

Colorado CCA News

Colorado Certified Crop Adviser Newsletter



CERTIFIED CROP ADVISER

Inside this issue:

Greetings from the Colorado CCA Board	1-2
New DOT Hazardous Material Regulations Affect Growers	2
Role of the Colorado Conservation Districts	3
Continuing Education Q&A	4-5
North American Proficiency Testing Program Overview	6
John Mortvedt Receives Award	7
Calendar of Upcoming CEUs	7
Web Sites Worth A Look	8

Colorado CCA News

is a quarterly publication of the Colorado Certified Crop Advisers.

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Greetings from the Colorado CCA Board

Well, another year has arrived and we are hurtling towards another spring. I wish each of you a plentiful spring snow-pack and above average but well timed summer rain! I am honored to have been elected chairperson of your advisory board.

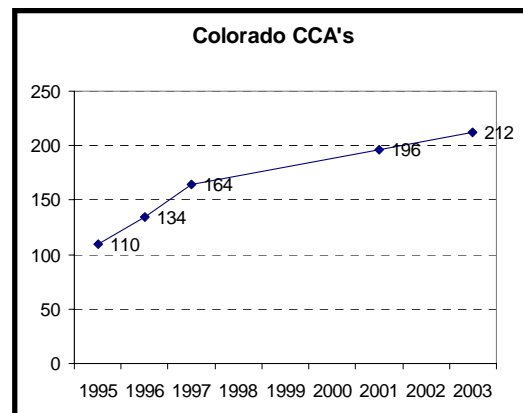
Since I have only been on the CCA board for a few years, I went back and looked at old issues of this newsletter to get a better feel for the history of Colorado's CCA organization, starting with the 1995 newsletter. I noticed the shift from getting new CCA's tested and approved in the early years, to the current emphasis on obtaining CEUs for already certified advisors. Colorado has gone from a 20% increase per year in the number of CCA's in the mid-1990's to only an 8% increase between 2001 and 2003. Your board has responded to this transition to a more mature organization by working to make sure that CEUs are available that will add to the skills and knowledge of experienced crop consultants, not just repeat areas of basic competency.

Reviewing the old newsletters also illustrated the increasing importance of computers as a communication tool. The 1995 newsletter did not have a single email or website address, while a 1996 newsletter announced the initial creation of the

national website. Current newsletters are dense with email addresses and websites. Not to mention that the current newsletter is sprinkled with graphics and photos! It makes 1995 seem like a long time ago! If any of you feel you need to improve your computer skills in order to use all the information that is now only a "click" away, remember you can now get CEU credits in the Professional Development category for computer courses!

In addition to the usual information on upcoming CEUs and web sites of interest, this issue of the newsletter includes information about Colorado Conservation Districts, quality checks for soil testing labs, and on how new DOT regulations may require security plans for growers transporting fertilizer or fuel. The concept that national security may be linked to how growers handle

(Continued on page 2)



Greetings from the Board

(Continued from page 1)

their tanks of fertilizer or fuel truly makes any time prior to 2001 seem in a different century!

If any of you have ideas on how we can improve the value of your CCA credentials, or add useful features to

this newsletter or our website, please feel free to contact me or any other board member. If you call me, I promise to try my best not to lecture you about section 18 requirements or other pesticide regulatory issues!

Laura Quakenbush, CCA Board Chair

New DOT Hazardous Material Regulations Affect Growers

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has implemented new HAZMAT (hazardous materials) restrictions that took effect on September 25, 2003. The aim of these restrictions is to deter terrorist and other illegal acts while at the same time limiting a grower's exposure to liability in the event that an illegal act occurs.

Growers who transport hazardous materials including explosives (in any amount) and fertilizers, pesticides, gasoline, diesel fuel, or propane in containers greater than 119 gallons will now need a security plan. The security plan must address personnel security, unauthorized access and enroute transportation issues. In addition, growers may be required to place placards on their vehicles depending on the types and quantities of materials they are transporting. For example, a grower transporting anhydrous ammonia or ammonium nitrate fertilizer that is more than 119 gallons in a single container OR more than 1,000 pounds in multiple containers in a single shipment must have a security plan and placard their vehicle. The ruling requires growers transporting

these tanks from retail outlets to the field to have a security plan. Growers transporting materials between fields of their farm do not need a security plan.

