mike began his employment with Servi-Tech in April of 1984. During his career, Mike and his family have lived in Yuma. Mike is the Division Manager for Servi-Tech's Yuma division.

EPA, USDA Sign Final CAFO Rule

EPA Administrator Christie Whitman, joined by Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman, signed a final rule on December 15, 2002 that will require all large Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) to obtain permits that will ensure they protect America's waters from wastewater and manure. The rule will control runoff from agricultural feeding operations, preventing billions of pounds of pollutants from entering America's waters.

Environmental Progress

According to EPA, the new CAFO rule will enhance protection of the nation's waters from nutrient over-enrichment and eutrophication which causes algal blooms, fish kills, and the expansion of the Gulf of Mexico dead zone. The rule will also reduce pathogens in drinking water. The amount of phosphorus released into the environment will be reduced by 56 million pounds, while nitrogen releases will be slashed by more than 100 million pounds. In addition, over two billion pounds of sediments and nearly one million pounds of metals will not be released.

Improving Implementation of CAFO Rules

This rule will replace 25-year old technology requirements and permitting regulations that did not address today's environmental needs and did not keep pace with growth in the industry. Effective manure management practices required by this rule will maximize the use of manure as a resource for agriculture while reducing adverse impacts on the environment.

The new rule applies to about 15,500 livestock operations across the country. Under the new rule all large CAFOs will be required to apply for a permit, submit an annual report, and develop and follow a plan for handling manure and wastewater. In addition, the rule moves

efforts to protect the environment forward by: placing controls on land application of manure and wastewater, covering all major animal agriculture sectors, and increasing public access to information through CAFO annual reports. The rule also eliminates current permitting exemptions and expands coverage over types of animals in three important ways:

1. Eliminates the exemption that excuses CAFOs from applying for permits if they only discharge during large storms
2. Eliminates the exemption for operations that raise chickens with dry manure handling systems
3. Extends coverage to immature swine and immature dairy cows

Currently about 4,500 operations are covered by permits. Because of the new rule, EPA expects that up to 11,000 additional facilities will be required to apply for permits by 2006.

The new rule will affect large livestock operations including those with hundreds of thousands of hogs, cattle and poultry. Large CAFOs are defined in the rule as operations raising more than 1,000 cattle, 700 dairy cows, 2,500 swine, 10,000 sheep, 125,000 chickens, 82,000 laying hens, and/or 55,000 turkeys in confinement. Approximately 500 million tons of manure are generated annually by an estimated 238,000 livestock operations. From 1982 to 1997 these large livestock operations have grown by 51%, with some of the largest facilities having capacities exceeding a million animals. Since 1978 the number of animals per confined animal operation has increased significantly. The largest per operation increases have been: layers (176%), broilers (148%), swine (134%), turkeys (129%), dairy (93%), and beef cattle (56%).

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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 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) 491-3947.

EPA, USDA Sign Final CAFO Rule (continued)

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Increased Funding

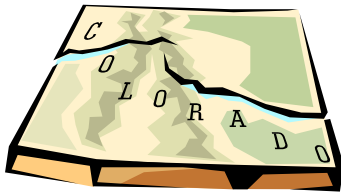
To help these livestock operations meet the rule's requirements, Congress increased funding for land and water conservation programs in the 2002 Farm Bill by \$20.9 billion, bringing total funding for these programs to \$51 billion over the next decade. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) was authorized at \$200 million in 2002 and will ultimately go up to \$1.3 billion in 2007; 60% of those funds must go to livestock operations. New technology is also being perfected to aid farmers in meeting this new rule.

CAFO Rule Implementation in Colorado

The final rule gives Colorado significant flexibility to find geographically

appropriate means of implementing the CAFO rule. For example, Colorado retains the authority to determine the type of permit -- general or individual -- to be issued to a given operation. This enables Colorado to develop permits that take into account the size, location, and environmental risks that may be posed by an operation. Colorado will also have substantial flexibility to tailor nutrient management plans for CAFOs, and may authorize alternative performance standards for existing and new CAFOs that will help promote the use of innovative technologies.

For more information visit: <http://www.epa.gov/npdes/caforule>.



CDA Notes

By Mark Klapperich, Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) Division of Plant Industry Inspector and CCA.

Pesticide Applicators and Businesses

Mosquito season is just around the corner and CDA has had many inquiries as to what category will be needed to perform this type of application service. Applicators wanting to perform mosquito applications for hire will need to hold the Public Health category (110).

QS and CO license renewals are due every 3 years on the applicator's birthday. All renewal applications must be received prior to the expiration date. Even if you have all of the continuing education credits (CECs), failure to return the renewal application prior to the expiration date will result in your having to retake the test again in all categories. Business licenses must be renewed at the beginning of each year. If a renewal is requested after a 1 month grace period, the applicator must go

through the application process again. If the applicator has continued to advertise or solicit business during the unlicensed period, they risk a Cease and Desist Order (CDO) with a possible fine when they relicense. For more information, go to: <http://www.ag.state.co.us/dpi/PesticideApplicator/Newsletter02.pdf>.

