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CORE4 and CCA Certification

The CORE4 concept has been established nationally by the Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC) and other supporting organizations such as NRCS to promote the adoption of several key conservation practices. These key practices can significantly decrease the non-point source pollution potential of cropland when applied as a system.

CORE4 is being presented as a "common sense" approach to conservation that can address many common natural resource issues associated with cropland agriculture. CORE4 practices include: Conservation Tillage; Nutrient Management; Pest Management; and Conservation Buffers such as Filter Strips and Herbaceous Wind Barriers. In arid areas where irrigation water supplies most of the soil moisture, it is also necessary to manage water additions to the soil and any excess soil profile moisture that may occur.

The links to CCA certification are in proposed revisions to national NRCS nutrient and pest management policies. Currently, the proposed nutrient management policy states that "All persons who review or approve plans

for nutrient management will be certified through a certification program accepted by NRCS in the state involved".

The policy goes on to state that "Third Party Vendor certification programs may include, but are not limited to: CCA; Land Grant University certification programs; and the National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants (NAICC).

There is similar language written into the proposed NRCS pest management policy. To my knowledge, CCA is currently the only active certification program in Colorado which addresses agricultural resource conservation issues.

Copies of the proposed national nutrient management standard, and Colorado's irrigation water management standard have been enclosed with this mailing for your consideration.

In closing, there are still several issues to be worked out regarding consistency between programs, mandatory vs. voluntary, and what role the private consultant will play in the mix.

This is a classic confrontation, and USDA Secretary Glickman is committed to maintaining the regulatory firewall between EPA and USDA.

Meanwhile, I will encourage you to keep up your certification, take advantage of continuing education opportunities, and submit applications for self directed credits when board approved credits are not available. Thank you for being part of the solution!

Jim Sharkoff

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1999 Upcoming Events

CSU Dry Bean Management Field School	August 10, 1999 and August 12, 1999 Fort Collins, CO	Sandra K. McDonald 970-491-6027
Innovation Technologies for Planning Animal Feeding Operations	December 5-7, 1999 Denver, CO	Ron Schierer 785-899-3070