Plans will not be collected by or kept on file by the State or Federal DOT offices. However, it will be enforced as part of the general enforcement program for the HAZMAT carrier and shipper community.

DOT has issued a number of tools to assist growers in complying with their responsibility under the new security requirement. A fact sheet can be viewed at: <http://hazmat.dot.gov/pubtrain/AgSec%20Flyer%20V5.pdf>. Also, a sample security evaluation form can be viewed at: <http://hazmat.dot.gov/pubtrain/AgSecPlan.pdf>. For additional information, please see the following DOT website: http://hazmat.dot.gov/hmt_security.htm.

For more information, contact the Federal Hazardous Materials Information Center at 1 (800) HMR-4922.



Anhydrous ammonia tank

Role of the Colorado Conservation Districts

By Pam King, Colorado State Conservation Board

Conservation districts were formed in response to growing concern about soil erosion evidenced by the drought of the 1930's and the infamous "dust-bowl era". In 1935 President Roosevelt authorized the Soil Conservation Act which created national policy to address erosion and the then-called "Soil Conservation Service" (SCS) – now the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). President Roosevelt also recommended the states pass laws to give local direction to the SCS through "Soil Conservation Districts" supported by "State Soil Conservation Boards". There are currently 3,000 districts nationwide and in Colorado 77 districts cover 93% of private land. The Colorado State Conservation Board is part of the Colorado Department of Agriculture.

The districts are governed by locally elected landowner boards and their purpose is to lead and support a conservation ethic for natural resource management on private land. They do this by working with government, organizations and community stakeholders to develop and implement a working plan to address local natural resource concerns. They guide NRCS activity locally and advise the NRCS of priority issues to address with federal programs statewide. Districts maintain a register of landowner "co-operators" who have signed an agreement to use support they receive within a responsible conservation ethic. These resources could be Farm Bill programs, NRCS

technical assistance, or other resources provided through the districts such as grants, supplies, or hired equipment. Some districts also have their own technical staff – including 19 technicians hired through NRCS Farm Bill technical service provider funds.

During the recent severe drought the awful specter of vast dust clouds carrying valuable soil off farms has not returned. This is due to landowners adopting conservation tillage and better land use practices tirelessly promoted by the conservation districts and implemented with their partners – especially the NRCS and Colorado State University Cooperative Extension Offices. In 2002 the word "soil" was dropped from the title of the conservation districts to reflect the broader range of natural resources the districts address today. Soil, water, wildlife and forestry are all resources conservation districts work with landowners to protect through conservation practice implementation and education.

To find out more or to locate your district office, contact the following:

- Colorado State Conservation Board (CSCB)
<http://www.ag.state.co.us/soils/soils.html>
303-239-4112
- Colorado Association of Conservation Districts (CACD)
<http://www.cascd.com>
303-232-6242



District Technician Sean Brown (right), installs a tensiometer with land owner Paul Schlagel as part of an irrigation management system.

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) 491-3947.

Continuing Education Q&A

The following information was taken from the Colorado CCA website, located at: http://www.coloradocca.org/continuing_education.htm. Please visit the website for direct links to study materials, forms, and more detailed information.

How many Continuing Education Units (CEUs) do I need?

A total of 40 CCA CEUs are needed to complete a two-year cycle of CCA continuing education.

What is the reporting period for CEUs?

The CEU reporting period runs from January 1 to December 31 annually.

What if I get more than 40 CEUs within a 2-year reporting period?

At the end of each two-year reporting period, CEUs earned return to zero. The hours you accumulate over the 40 required hours cannot be used during your next cycle.

Can I get all 40 CEUs in one category?

A minimum of five CEUs must come from each of the four categories:

- Nutrient Management (NM)
- Soil and Water Management (SW)
- Integrated Pest Management (PM)
- Crop Management (CM)

A new category, Professional Development (PD), was implemented in January 2003. CCAs may earn up to 5 PD CEUs every 2 years. There is no minimum requirement for PD CEUs.

What are board-approved CEUs?

Board-approved CEUs are credits that have been approved by the Colorado CCA board or the ICCA board. 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-reported, self-study, or board-approved credits.

What are self-reported CEUs?

Self-reported CEUs, formerly known as self-directed 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-approved by the Colorado CCA board. The CEU reporting form, found online at http://www.agronomy.org/cca/ceu_reporting_form.html, must be filled out to receive credit. 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

What are self-study CEUs?