Pesticides

Applications are being made to the EPA for use of pesticides under the Section 18 exemption. CDA will be submitting a section 18 request for Spartan on sunflowers again for 2003. Also, this year inspectors may be conducting more pesticide registration inspections. The inspectors verify that each pesticide product or pesticidal device has a current Colorado state registration, in addition to any necessary EPA registration. If you are unsure of a product's registration status you can check it at the Departments web site:

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CDA Notes (continued)

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<http://www.ag.state.co.us/DPI/Pesticides/PPRS/PPRSQuery.htm>. (This site will not show 2003 information until we complete registration renewals sometime in March.)

Chemigation

With the drought, there is going to be questions of when, where, and if irrigation is going to be allowed this year. One question is, "Do I need to get my chemigation permit?" If the permit holder does not send in anything by the April 1 due date, and they want to get a permit later in the year, they will have to pay a late fee. The best recommendation is to get an affidavit on the system. If a permit is desired later, a late fee will not be charged.

Groundwater

The inspectors are making the rounds on containment and loading pad inspections. One reminder is that both commercial business and farmers/growers may fall under this regulation if they store >5000 gallons of liquid fertilizer or >55 gallons of pesticide in non-DOT containers. If you have a farmer contemplating ordering and receiving any portion of his/her supply of fertilizer for the year, you can help them choose an appropriate tank for its storage. Remember, there are some exemptions that allow for storage without containment.

Noxious Weed Program

Information on conducting weed surveys and mapping are available on CDA's

website at: <http://www.ag.state.co.us/DPI/weeds/Weed.html>.

Nursery

The regulations in the Nursery program has been changed to include all of the weeds from the Noxious Weed List. Any plant on this list can not be sold, or distributed in Colorado. If you see a noxious weed, please point it out to store management personnel.

Seed

Licenses are due the end of February. Anyone selling seed and advertising in any form needs to have a Retail Seed Dealer license. Farmers/growers and crop consultants may need a license if they are selling seed. There are several exemptions; please contact CDA for more information.

Organic Certification

In the beginning of January, CDA personnel underwent training to conduct USDA Organic Inspections. The Department received accreditation last October. In addition to the crops that we inspected in the past, we now inspect animals and food processors. These inspections are much more detailed than we conducted under the old Colorado Organic program.

As always, If you have any questions on any of the above programs contact CDA at 303-239-4148 or visit: <http://www.ag.state.co.us/DPI>.



Agronomy, Soil Science, and Entomology Spell Checker Available

Ever had to write a report using a word-processing computer program? Is spell checking a nightmare with all of the technical terms you use as a CCA? Finally, a way to check your spelling for technical terminology. Designed to cover a wide variety of related fields under agricultural and environmental sciences,

the Agronomy, Soil Science, and Entomology (ASE) Spell Check program has over 69,000 scientific terms and can help you save time writing and reviewing. The program, developed by Hamilton-Locke, is on sale for \$29.95 at: <https://secure.asa-cssa-sssa.org/asespellcheck.html>.



Meet the Colorado CCA Board—Laura Quakenbush



*Laura Quakenbush
CCA Board Member*

Laura Quakenbush was born to an Air Force family, and after rotating through Oklahoma, Montana, Texas, Kansas, Libya, and Montana (again), she finally arrived in Colorado at the age of 12. Since both of her parents were born and raised in Garden City, Kansas, they managed to arrange Aurora, Colorado as her dad's last tour of duty: Pretty close to Kansas, but with a bit more scenery.

Laura got her first taste of rural life (not counting visits to grandpa's farm in Kansas) when the family moved to Holly, Colorado. After 3 years in Holly, Laura graduated from high school and escaped to college in Ft. Collins. She obtained her B.S. degree in Botany and Plant Pathology from CSU in 1978. During her years in Ft. Collins, she worked during the summers and part-time during the school year for a USDA research scientist in sugarbeet weed control. She was so inspired by her work experiences at CSU that she decided to become a weed scientist. Laura obtained a M.S. degree in Agronomy from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1980, and a Ph.D. degree in Agronomy/Plant Physiology from the University of Minnesota in 1983.

In 1983 Laura accepted a position with American Cyanamid as a Research Weed

Scientist, located at Cyanamid's Global Research and Development Center in Princeton, NJ. She worked at this location as biology project leader for potential new herbicides until Cyanamid was acquired by BASF in 2000. She continued in a similar role with BASF until September of 2001. During her years with Cyanamid, Laura was responsible for all phases of developing the biological profile of potential new herbicides.

In November of 2001, Laura accepted a position with the Colorado Department of Agriculture as Pesticide Registration Coordinator. She is responsible for state registrations for all pesticidal products sold in Colorado. She also oversees state pesticide dealer licensing. She is happy to be back in Colorado and in a position where she can be of assistance to Colorado agriculture.