Self-study credits are credits you can do on your own time which include a test which is signed by you and graded. To obtain credit for self-study CEUs, you must complete an exam on the material and achieve a passing score of 70% or provide proof of successful completion of a correspondence course. Self-study materials are found online at <http://www.agronomy.org/cca/cgi-bin/selfStudyList.cgi> or in the CCA Advantage newsletter found in the Ag Retailer magazine.

What is the process to apply for board-approved CEUs?

Courses must be submitted for approval by the meeting provider. If you plan on attending a course that you feel should be eligible for CCA credits, you should ask the meeting provider to request a CEU Application Form, available online at: <http://>

(Continued on page 5)



Jerry Johnson discusses bean production at a field school

CEU Q&A

(Continued from page 4)

www.agronomy.org/cca/pdf/ceu_cca_application.pdf, and submit it to John Mortvedt for approval. The meeting provider, however, is the only one who can submit the program to be considered for approval.

Every course submitted for CEU credit should use the CEU Standards Booklet, available online at: http://www.agronomy.org/cca/pdf/ceu_standards.pdf, to reference the educational area, subject matter, and the area of expertise that best defines the scope of the continuing education program. Refer to the Instructions for CEU Application Form, available online at: http://www.agronomy.org/cca/pdf/ceu_app_instructions.pdf, for assistance on completing the CEU application form.

Meeting planners for meetings should submit their CEU applications early enough (preferably 30 days prior to the event) so they can be processed and to allow time for advertisement of the event.

John Mortvedt evaluates all applications of meetings with CEUs, approves eligible CEUs, and sends them to ICCA for recordkeeping. Send applications to:

John Mortvedt
Dept. of Soil & Crop Sciences
Colorado State University
Ft. Collins, CO 80523-1170
Phone (970) 491-5840
Fax (970) 491-2758
John.Mortvedt@colostate.edu

What if I go to a meeting that doesn't have CEUs available?

If you attend a meeting that you feel should be eligible for CCA credits, but has not applied for CEUs, you should

ask the meeting organizer to provide a sign-up sheet with the names of attendees and their CCA number or social security number. The meeting provider should then contact John Mortvedt for post-approval of CEUs. If the meeting organizer does not submit those CEUs for approval, then you may report the CEUs as self-reported CEUs, but they are NOT part of the 20 minimum board-approved credits.

How do I get CEUs for meetings outside of Colorado?

The Colorado CCA Board will automatically accept credits for any approved programs in adjoining states. Sign the attendance sheet along with your CCA number to get proper credit.

If you attend a meeting in a state which does not adjoin Colorado, but the meeting has received ICCA approval, you may receive the ICCA approved CEUs. If the meeting has only been approved in the state in which the meeting was held but has not received ICCA approval, you can report the hours as self-reported. You should follow up on out-of-state CEUs to make sure that your credit is posted in your records. If not, contact Lorene Peterson of the ICCA office at (608) 273-8090 extension 310.

How do I report missing board-approved CEUs?

If you have attended a meeting and have not received proper credit, complete the Missing CEU Form, available online at: http://www.agronomy.org/cca/ceu_missing_form.html, with the meeting details. ICCA cannot accept changes over the phone.



Field day in Arkansas Valley



Meeting attendees listen to talk on nutrient management

North American Proficiency Testing Program Overview

By Robert O. Miller, CSU Soil and Crop Sciences Affiliate Professor



Taking a soil sample

How good are your soil testing results?

With increasing soil testing as a result of precision agriculture and nutrient management plans, it is ever more important that soil, plant and water testing laboratories provide quality test data. The North American Proficiency Testing (NAPT) Program strives to improve the performance of testing laboratories for the good of agriculture industry.

What is the NAPT program?

The NAPT program, established in 1998 by the Soil Science Society of America, serves and assists soil, plant and water testing laboratories in their performance through inter-laboratory sample exchanges and statistical evaluation of analytical data. The NAPT program was developed for the agricultural laboratory industry by representatives from groups familiar with standardizing methods and developing nutrient recommendations for soil and plant analysis methods within the U.S. and Canada. Annually 160 laboratories participate in the NAPT program.

How does the NAPT program check the quality of testing laboratories?

The NAPT program is based on quarterly submission of five soils, three plant materials and three water samples using reference methods described in Regional Soil Work Group publications. For Colorado, this is the Western Coordinating Committee on Nutrient Management, WCC-103.