In her spare time, Laura enjoys spending time with her numerous Colorado relatives (all six siblings live in the Front Range) and riding and training her dressage horse. She is a member of the Weed Science Society of America, Council for Agricultural Science and Technology, and the Colorado Horse Council.

Meetings to be Held to Discuss Potential Pharmaceutical Crops

Two public meetings are planned to discuss the potential regulations and issues concerning the production of pharmaceutical crops in Colorado.

"These meetings are part of an effort to assist producers in determining whether Colorado is an appropriate place to grow such crops," said Jim Rubingh, director of the Markets Division at CDA. "We want to get both sides of the issue because it offers marketing potential while also raising a number of questions."

The first meeting will be held in Montrose, on February 26 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Best Western Red Arrow, 1702 Main St. Akron will be the site of the second meeting on February 27 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Washington County Fairgrounds Event Center, 552 West 2nd St.

The meetings will have a panel discussion with questions and answers from the public to follow. Both meetings are open to the public, and registration is not required.



Changes to the CCA Board

Darrel Mertens replaces Roger Saffer on the CCA board representing the Colorado Aerial Applicators Association.

Darrel Mertens
P.O Box 535
Sterling, CO 80751
Phone: 970-522-1941
Fax: 970-522-1920
email: aero@kci.net

Gary Schaneman is new to the CCA board representing the Fertilizer and Agricultural Chemical Suppliers.

Gary Schaneman
1470 Falcon Ridge Road
Eaton, CO 80615
Phone: 970-454-0545
Fax: 970-454-0544
email: gary_schaneman@fmc.com

Both Darrel and Gary were appointed by their sponsoring organization for a 3-year term and are eligible to serve two terms. For a complete listing of Colorado CCA board members, please visit: http://www.coloradocca.org/board_members.htm.



Calendar of Upcoming CEUs

| Date and Location | Course Title | CEU's | For more information contact: |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 02/03/03-02/04/03 Country Inns of America Grand Junction, CO | Commercial Pesticide Applicators Workshop | 4.5 PM | Wayne Cooley 970-249-9986 |
| 02/04/03-02/05/03 Island Grove Park Greeley, CO | High Plains No-Till Conference | 3.0 SW 2.0 PM 4.0 CM | Tara Steinke 970-358-4360 |
| 02/05/03 Holiday Inn Express Cortez, CO | Certified Pesticide Applicators' Training Workshop | 4.5 PM | Kenny Smith 970-565-3123 |
| 02/11/03 Adams County Fairgrounds Brighton, CO | Nutrient Management Planning Update | 5.0 NM 1.0 SW | Debbie Fields 970-491-6201 |
| 02/11/03 Friendship Hall County Fairgrounds Montrose, CO | Ag Production 2003 | 2.0 PM 1.0 CM | Wayne Cooley 970-249-9986 |
| 02/11/03-02/13/03 Ski Hi Park Monte Vista, CO | SLV Potato/Grain Conference | 0.5 NM 3.5 SW 3.5 PM 2.0 CM | Merlin Dillon 719-754-3494 ext. 12 |
| 02/18/03 Irrigation Research Farm Yuma, CO | Colorado Applicators Qualified Supervision | 1.0 NM 1.0 SW 2.0 PM | Jeff Tichota 303-324-4941 |

Other meetings for continuing education credits will be announced in future CCA newsletters or can be found on the Colorado CCA website at <http://www.coloradocca.org/calendar.htm>.

Colorado Certified Crop Adviser Newsletter

Colorado Certified Crop Adviser Program
Dept. of Soil and Crop Sciences
Colorado State University
Fort Collins, CO 80523-1170



Web Sites Worth A Look

Colorado CCA website

<http://www.coloradocca.org>

Calendar of upcoming CEUs, current and past CCA newsletters, links to Colorado and National sites, information on board and committee members, and much more!

2003 ASA-CSSA-SSSA Annual Meetings

<http://www.asa-cssa-sssa.org/anmeet/index.html>

Information on the ASA meetings to be held in Denver, Colorado from November 2-6, 2003.

FirstGov for Science

<http://www.science.gov/>

A gateway to selected science information provided by U.S. Government agencies, including research and development results.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 8

<http://www.epa.gov/region8/>

EPA Region 8 includes Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming, and 27 Tribal Nations. EPA works with state, local, and tribal governments in the region to carry out the nation's environmental laws.

Crop Advisor's Casebook files

[http://www.westcoag.com/](http://www.westcoag.com/CropAdvisorsCasebook/IndexCasebookFiles.htm)

[CropAdvisorsCasebook/
IndexCasebookFiles.htm](http://www.westcoag.com/CropAdvisorsCasebook/IndexCasebookFiles.htm)

A series of "cases" describing real situations that agronomists have encountered in the field. Can you solve these problems?