More than 125 soil test methods are evaluated in the program. Quarterly program results are statistically compiled and outlier values of individual laboratories identified. Laboratories use the information gained in the program to improve their analytical performance and the quality of their analytical data. Participating laboratories are encouraged to verify results and correct any analytical problems which are noted. At the end of each year's program, each lab is provided a report indicating their performance and in-lab precision.

NAPT program progress

Since the initiation of the NAPT program we have documented a steady improvement in the quality of the results provided by the soil testing labs. This has been noted for pH, nitrate and phosphorus test methods. However, specific methods remain more variable than agronomists would like. Such methods are boron and sulfur analysis in soils.

For more information

For more information on the NAPT Program, contact Dr. Robert O. Miller, Affiliate Professor, Soil and Crop Sciences Department, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523 email: rmiller@lamar.colostate.edu

For additional information on testing laboratories, see the CSUCE Factsheet #0.520, Selecting an Analytical Laboratory, available at: <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/crops/00520.html>.

John Mortvedt Receives Award

John Mortvedt, a member of the Colorado CCA Board, received the Agronomic Service Award at the annual meeting of the American Society of Agronomy in Denver last November. John worked for 31 years at the National Fertilizer and Environmental Research Center of the Tennessee Valley Authority in Muscle Shoals, Alabama. His research helped promote the efficient use of fertilizers, especially micronutrients, for field and horticultural crops in the US and other countries. Many of his more than 200 publications were published in trade journals for growers, crop consultants, fertilizer dealers, and extension personnel. He also has made numerous presentations to these groups to emphasize balanced nutrition for

optimum crop yields. John is the senior author of the 1999 book, *Fertilizer Technology and Application*, which is being widely used by crop consultants, fertilizer dealers, and growers. He is also a co-editor of the 1991 book, *Micronutrients in Agriculture*, published by the Soil Science Society of America.

John moved to Fort Collins in 1992 and served in the CSU Cooperative Extension Service for three years. He was active in helping to develop the CCA program in Colorado and has served on the CCA Board since 1994. Presently, he is an ex-officio member of the Board and evaluates all CEU applications for Board approval.



John Mortvedt,
Agronomic Service
Award recipient

Calendar of Upcoming CEUs

Date and Location	Course Title	CEU's	For more information contact:
2/10/04–2/12/04 Ski-Hi Park Monte Vista, CO	SLV Potato/Grain Conference	2.0 SW 6.0 PM 1.5 CM	Merlin Dillon 719-754-3494 ext. 12
2/23/04 Ulysses, KS	In-Depth Weed Mgmt School–2004	0.5 SW 5.5 PM	Dallas Peterson 785-532-5776
2/24/04 Garden City, KS	In-Depth Weed Mgmt School–2004	0.5 SW 5.5 PM	Dallas Peterson 785-532-5776
2/25/04 Tribune, KS	In-Depth Weed Mgmt School–2004	0.5 SW 5.5 PM	Dallas Peterson 785-532-5776
3/7/04–3/9/04 Las Cruces, NM	Western Pecan Growers Association Conference	1.5 NM 2.5 SW 1.5 PM 3.5CM	Denise McWilliams 505-646-3455

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>.

Note: To receive proper credit when attending meetings in adjoining states, sign the attendance sheets along with your CCA number. You should follow up on out-of-state CEUs to make sure that your records are credited. If they are not, contact Lorene Peterson of the ICCA office in Madison, WI at (608) 273-8090 extension 310.

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!

Colorado General Assembly
<http://www.leg.state.co.us/>
The site includes current session information for the House and Senate, ballot issues, contact details, general legislative resources, and audio broadcasts of current sessions.

Risk Management Agency/USDA
<http://www.rma.usda.gov/index.html>
The Risk Management Agency (RMA) operates and manages the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC).

The Realtors Land Institute
<http://www.rliland.net>
Search for farm real estate.

Colorado Centennial Farm Award
<http://www.coloradohistory-oahp.org/programareas/centfarm/centfarm.htm>
This award recognizes farms and ranches that have remained in the same family for more than 100 years.

BestFarmBuys.com
<http://bestfarmbuys.com>
The idea marketplace for everyone involved in agriculture.

ForTheFarm.com
<http://www.forthefarm.com>
A one-stop resource for agricultural online shopping and information, including weather, news, and market data.

Froogle
<http://froogle.com>
Find products for sale from across the web.

